



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday 20 October 2022

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 20 October 2022

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Business of the House

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I seek leave to permit the giving of community recognition statements for 30 minutes in place of the time allocated for government business today.

Leave granted.

Community Recognition Statements

CASS CARE GORDON ACTIVITY GROUP

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) (09:46): The great story of multicultural Australia is reflected in the economic and social contributions of our multicultural communities. In Ku-ring-gai, members of our multicultural community have created successful businesses and are bringing their experience and expertise to volunteer groups, local government, and parents and citizens associations. Starting a new life in Australia is not always easy, which is why CASS Care Gordon Activity Group is such a valuable organisation. CASS helps to break the language barrier; promote access to information, activities and a range of services; and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle for people of all ages. I saw firsthand the benefits to our local Chinese community at the Ku-ring-gai Library on 6 September. It was a morning of celebration and dance in preparation for the Moon Festival, and the members had clearly gained much out of CASS. I thank CASS representative Anthony Pang for his good work in the community and everyone involved in CASS Care.

MONTY'S PLACE

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (09:47): On behalf of the electorate of Bega, I wish Narooma-based volunteer organisation Monty's Place a very happy ninth birthday. Monty's has been serving free community meals to the public for almost a decade, even continuing to provide their much-loved service with takeaway meals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Monty's provides more than just a hot, nutritious meal to anyone who needs it; it has become an important place for people to connect with others in the community. The organisation is run out of the Uniting Church hall, where volunteers prepare food, cook, provide table service, clean up and more. A live band plays on the last Wednesday of the month. A few months ago I had the pleasure of stopping in before Monty's Christmas in July lunch to meet some of the volunteers that help provide the important service. I thank the volunteers for their work and the local businesses that generously provide their financial support to keep this institution front and centre in the Narooma community.

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE MINISTERIAL VISIT

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (09:48): I thank Minister Griffin for his recent visit to the Holsworthy electorate, where we met with some important community groups and organisations. We first met with members of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council and went on a tour of the Georges River National Park. We visited significant land that is home to spiritual sites impacted by illegal access from bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles as well as illegal dumping. We saw firsthand the toll this illegal activity is having on the local environment and on native country. We had the opportunity to discuss the issue and look at ways to ensure this land is preserved. We then visited SCRAP and did a tour of the facility with Mr Peter Carroll. The organisation has a strong focus of sustainability and encourages the community to be involved in protecting the local environment. We also had the chance to check out the Return and Earn reverse vending machine on the site, which has already processed four million bottles and cans. I thank the Minister for his visit and all who joined us along the way.

EARLY LEARNING MATTERS WEEK

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (09:50): Our early childhood education and care workers are so important to our community and our economy. Every year we mark Early Learning Matters Week to acknowledge their hard work and commitment. On Monday this week I was honoured to be invited to the wonderful Felton Street Community Preschool in Gateshead to help celebrate this year. I appreciated the opportunity to see how Felton Street preschool is using high-quality early education to support children in becoming confident and enthusiastic learners. Through play-based learning, Felton Street preschool—and so many other early childhood education and care professionals across the Charlestown electorate—are building a foundation for our youngest citizens, which will set them up for lifelong wellbeing and achievement. My thanks to Karen, Felton Street preschool's director, and her fantastic team: co-director Kirsty, Michelle, Karen, Dawn, Jessica, Jasmin and Robyn. I also thank their colleagues working in other centres across the Charlestown electorate and around New South Wales. I cannot thank you enough for all you do.

ANZAC COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

WAR WIDOWS DAY

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (09:51): The New South Wales Government's Anzac Community Grants Program provides communities like the Coffs Coast with an important opportunity to honour our veterans. Community groups can apply for \$3,000 grants for projects supporting local veterans or boosting awareness of their role in Australia's military history. Veterans past and present have served to keep us safe and this is a great chance to recognise their sacrifices while at the same time enriching our communities. It might be restoring a medals display cabinet, creating an interactive remembrance garden or researching a local veteran. I look forward to seeing what our community ideas and needs are. Applications can be submitted online via the New South Wales Government Veterans Affairs website until 5.00 p.m. on 11 November. Jane Sury, community liaison with Coffs Coast Legacy, and Richard Kelloway, senior veterans advocate for the Veterans Centre Mid North Coast, have both spoken to our local newspaper about the importance of the program. Their organisations undertake important work in our community and I thank them for it. I also acknowledge the first War Widows Day in New South Wales, which took place yesterday, Wednesday 19 October. The day saw an online fundraising campaign by Australian War Widows NSW.

ST JOSEPH'S MARONITE CROYDON FUNDRAISER

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (09:52): It was a great pleasure to attend the St Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church Croydon annual fundraiser on 7 October. The purpose of the fundraiser was to support the development of a new community and youth centre and enhancement of parish facilities. Father Danny Nouh, parish priest, leads a committed and socially minded group of local parishioners. The event was a wonderful demonstration of the Maronite community's investment and goodwill. The project will continue to raise funds over the next three years. The turnout and engagement of the local Maronite community speaks to the success with which this important and united community integrates faith, family and community services across multiple generations. I congratulate Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Father Danny and the stewardship committee for putting on such a spectacular and successful event.

RADIO 2AY-3NE HOSTS KYLIE KING AND KEVIN POULTON

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (09:53): I congratulate Kylie King and Kevin Poulton, both radio hosts of 2AY-3NE, who have been chosen as finalists in the Australian Commercial Radio Awards. This is the third time Kylie has been nominated for her outstanding radio achievements while it is Kevin's first nomination in a radio career spanning 22 years. For the awards, the hosts were required to record a short one-minute broadcast on a set of topics—ranging from dishwashers to bushfires, fundraising and the benefits of cinnamon—to test their expertise in radio journalism. Along the border, the team of Kylie King and Kevin Poulton remain popular hosts on the morning shift and have become an integral part of how many of us start the day. Kylie and Kevin, I wish you all the very best in the outcome of the Best on Air award in the provincial division.

COASTAL TWIST FAIR DAY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (09:54): Celebrations, safety, happiness and unity were all on show as the Central Coast and visitors from afar gathered to celebrate the Coastal Twist Fair Day. It is estimated that over 10,000 people visited the Umina precinct on the October long weekend to join in the third Coastal Twist Fair, after numerous attempts to celebrate were cancelled during COVID. Drag queens told stories while gorgeous drag queens, drag kings and trans individuals dotted the audience, and the Rainbow Joy Project Choir sang. The Paparazzi Pooch Parade, hosted by June Richards, was a huge success. The delightful superstar line-up, including the fabulous Dylan Tai, Electric Fields and Bek Jensen, entertained us and the sun shone brightly. For young and old, families and community, the Umina precinct has possibly never seen the colour and flair that gathered to be

part of the beautiful Coastal Twist Fair with Central Coast Pride. I sincerely thank all the organisers, volunteers and everyone who participated.

FLORAL CRAFTSMAN FLOWER SHOP OWNER MATT BISARO

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (09:55): I recognise local Mosman business owner Matt Bisaro. Matt has been the owner and operator of the Floral Craftsman flower shop on Military Road for over 20 years. Matt moved to the area in 1997. He worked at several flower shops in Mosman before branching out in 2000 and starting his own business from his apartment in Neutral Bay. His business flourished due to his passion for flowers and his creativity, and he was soon able to buy his own shop. Matt believes the best thing about flowers is that they make people smile. During last year's lockdown Matt delivered some lockdown kindness to locals who needed a little brightness in their day, with a surprise delivery of a beautiful bouquet with little bunches of love to their front door. Small business owners and community-minded people like Matt make the North Shore electorate the fantastic place it is. I congratulate Matt on behalf of myself and our entire community for the success of his business over the past 20 years. I thank him for his community spirit and wish him all the best for the future of the business.

BEACHCOMBER HOTEL & RESORT

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (09:56): The Beachcomber Hotel & Resort in Toukley, known as The Beachie, has been announced as a finalist in the 2022 NSW Regional Hotel of the Year award. The Beachie has also made the category finals of Best Family Friendly Hotel, Best Outdoor Experience and Best Regional Redevelopment. In 2021 the hotel changed hands to Oscars Hotels group and soon underwent major renovations. With its waterfront location and Hamptons-inspired ambience, the hotel features boutique-style accommodation, including 83 rooms, an exclusive pool club and multiple eateries and bars. It showcases waterfront cabanas, multiple dining spaces and a great kids' area, which is home to its famous petting zoo. The Foreshore function room has been beautifully renovated, with high-quality finishes, timber floors, a stunning bar and doors that open onto a private courtyard. This space has been beautifully created for both locals and tourists to stay and enjoy what the Central Coast has to offer. I wish the Oscars Hotels group good luck as a finalist.

PREMIER'S NSW EXPORT AWARDS

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (09:57): I congratulate two local businesses from my East Hills electorate that received awards as part of the 2022 Premier's NSW Export Awards. These awards recognise the success of exporters and their achievements internationally. From Condell Park, Tru Blue Beverages won the national category for agribusiness, food and beverages. Tru Blue Beverages is one of Australia's leading beverage manufacturers and is known for its Pub Squash and Waterfords mineral water. It is 100 per cent Australian owned and employs 400 people. Many people from East Hills have at one time or another gone to Tru Blu's factory to buy drinks for a fundraiser or family function. From Padstow, A.H. Beard won the Western Sydney Exporter Award. It is a family-owned business that has been crafting mattresses since 1899. It also has over 400 employees, and each week it produces around 10,000 mattresses that are sold across the world. The East Hills electorate has a rich manufacturing economy and showcases some of Sydney's most innovative companies. I congratulate both businesses for their outstanding efforts and for winning these awards.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON BROWNE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (09:58): Today I recognise the late Gordon Browne of Griffith for his contributions to and involvement in the cricket community. Mr Browne gave more than 60 years of service to the sport in Griffith and surrounding areas. Mr Browne first became involved in the Griffith District Cricket Association in 1962. He became president of the association before moving up to become a representative at the Murrumbidgee Cricket Council, of which he was chairperson for 25 years. In 1991 Gordon Browne gained the position of chairperson of the Riverina Cricket Zone, which he held for the following 11 years. Mr Browne was presented with six life memberships, awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 and awarded the Distinguished Long Service Award from Sport NSW in 2017. Mr Browne's leadership in cricket was a gift to the game. His commitment and passion created enthusiasm for those who travelled the journey with him. He was a hands-on president and a great umpire, administrator and curator, preparing wickets and organising carnivals.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (09:59): I congratulate the Harrington Crowdy Head Community Resilience Team on winning the Community Group 2022 Resilient NSW Award. The community resilience team was formed following the highly stressful 2019-20 bushfires and a major flood event in March 2021 threatening lives and homes in the area. The team is led by residents for residents, focusing on providing emergency preparedness information. The team has produced two vital documents: *A Resilient Community*, circulated to every household to assist them in planning and preparing for an emergency, and *Helping Our*

Community to be Better Prepared for the Next Emergency, a resource for emergency and other service providers. These resources aim to educate the community on how to formulate their own emergency plans and to contribute to the wellbeing of their community through a volunteer support network. The next project is to develop a system of zone coordinators to assist the most vulnerable people in the community formulate their resilience plans. Congratulations and thank you to chairperson Vicki Connell and team members Janine Friedrich, Ken Billings, Anthony Moodie, Mike Parsons, Cliff Hoare, Tim Yapp, Mark Coss, Kevin Unicomb, Sue Worsley, Barbara Denny and Jeff Whyte.

PERFECT PLATE AWARDS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (10:00): I congratulate Cabra-Vale Diggers Club on taking out the top honour in the ClubsNSW 2022 Your Local Club Perfect Plate Awards in the Large Club category and Western Metropolitan Region. The awards night was held at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, on 21 July 2022. The club's eatery, Horizon Asian Dining, served up handmade silky tofu with salted egg yolk for patrons of Cabra-Vale Diggers between May and June, a dish which patrons rated the best among other competition dishes. The Perfect Plate Awards are the New South Wales club industry's premier dining competition. Travelling across New South Wales to taste what different clubs had to offer were none other than award ambassadors and renowned chefs Colin Fassnidge and Manu Feildel. I congratulate Horizon Asian Dining and Cabra-Vale Diggers on their success and look forward to trying their winning dish the next time I visit the club.

LALOR PARK JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (10:01): I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Lalor Park Kookaburra's Junior Rugby League Club. The Kookaburras are a fantastic local sporting organisation with players coming from Seven Hills, Lalor Park, Kings Langley, Blacktown and Glenwood. The Kookaburras have been a local rugby league team in Lalor Park since 1959 and have competed in the Parramatta Junior Rugby League competition since then. I note that the Kookaburras was the junior club of Feleti Mateo who is a former Parramatta Eels and Tonga international representative. Recently I had the opportunity to speak with the Kookaburras secretary Sonia Smart about all the wonderful things they are doing for local football players in the Seven Hills electorate. It was great to hear about the Kookaburras success in 2022, and to hear about their plans for the future expansion of their club. I wish the Lalor Park Kookaburra players and their families all the very best for the 2023 season and I look forward to hearing about their success.

HENRY KENDALL GARDENS RESIDENT JANE DARBY

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (10:02): I acknowledge Jane Darby, a resident of Henry Kendall Gardens in my electorate, for her proactiveness and thoughtfulness within the retirement village. Recently Jane contacted my office to find out how to organise a replacement New South Wales flag for the village as she felt that the current one looked dilapidated. With the help of her fellow residents and via her residents committee, I received a formal request from the village operator for a new flag. Upon presenting the flag to the village I became aware of just how proactive Jane is with her can-do attitude that filters throughout the village. I understand that when Jane moved in she identified that the large village map on display in the community centre needed some improvement. Jane meticulously added walking paths, access boundaries, bus stops, exit routes, points of interest and even emergency assembly points located around the village. I thank Jane for her initiative and for being such a caring and positive member of the village community. Well done, Jane.

SPORTS ACHIEVER MIA MIDDLETON

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:03): I recognise the exceptional sporting achievements of Central Coast local Mia Middleton. Her extensive list of achievements began at the Kariong Netball Club under the expert coaching of Margaret Allen. She went on to represent the Gosford Netball Association for three years. Simultaneously, she represented her high school in netball at a State level, playing in the starting seven of the New South Wales All Schools Teams, placing second nationally. She played at netball's elite level in the UTS Sparks Premier League under-23's team, who won their competition. Her talent also extends to rugby league. Newcastle Knights pathway selectors recognised her natural talent and Mia has been a key member of the Newcastle Knights Tarsha Gale team. After making the grand finale, she was crowned the team's leading try scorer for the season. Given her incredible performance, Mia was selected to play at the national championships as part of the New South Wales country team. Here she earned her place on the under-19's NSW State of Origin team and is currently a development player for the Newcastle Knights. An exceptional young woman, Mia deserves the utmost commendation for her sporting achievements. Congratulations, Mia.

ROYAL PRINCE ALFRED NEWBORN CARE UNIT

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (10:04): I congratulate the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital [RPA] Newborn Care Unit on reaching the milestone of 50 years in operation. In half a century of service, the

RPA Newborn Care Unit has committed to providing the highest quality of care to pre-term and seriously ill babies. The department is definitely one of the busiest and most vital maternity services in our State. RPA Newborn Care runs three distinct units to allow for the most effective treatment: the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [NICU] for babies who are critically ill, the High Dependency Unit and the Special Care Nursery. With over 900 babies admitted to RPA Newborn Care every year, the incredible team works tirelessly to provide each baby with the very best possible start in life, including to my three children, Archie, my firstborn, and Dillon, the youngest of our twins. Beyond their initial intensive care work, staff also provide many support services to parents. With the greatest respect and admiration I thank the staff at RPA Newborn Care. The work that they do is so incredibly important.

HORTICULTURALIST PETER SCIBERRAS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (10:05): I acknowledge Glenmore Park local and horticulturalist by trade, Peter Sciberras, on making the most of his skills and turning it into extra money through services like Airtasker. Peter spends his days managing the installation and upkeep of plants in commercial locations including pubs, clubs, restaurants, and office spaces. When Peter first came across Airtasker earlier this year, an upcoming holiday inspired him to use his gardening skills and love of the outdoors to boost his savings. He loves working outdoors and spends so much time in the local area and at home, so he thought, "Why not make a bit of extra money?" Peter has been doing gardening tasks on Airtasker since January and many of his jobs involve him helping to maintain or fix gardens for people who do not have the time, skills or equipment to do it themselves. He does a lot of work helping elderly people as well—people who do not own lawnmowers or are unable to mow their grass. Thank you, Peter, for sharing your journey by encouraging others to use their knowledge and skills to their advantage which helps them to increase their earnings.

CARER JAN CARBURY

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (10:06): Jan Carbury, a former registered nurse, has an extensive background of care and medical training. She is always happy to help her family, elderly friends and neighbours. Jan consistently checks in on her vulnerable and unwell neighbours, family and friends at their homes in aged care and in hospital. Jan has also adopted and cared for the pets of her family and friends, taking responsibility for these beloved animals. This valuable assistance is greatly appreciated by their thankful owners. In this time, she has also lovingly tended to gardens, providing people and their pets beautiful spaces to relax and enjoy their free time. Jan frequently visits a church kitchen to help provide food to people in precarious situations in our local community. The people around Jan are lucky and grateful to have such a caring and helpful person and the community at large is in debt to Jan for her compassionate work.

MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL TOP BLOKES PROGRAM

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (10:07): I acknowledge year 8 students at Moorebank High School who completed the Top Blokes program at the end of last term. The Top Blokes Foundation works with boys and young men over a three-to-six-month period to increase their resilience, empathy and respect for themselves and others. In doing so, they are working to reduce the rates of suicide, mental health issues, antisocial behaviour and risk-taking behaviours. The mentoring programs are delivered by qualified and experienced youth workers and have been developed specially to engage young men and cultivate their critical thinking and decision-making skills to improve their relationships and to normalise what masculinity means beyond meaning strong and stoic. This is an important and necessary conversation that needs to be had with young men. I commend Moorebank High School for implementing the Top Blokes program into its school curriculum. I understand a new round of students are starting the program this term and I wish them all the best with it.

SOCIAL HOUSING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (10:08): I offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who works at the Housing NSW offices in Gosford and Wyong. It is often a thankless task, with very few rewards, yet their work is essential and appreciated. For those facing looming homelessness, the chance to fill in a form to go on the long housing waiting list is important. For those with challenging personal health circumstances, the chance to go on the list for a speedier transfer is important. For those whose home needs maintenance, their efforts to get maintenance initiated and completed is essential and appreciated. For Wayne, who lives with mental illness—his wife and daughter both have a disability—the distress involved in receiving the notice he had to clean up his house for painting was overwhelming. I thank Bill Ide and the team from Umina Men's Shed who took the time and care to discuss Wayne's needs and help Wayne and his family move their belongings so their house could be painted. Social housing is a crucial element of our society.

CROWS NEST FESTIVAL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (10:09): I congratulate the team at Crows Nest Mainstreet on the resounding success of this year's Crows Nest Festival, which was held last Sunday. Sydney put on fabulous weather and a bumper crowd of over 30,000 people enjoyed the day. The annual festival is a much-loved event in our local community calendar. There were over 150 stallholders, including me, along with two stages, a food alley and the newly added Circus Playground. There was also the ever-popular petting zoo, pony rides and all-day live entertainment from our local schools, bands and Big Music. There was something for everyone to enjoy. I give a big shout-out to Denise Ward and the Crows Nest Centre for providing face painting to children and for their work in supporting and connecting our communities through their programs and services. I thank JoEllen Henderson and the entire team at Crows Nest Mainstreet for their hard work in putting together a fabulous event once again and for keeping everything running smoothly on the day for the entire community.

MERCY DINNER

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (10:10): I congratulate the Rahma Association of Australia Inc. for the celebration of Mercy Dinner at the New South Wales Parliament on Tuesday 11 October 2022. The gathering was the third of its kind. Under the stewardship of His Eminence Sheikh Azzam Mesto and the president of the association, Mr Shady Elriche, the association has made a commitment to work with the wider community to bring about peace and harmony. The annual dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the birth of the Prophet Mohammed—peace be upon him—and listen to his words and works of wisdom. The celebration of the prophet's birth is a uniquely Islamic event, but it is also a time invite people to listen to and reflect on the teachings of Islam and better understand them. My parliamentary colleagues and I thank the Rahma Association for its kind invitation and hospitality.

NURSE TRACEY KERLE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:11): I take the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the incredible career of Tracey Kerle, who has worked as a public nurse for over four decades. Although nursing was not her first choice, she developed a love for patient care while working in Auburn and Westmead prior to joining the team at Gosford Hospital in 1986. Initially Tracey intended to stay at Gosford Hospital for a year. Some 36 years later, she is regarded as one of the Central Coast Local Health District's most senior perioperative nurses. In that speciality, Tracey provides loving care and service to patients in the time prior to and immediately after surgery or intervention, which is a highly critical window that requires patient support. Tracey has been internationally recognised for her leadership in perioperative nursing. In 2021 she was made a life member of the New South Wales Operating Theatre Association. She also worked closely with surgeons to introduce breast reconstruction to the Central Coast. I sincerely thank Tracey for her incredible service to public health in our community. She has undoubtedly improved countless lives. Her expertise, kindness and compassion will be missed.

WENTWORTH SHOW

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (10:12): I recognise and congratulate the hardworking and dedicated Wentworth Show Society Committee on the Wentworth Show, which it hosted on 27 and 28 August. The 135th Wentworth Show was a true country show, with horse competitions, dog trials and jumps, as well as sheep, cattle, shearing and poultry. The children were entertained by the popular animal nursery and environmental educators. The food and wine marquee was popular, showcasing many varieties for tasting and purchasing. The new Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion came alive, holding entries for competitions for flowers, cookery, needlework, art and photography, produce and preserves, fruit and vegetables, and much more. The community has little more than 2,000 residents but there were more than 6,000 attendees on the first day alone. There was great social cohesion and the show received wonderful reviews. On behalf of the electorate of Murray, I congratulate and thank the 28 members of the Wentworth Show Society Committee, under the presidency of Sholto Douglas, on a well-presented and fabulous true country show.

HABERFIELD DENTAL PRACTICE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (10:13): I congratulate the Haberfield Dental Practice on celebrating its 100th year of service to the local community. The family practice has stood at the heart of our lovely Haberfield village since 1922. That remarkable milestone is a testament to the quality of service the practice provides to the Haberfield community. The team has always taken pride in the trust they have built up in the local area, and they strive to make going to the dentist as pleasant an experience as possible. The Haberfield Dental Practice has an excellent reputation and has maintained close ties with locals, treating some patients for over 70 years. On top of that, council historical records show it is the longest standing dental practice in the inner west. There is clearly a

good reason for that. I thank the team of experienced dentists and staff at Haberfield Dental Practice for their long and consistently outstanding service to our local community.

WALLACIA WATTLES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (10:14): I shine a light on a new weekly social that has popped up in my electorate of Mulgoa called the Wallacia Wattles, which resulted from the union between the Wallacia Progress Association and Nepean Food Services. The group meets every Tuesday to share morning tea, participate in various activities and meet others in the local area. It is especially pleasing to see the group come to fruition with the help and guidance of the Wallacia Progress Association and Nepean Food Services, which assists in every way it can to give back to the community. Wallacia Wattles caters to people over 65 and allows them to enjoy experiences with others who share similar interests. I congratulate the Wallacia Progress Association and Nepean Food Services on their initiative in starting the Wallacia Wattles to support those in need of companionship. I look forward to hearing of its continued success.

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (10:15): I recognise the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation [ANSTO] at Lucas Heights for hosting an event to launch a new Dharawal language learning resource for preschool and primary aged students. Dharawal is the native language in that part of the Holsworthy electorate, and it is exciting that the resource is available to young children. ANSTO undertakes many activities to support Aboriginal cultural heritage through scientific research. The new resource will contribute to the revival of the Dharawal language. The centre sponsors several Dharawal projects in the Sutherland Shire including resource kits for Dharawal school students. The resource is titled *Dharawal Words, Phrases and Activities* and was compiled and edited by Dr Jodi Edwards. The illustrations were created by Merindah Funnell in association with Elder Aunty Barb Simms. I commend ANSTO for creating such an important resource for our local children so they can appreciate our Aboriginal culture and heritage.

NAMBUS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (10:16): It is with great sadness that I report the retirement of the mighty Nambus. The Nambus was born out of an idea to educate young people in the community about the personal experiences of Vietnam veterans. A group of veterans and great mates were gifted a bus and the idea was born. They gutted the bus and refitted it as a superb museum on the Vietnam War. Once it was completed, the Nambus started touring. Vets from across the coast have been rostered to tour with the bus across New South Wales to educate students and community groups about the harsh realities that were experienced by soldiers in Vietnam. As a high school teacher, it was a delight to see year 10 students visit the Nambus. They had the chance to see bullets, shells, uniforms and camouflage. Most importantly, they heard firsthand experiences of the war from the veterans. Those men have changed lives and I sincerely thank them for their incredible contribution to the people of New South Wales. There is also a beautiful book that shares those stories.

Bills

ICAC AND OTHER INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INDEPENDENT FUNDING) BILL 2022

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Helen Dalton, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (10:18): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It is my pleasure to introduce the ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2022. It is clear that corruption continues to run rampant across New South Wales and, indeed, Australia. Greedy governments continue to use taxpayers' money as their own personal slush funds. A new day, and a new dodgy deal is being done somewhere. What better time to introduce this ICAC bill, a bill that will ensure ICAC is independently funded so it can do its job, regardless of who it is investigating. Members of the Government are dropping like flies, with successive resignations and allegations. Premiers have been brought down. This issue needs drastic action. We must do more on behalf of the hardworking, taxpaying people of New South Wales. Elected representatives are expected to follow the basic principles of proper rules and accountability over how taxpayer money is spent. We must draw a line in the sand and say enough is enough. We must protect our democracy. The bill is the perfect start.

ICAC released a report on the practice known as pork-barrelling, finding it can involve serious breaches of public trust and that that conduct can amount to corruption. I find it astounding that the Government needed an investigation to tell it that it does not have an unfettered discretion to distribute public funds. Ministerial discretion must still accord with public trust and accountability principles. There is a reason why the Government gets away with repeated corruption scandals: lack of effective oversight. Under the Government the watchdog is the lapdog that will not bite the hand that feeds it.

In my time as the member for Murray, I have seen and heard about numerous scandals, which I reported to the ICAC and the Ombudsman. I provided clear evidence of the council misusing ratepayers' money and bureaucrats favouring certain groups and excluding others. I kept getting the same response: "Yes, that sounds bad, but we've decided not to investigate." I am sure that resonates with many people who have the courage and conviction to report something clearly wrong, only to find out nothing further can be done. How can ICAC investigate when it is hampered by funding shortfalls due to government cutbacks? The same government needs to be scrutinised and held accountable, without fear or favour, and certainly properly resourced to do so. I have come up with a simple solution for anyone hoping to keep the costs of the ICAC down: Stop being corrupt.

The purpose of the bill is to ensure that the bodies entrusted to watch over our government are independently and properly funded and that their staff can do their jobs without fear. That means ICAC will no longer be reliant on the whims of the Liberal and National parties for funding. It will provide clear oversight on the adequacy of funding for the ICAC, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the NSW Electoral Commission and the NSW Ombudsman. It allows annual funding to be allocated separately from other agencies and free from political interference. It allows ICAC to make recommendations for funding priorities. That will be determined by a committee of the Parliament, not Cabinet.

The bill includes a set contingency fund to address unbudgeted financial demands, with access to funds governed by prescribed criteria and the approval of the relevant parliamentary oversight committee. The bill determines annual funding through appropriation legislation, rather than funding allocated to the relevant Minister. Perhaps most importantly, the bill proposes that the New South Wales Government removes those oversight bodies from the dreaded Premier and Cabinet cluster. Implementing those changes is the first step to curtail the scourge of corruption that is undermining our communities and our economy. I urge all members to support the bill.

Debate adjourned.

WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (WATER ACCESS LICENCE REGISTER) BILL 2022

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mrs Helen Dalton, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (10:25): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Since I was first elected in 2019 I have been fighting for the right of Australians to know who owns water. Back then I was astounded to learn that I did not have to list my water entitlements as a pecuniary interest. Never in my 62 years have I faced such nasty and fierce opposition when trying to get something done. I asked the simple question of whether water ownership should remain secret or whether there should be some public transparency. Amazingly, the New South Wales Government has fought tooth and nail to protect secrecy. If the National Party put half as much effort into investing in rural infrastructure such as bridges as it has done protecting the rights of foreign companies to secretly buy our water, our regional communities would be booming and our small towns would be thriving, not dying under the National Party's legacy of corrupt and secretive water markets.

The fact that so many powerful people do not want a transparent New South Wales water register is the very reason we must have one. This is our third shot at attempting to implement some of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission recommendations about water trading that were released in 2021. In the early 2000s the value of water was in the food we produced. Now we have a \$1.8 billion unregulated water market. Imagine how that is working for transparency. It is no wonder that there is so much opposition to a transparent water register; there is too much money to be made—all while our mum-and-dad farmers and our generational farming families continue to suffer. The bill does not ask where someone lives or how much money they have in the bank. It simply provides a transparent register of who owns Australian water.

The bill ensures that the water Minister cannot accept a request for a water access licence unless the customer meets the criteria for a unique identification number. Everything in the register is linked to the unique identification number. Put simply, the bill will do four things. First, it will require New South Wales MPs to

declare any water interests owned by them or their partners in the past five years. They must be declared on the pecuniary interest register, which does not happen at the moment. Second, it will change the application process for getting a water licence so people cannot hide their identity when applying. Third, all current water licence holders will have to provide more information about company directors, major shareholders and related corporations, and it will change the online water register to allow people to search for water holdings of people, companies and government departments. Fourth, the bill will protect the privacy of mum-and-dad farmers by ensuring the public register does not publish personal phone numbers, email or residential addresses.

Under the bill, irrigation corporations will have to disclose all entities that hold water within their irrigation schemes. Currently, foreign companies can hide water within the bulk licence of an irrigation delivery company, which is a vehicle to potentially launder money from illegal activities. My bill will change that. For the first time in history there will be genuine transparency. At the moment water ownership in New South Wales is shrouded in secrecy. The current model prevents people from searching for the name of a person or company. Surprisingly, it is easier to apply for a water licence than it is to open a bank account. People can hide behind a corporate veil so the general public do not know who the actual purchaser is.

In theory, a member of Parliament could set up a shell company in the Cayman Islands, where shareholder details are secret, to buy and trade water. Let's hope they do not, but they can. New South Wales MPs are required to declare their land, property, jobs and shares, so why not their water entitlements? Politicians, foreign companies, Sydney traders and government departments could own water and manipulate the water trade but it is impossible to identify them. The first step in fixing our water problems is to find out who owns it. Unemployed Australians are required to declare water interests on a Centrelink form, but MPs are not, which is amazing. Chinese companies can buy water in secret. Multinational traders are making a fortune at the expense of generational family farms.

We must have public transparency of water so that we can plan for our growing population and protect our long-term food security. New South Wales has a Land Registry, so there is no reason for water ownership to remain a secret. The public wants this reform. Thousands of people have signed petitions over the past few years. Voters want this reform but politicians in this place are saying no. Why do the Liberals and The Nationals keep opposing the bill? It is time to stop the secrecy and the distortion; it is time for transparency. I call on the Liberals and The Nationals to end their fierce opposition and do what the Australian public wants them to do: vote yes for a transparent water bill.

Debate adjourned.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE) BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debated resumed from 13 October 2022.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (10:32): I speak in debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022. I thank the Clerk for clarifying that, despite what the *Business Paper* states, my contribution to debate is not limited to five minutes. My contribution may take a little longer because this is an important issue. Last week I reflected on the fact that the member for Balmain introduced this bill with the intention of prompting a debate on climate change. I also said last week that the bill is born out of not only the work of the Environmental Defenders Office but also, I suggest, the frustration of the member for Balmain, who has taken a keen interest in planning issues over a long time. The bill is also born out of frustration with a government that talks a big game when addressing climate change and taking action to reduce emissions, but all its actions seem to be mysteriously delayed, kicked down the road—

Mr Jamie Parker: Or reversed.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: —or reversed, as the member for Balmain points out. Its rhetoric does not match the reality. NSW Labor agrees with the central assertion that underpins the bill—that climate action is not being addressed clearly enough through the planning system. It not just Greens and Labor members who say this; it is reflected in the 2021 report of the Auditor-General about managing climate change through the planning system. The Auditor-General said that the Government had talked a big game—to paraphrase—for a long time on dealing with climate change, but that has not manifested in real action. There is no doubt that we can do better at addressing climate change and reducing emissions levels through the planning system.

In my previous contribution to debate on the bill, I reflected on some concerns that Labor has with the establishment of an independent planning and climate change advisory group, which would have an expansive brief. Labor members do not necessarily think that is a bad thing, but we have concerns with the oversight and accountability framework in the bill. NSW Labor is not averse to using experts to guide policy and practice,

particularly on climate change in the built environment. Recently NSW Labor's bill was debated in this place, before members opposite used parliamentary tactics to frustrate the debate. Central to that bill was the establishment of a net zero commission, which would be tasked with not only reducing greenhouse emissions to achieve the 50 per cent target by 2030 but also reaching net zero by 2050. I appreciate and understand that the member for Balmain and The Greens have a different view on the speed of reaching that target, but that was the Government's target, so Labor adopted it. The Greens supported the target in the other place.

The functions of the net zero commission are not completely different from The Greens' proposal of the independent planning and climate change advisory group, but Labor's bill proposed oversight and other provisions to determine its commission. One of the target areas for the adaptation plan to be developed by the net zero commission was the built environment. Once emissions from stationary energy generation and transport infrastructure—through a move to electric and perhaps hydrogen vehicles in the future—are dealt with, emissions from the built environment would become the focus. The built environment is one of the heaviest emitters because our buildings are built of glass, steel and concrete. Construction is one of the industries where it is hardest to abate emissions. We must contemplate and reflect on not only the emissions from the materials used in the construction of the built environment through the planning system and other mechanisms of government but also the emissions challenge of the operation of buildings.

As I said, the Opposition is concerned with some of the oversight elements in the bill. The Labor bill proposed a whole-of-government approach with annual reporting, ministerial oversight and a requirement to report to Parliament. It had a clear and well-defined accountability framework for the net zero commission. Labor considers oversight to be very important, and the lack of it in this bill is a flawed omission. Labor is also concerned with the provision to modify a consent for the purposes of imposing a standard climate condition at any time, whether or not an application is made by the applicant or other person entitled to act on the consent.

As I noted in my previous contribution to debate on the bill, certainty in the planning system is important for not only proponents but also communities. People need to be aware of how the system works within the bounds of the rules in order to give communities the certainty that they will get good outcomes near their homes and businesses and give proponents the certainty that they will be able to seek and secure the finance they need. Labor is concerned that the oversight elements of the bill might undermine the level of certainty that is afforded in one way, shape or form in current planning laws, regulations and associated instruments in the State. That is not to say that those elements should not be strengthened in and of themselves; however, that is a separate debate from the bill.

NSW Labor also has concerns about the implementation and transition arrangements of the bill. Perhaps it was the intention of the mover to deal with those in regulatory instruments, but it is unclear. An unclear path adds to that uncertainty. The building industry and the planning environment in New South Wales is a big ship that takes a little while to turn around. It does not stop on a five-cent piece. It is important when there are long lead times for projects and propositions to be considered by the planning system—and some in the sector would argue that some lead times are too long, but that is a debate for another area—that those arrangements are put in place when people are thinking about what they are putting forward now and into the future.

Whether future builds are single-dwelling residential units, granny flats out the back, multi-dwelling residential units or commercial or industrial sites, it is important that they take into account our collective aspiration and need to achieve the net zero target by 2050, and hopefully earlier. I hope that we can come together and move beyond the impasses over the past decade to achieve those goals earlier. I hope that we get to 2030 and go, "Jeez, we got there, and not only that but we got there earlier than we hoped." I hope we do the same for 2050. But that is not without its challenges. I represent the electorate of Wollongong and I note that the member for Cessnock is in the Chamber. Both of our communities are challenging when dealing with the elements of net zero because they rely on heavy industries that use a lot of coal. The member for Cessnock's community exports and mines a lot of coal that has fuelled our economy for a long time. Those power stations are changing.

Mr Clayton Barr: We're up for it.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: As the member for Cessnock says, we are up for it. We are up for it in Wollongong, the member for Cessnock and his community are up for it in Cessnock, and we have to be up for it collectively as a Parliament as we deal with those challenges. But they are not challenges dealt with overnight; they are challenges that must be built into the long-term impacts and associations as we consider them into the future. Cynics among us may think that this is an effort to delay action or the like, but it is nothing of the sort. Labor remains committed to achieving the net zero target. At the Federal level Labor has legislated it and at the State level the NSW Labor leader on the weekend at the NSW Labor conference committed to real action on climate change through our net zero commissioner.

That is the difference. Labor is committed to the approach that it has pursued in this place, that was supported in the other place and was frustrated by members opposite in this Chamber. I would have hoped that, a couple of weeks ago when the House debated the bill after it had been delayed by some cheap parliamentary tactics, we would have just agreed to it. It was adopting the Government's targets and it was supported in the other place. It was giving certainty to people about how to approach things, whether they live in the inner city of Sydney, the Gong or Cessnock. It was giving a path with good oversight and it was giving certainty. Unfortunately, for some inexplicable reason, members opposite did not support their own goal when it came to legislating it. The community will reflect on that in the weeks and months ahead.

Mr Clayton Barr: Well, they're not up for it.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: That is right. They are up for the rhetoric but not the reality. When dealing with and making the changes in the instruments of government that make sure our communities have certainty about how they are going about and approaching the target, they are not up for it. As I said, Labor agrees that action to address climate change must be in all sectors of the economy. Some of those sectors will have a greater contribution in the immediate term than others. Steel, concrete and the like are more difficult to abate industries. But I am keen to push the Illawarra forward so that those things continue to be produced because they are needed for the built environment into the future. In speaking with the construction sector and the planning sector, many groups out there are keen to make sure that good-quality, locally produced building materials with low emissions are used in their production and in buildings here. That is a simple aspiration for New South Wales, I would have thought. In the period between the start of this debate and today, the member for Balmain announced that he will not be recontesting the next election. I look forward to taking Balmain back for Labor.

Ms Jenny Leong: You wish. Bring it on.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: We will be bringing it on, don't worry, member for Newtown.

Ms Jenny Leong: I'll see you there. We'll go for Wollongong while you're up north.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: The member for Newtown has frequented Wollongong in the past, so I might have to return the favour. I say to the member for Balmain that if I am fortunate enough to become the next planning Minister in a NSW Labor government—members' fingers are crossed and so are mine—I am committed to using the planning instruments of this State to help combat and mitigate climate change. I support a planning system that will deliver homes, jobs and infrastructure in a way that also delivers climate adaptation and mitigation. We must use the instruments of government before us, adjusted and adapted through time, to deliver those collective outcomes that we all signed up to.

However, as I said before, Labor's proposed approach for a net zero commissioner was the right approach. It was negotiated and passed in the other place and rejected by members opposite in this place. It had targets of a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. It incorporated a comprehensive, transparent and accountable means of consultation and oversight, reporting back to the Parliament, all sectors of the economy, the built environment, the natural environment, the water cycle, the education and training sector, the primary production sector, the transport sector and any other sector. It was the right approach. We committed to that again at the weekend and we stand behind it.

For the benefit of those who are reflecting on the decision before us at the next election in a few months' time, one choice will be a government that has talked a big game and implemented very little on taking action on climate change; a government with a self-proclaimed "greatest environment Minister" in Australia's history, who walks back his own positions on a regular basis as the political winds suit him; and a government that rejected the opportunity to end the climate war in New South Wales and legislate for its own targets. Labor did not even seek to expand the targets; it adopted the targets the Government had. It will be a choice between a government whose own members voted against their own targets—that is how much they believed in them—and a Labor Party in New South Wales that will support the delivery of homes, jobs and infrastructure through the planning system in a way that also supports real action on climate change and supports genuine outcomes.

While Labor does not support the bill before us today, we support the approach. I compliment the member for Balmain on at least forcing the debate, because it has pushed members to think about what they do. Those members who should be thinking most about what they do—and, more importantly, what they have not done—are members opposite. I thank the House.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (10:50): I make a contribution to debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022. At the outset, I acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Balmain, who announced this week that he will not recontest his seat at the 2023 election. Having worked with him on the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, I recognise and thank him for his contribution to this Parliament. In response to the member for Wollongong, it is a bit cute to

come to this place and talk about a lack of response when the New South Wales Government wholeheartedly recognises that we need to take proactive action against the onset of climate change. It is already taking steps to achieve that goal, which I will speak about soon. It is my view and the Government's view that amending the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act at this time is not the answer. However, we know that climate change needs to be tackled holistically. I will set out exactly how the Government is already responding in that regard.

The New South Wales Government has a goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, and it is putting together a stepped and measured approach that will get us there. Released in 2020, the Net Zero Plan Stage 1—I think it is important to emphasise that there is a plan in place—paves the way for faster emissions reduction through to 2030 and prepares the State to take further action in the following decades. The plan builds on the 2016 Climate Change Policy Framework, which aims to make New South Wales more resilient to a changing climate. Under the plan, the Government expects to reduce the 2005 emissions level by between 47 per cent to 52 per cent by 2030. The plan's implementation update released in September last year sets a 50 per cent target, but that is by no means a cap on New South Wales' ambition. While the plan's focus is to reduce emissions, it also recognises the need to grow our economy, create new jobs and lower the cost of living.

The plan has four priorities: to drive uptake of proven emissions reduction technologies, to empower consumers and businesses to make sustainable choices, to invest in the next wave of emissions reduction innovation, and to ensure that the Government leads by example. The second and third stages of the plan will be developed in the lead-up to the 2030s and 2040s, respectively. That will be informed by evolving technologies and changing market conditions. Under the NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy announced by the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy in June this year, the Government is making New South Wales more resilient and saving lives, homes, ecosystems and livelihoods. The strategy is backed by a \$93.7 million investment to deliver innovative and proactive initiatives over the next eight years.

The strategy sets out four priority areas for government action: developing robust and trusted metrics and information on climate change risk, completing climate change risk and opportunity assessments, developing and delivering adaptation action plans, and embedding climate change adaptation in the New South Wales Government's decision-making. Under the strategy, climate change risk and opportunity assessments and adaptation action plans will be completed at least every five years from now on, with the first to be released in 2023. It is only natural that the consideration of climate change extends to planning decisions—and throughout this debate my colleagues will outline just how we are making great strides towards achieving that aim.

Similarly, the New South Wales Government understands that its plan should also extend to natural hazards. In his second reading speech, the member for Balmain referenced Minister Stokes' discontinued Planning Principles. We must be clear that the current planning Minister has not revoked any of the legally enforceable ministerial directions on the management of natural hazards under planning legislation, including specific directions that require consent authorities to consider natural hazards like flooding. The management of such risks remains a key focus of the New South Wales planning system, with updated ministerial directions ensuring that hazards are properly and thoroughly considered in land use decision-making.

The directions specifically require that planning proposals are consistent with a range of important land use policies, such as outlined in the *Floodplain Development Manual* and *Planning for Bushfire Protection*. The House will also be aware that the Premier recently released findings and recommendations from the independent flood inquiry undertaken by Professor Mary O'Kane and Mick Fuller. The Government has accepted the recommendations, and it will work with stakeholders to take short- and long-term action to ensure that the planning system creates more resilient communities across New South Wales.

There is a lot to be done, so the Government will continue the pause on State-led rezoning in flood-prone areas in the Hawkesbury-Nepean. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act is not the appropriate mechanism to deliver the intent of the bill introduced by the member for Balmain. The proposed amendments are unnecessary. The House can clearly see the New South Wales Government is already implementing a suite of reforms that will better protect our State for the long haul. I do not support the bill.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (10:56): I appreciate the intent of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022. I listened to the speech by the member for Balmain, who introduced the bill. I wish him all the very best upon his retirement from the Parliament. It has been good to see him in action and to have worked with him for the past eight years. I genuinely wish him all the very best for his next steps. It is clear that the member for Balmain is frustrated that there has not been enough action on climate change and he believes more needs to be done. The Government can address that issue, and it must do so more quickly. We can and we should do better. As I will speak about later, members know that Labor introduced legislation to act on climate change more quickly. There is a process of adaptation and mitigation in addressing climate change. In the first instance, we need to try to reduce and stop the effects of climate change and reverse its impact, but in that process the here and now is about adaptation.

We must face the fact and the reality that the world is a bit different and the climate is very different. Indeed, we see that now with the flooding throughout western New South Wales. I know that people say, "We've always had floods and fire and droughts." That is true, but I argue that climate change has increased the frequency of those events, which now occur more regularly than they did in the past 100 years or so. Adaptation is incredibly important, but mitigation is absolutely key. We must consider how we can create better conditions that enable people to adapt to a changing climate. The objectives of the bill have merit, but we in the Labor Party believe there is another way.

The shadow planning Minister, the member for Wollongong, other colleagues and I have had many discussions about adopting a holistic approach, because climate change is not the sole responsibility of the climate change Minister or the shadow Minister. It is the responsibility of everybody. It requires a whole-of-government approach that involves planning and all forms of industry. We can get the best outcome if we bring everyone together. To that end, I am disappointed that the Government has had the opportunity to bring everyone together but has not. That is not to denigrate certain individuals, who I know are trying their best. To genuinely deal with the issue, mitigate and make the necessary changes, we need a whole-of-government approach. We cannot have one Minister who says one thing and another Minister running counter to that.

The Labor Party has been working quite collaboratively through a number of different portfolios to ensure that good and important decisions are made in response to climate change. To a great extent, that includes making decisions on people's homes. With the member for Newtown, the member for Ryde and the Independent member for Sydney, I had the great pleasure of co-hosting a really important discussion last week on people's living conditions. Some great and important stakeholders were at that event, including Sweltering Cities and Shelter NSW. Importantly, the discussion highlighted that the need to act on climate needs to happen across the board. It needs to happen across all parties. What became very clear is that people's homes need to be better prepared for the impacts of climate change. I have learnt more about that since becoming the shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

I represent a brilliant and beautiful electorate, but the constituents struggle and some of their homes are impacted the most by climate change. They include fibro homes that do not have proper insulation and homes without enough shade and shelter. Sometimes the most disadvantaged people suffer the most because of the impact of climate change. They are in the least potential position to pay for changes to adapt to climate change. In that sense, Labor is really conscious that a holistic approach to climate change needs to include the fact that people want to act on it, mitigate it and adapt for it, but in some cases that is difficult.

As I have said previously, I have solar panels on my roof. My neighbours do not have solar panels, not because they are indifferent to climate change or solar but because they have conflicting financial priorities. My neighbour a couple of doors down from my house is in her mid-80s, and she would struggle to take adaptive measures in her old Californian bungalow-style home. A whole-of-government approach is needed. The planning system needs to consider how homes, cities and towns are planned, rather than simply building big homes and installing air conditioners. What can we do so we do not need to turn the air conditioning on? Where is the better shade and shelter and why do we not have more greenery? Where are the carbon sinks? How do we build homes that are more adaptive to the conditions, with the ultimate goal of reversing the impact of climate change through legislative decisions?

The member for Balmain spoke about stakeholders. I meet with similar people in my role as shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change; I am sure the Minister does too. We are talking about design, but we are also talking about energy efficiency. We are talking about planning for the future. Whatever people might say, more electric vehicles will be in the market soon. There are more options at the moment. Their availability will continue to grow and prices will go down. We also need to start thinking ahead and asking, "Where is the infrastructure for that? How do we build the infrastructure for 10 or 20 years' time to be well-prepared? How can we help people put up solar, for example, especially those who can least afford it but who need it the most, given we are in an energy crisis at the moment?" Other mitigation efforts exist, like double-glazed windows. I have been to the Middle East a number of times and it can get pretty hot. Not everyone in the Middle East has air conditioning but almost everyone has double-glazed windows. Double-glazed windows and thick brick walls or concrete walls cool houses down so much, and they work the opposite way in winter to keep houses warm. They are all parts of the picture that we need to look at.

Again, I commend the member for Balmain for looking at that big picture. I again reiterate that my colleague Paul Scully is doing a lot of that. Action on climate change is a must. I hope I am right in thinking that the climate wars are over. I think people accept that climate change is real and is happening and that we do not need to have a polarised argument. We have been able to take the next and important step, which is a pragmatic argument about what we can do. Climate change is a problem. How do we fix it? How do we make sure everyone can access the tools to fix it? The tragedy is that while Australia is flooding, Europe is in drought. In all parts of

the world, something is going wrong. Something is out of kilter. The world is not balanced. What is happening in the Southern Hemisphere is the opposite of what is happening in the Northern Hemisphere. I give a shout-out to my Federal colleague Chris Bowen and the Labor team. They are trying to make up on 10 years of inaction because we argued about whether climate change exists or not and what to do about it.

Labor recently introduced climate change legislation to this House. I am disappointed in the Government for voting against it. That does not surprise me, but I am disappointed because I thought those opposite might support it given that it fitted quite well with their legislated aspirational targets. Labor's bill would have ensured a 50 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. The bill would have established a net zero commission to guide the principles of those targets and guide Parliament and the Minister on what we need to do. Acting on climate change needs to be bigger than any one government and Minister. The world needs a clear pathway for action on climate change. We need a pathway for what to do and we need to bring everybody on board because we do not want a situation where the agricultural industry says, "Hang on a second. We are really impacted by this and we have not had a say." [*Extension of time*]

I thank the Minister and member for Tamworth for agreeing so enthusiastically to the extension of time.

Ms Lynda Voltz: He wants to hear more, Jihad.

Mr JIHAD DIB: He does, because I was just starting to talk about agriculture. I am from the city. Lakemba is not agricultural, apart from people who migrated from Lebanon and came from villages. I spend an incredible amount of time in the regions. For my shadow portfolio particularly, I spend a lot of time talking to farmers. I have spoken to the Farmers' Federation about making sure that they are also part of the journey and that some person from Sydney does not say, "We need to act on climate change and we are going to change everything that you have known." They are working on it. The impact of climate change is felt no more strongly than by those who are working the land to make sure we have enough food to eat. I have also been meeting with the building industry and people from the concrete industry.

Everyone knows that we need to act on climate change, but we need a concerted, holistic approach that brings everybody together and that is not seen as us versus them. We are all together in trying to make the world a much better place. Some industries will be able to move much faster than others, but the understanding is that we need to act. We need to act on materials and urban design. My old alma mater, the University of Wollongong, is doing some fantastic work designing passive homes. That is sensible as well. We have to change the way we look at communities, with regard to canopy, shading, infrastructure and support for electric vehicles. We need to act on climate change and we need to change the way we do things.

As I said at the outset, while the elements in the bill and the intent of it are good, a great deal more needs to be done. Some of the proposed amendments could be done in a slightly different way with a greater sense of a holistic government approach. Labor has made it very clear that if it were granted the great privilege of being in government in 2023 by the people of New South Wales, it would look at introducing net zero legislation. A core part of that is a net zero commission, which seems to serve a lot of those functions. I thank the member for Balmain for bringing the bill to the House but, as has been stated already, Labor opposes the bill.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (11:09): I thank the member for Balmain for bringing the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022 to the House, and for his work and advocacy in this space. The object of the bill is to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to require the exercise of functions under the Act to be consistent with the object of mitigating and adapting to climate change, and for related purposes. There is no question that our community and our country faces a major challenge in terms of mitigating and adapting to climate change. Ensuring there is a set of principles in our planning and assessment system would go some way to beginning to address that. I have also worked on legislation that the Opposition prepared—I acknowledge the member for Lakemba, who just spoke in this debate—in relation to a net zero commission. Again, the principle of that legislation was to require government action to comply with principles that take into account the effects of climate change in the way government operates. I thank those members for their work, particularly the member for Balmain.

I raise the important issue of the impact of renewable energy infrastructure on communities, which I think gets overlooked in these debates. The member for Lakemba touched on it in his contribution when he spoke about the impact on farmers. We are in the middle of not a once-in-a-generation but a once-in-a-lifetime change to the way we generate energy. We are moving from a system that is based on coal located in power plants on the coast, where energy gets distributed throughout the State, to one in which we will be relying on a network of energy generation in solar and wind farm developments connected by an extensive network of transmission lines. That will take place in rural and regional New South Wales. Forgive me for saying this, but sometimes I think the folk who live in the city think there is nothing west of the Great Dividing Range—that it is just an empty space, and

this renewable energy infrastructure will have no impact. In fact, it is going to have a significant impact. Those communities affected by it ought to be considered and recognised.

There are two examples in my electorate where this has become an issue right here and now. The first is the transmission lines of Transgrid which are being built to connect South Australia to Wagga and Snowy Hydro, with a connection to Victoria. Of course, that infrastructure is an important part of the Integrated System Plan for Australia because we will be swapping energy between States. Snowy Hydro, which will be the great big battery for our electricity, will provide a two-week supply for one-third of the State. It is absolutely critical. That power has got to get out, and will get out through HumeLink. The problem is that we are talking about 500-kilovolt powerlines carried on towers up to 80 metres high. These lines are huge infrastructure running through pristine farmland. They will have a big impact on the landowners where this is being proposed.

As I have said in this Chamber before, clearly we need those powerlines. But if we are going to construct them, we need to make sure three things happen. Firstly, we need to make sure there is appropriate consultation with the communities affected. Secondly, we need to make sure that they are compensated appropriately. Thirdly, we need to make sure that the route is the best route possible. Consultation, compensation and the route—I have consistently argued for that for the past three years. Frankly, Transgrid's original consultation was appalling. It was so appalling that in fact it had to start again. I congratulate the company on recognising that. But, boy, the damage done in that process to landowners and communities was pretty significant.

The effect on mental health, as I found out from a survey I did of those landowners, was very significant. Of course, that breaks down the social compact. Yes, we are in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime change to energy infrastructure, but those changes come with the need for a social licence. The impact that this massive infrastructure has on rural and regional communities needs to be recognised. The consultation is an important part of it—and I have to say it has improved with Transgrid, thanks to the advocacy of landowners in my electorate and the actions I have taken.

The second issue is compensation. For those transmission lines, landowners get a fraction of the compensation that someone gets for a wind farm or a solar factory yet they will be putting up with critical infrastructure. I am pleased the Government has taken on board my representations in this regard and I look forward to some news on that—hopefully soon—that will help those landowners. It is important to recognise that they need to be compensated. Finally, the route chosen needs to be the best route possible. Work is continuing on that, but it is not something that can be done simply from an online exercise conducted in Sydney. To get the best route possible you have to get on the ground, meet the landowners and work out how the communities are affected.

The second aspect that has affected my community has been solar factories. These developments are springing up throughout my electorate. In some cases communities are quite happy to have them, particularly where the land is flat and relatively unproductive. But solar factories or farms are popping up in areas where they will have a significant visual impact on neighbours. Those neighbours are concerned about the effect on land quality, land use, fire risk and insurance. They are also saying, "Look, do we really have to use our best agricultural land for these developments when there are plenty of other areas where they could be built?" Those considerations need to be front and centre.

I raise these issues in the context of this bill because the issues of the impact of the powerlines and solar developments on the community would not have developed had we been conscious, when looking at renewable energy infrastructure, that we need to consider the communities affected by the development of that infrastructure. I am pleased the Government has issued revised guidelines on major renewable infrastructure in regard to solar factories. That was something I advocated for. It was pleasing to finally to see those guidelines come out. They are stronger, though probably not quite strong enough, but at least that has happened. Boy, it was a torturous process to get those guidelines and have the issues that Transgrid has caused raised with the Government. My reason for speaking on this bill today is to suggest that if we had a mechanism whereby those issues were front and centre, we would have avoided a lot of that pain.

I notice the bill proposes an independent planning and climate change advisory group. I note that in other legislation there has been a net zero commission. In addition to advising the Government on the impacts of climate change, the effects of development and so on, I suggest there needs to be a requirement for those groups to advise the Government on the impact of renewable energy infrastructure—I include transmission lines in that—on the communities where the infrastructure is being located. If those advisory groups were required to do that, the issues communities have would be front and centre with the Government. We would not have this really involved and distressing process that my constituents and I have gone through with Transgrid and the solar developments. That could have been avoided if that requirement was included.

I thank the member for Balmain for bringing this legislation to the House. There is no question it is absolutely critical that government is aware of the issues of climate change. But I make the point that the

developments come with the need for a social licence. Rural and regional New South Wales is not empty space. These large developments will take place near and with communities. It is important as a society that we work together to make sure we get the best outcome going forward. We do so when the consideration of communities is front and centre in the decisions we make about renewable energy infrastructure. I thank the House.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (11:19): I oppose the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill. I acknowledge the goodwill, long service and contribution of the member for Balmain, with whom I was at university many years ago. I recognise his longstanding commitment and dedication to public service, to his community and to this issue. As other members have already mentioned, our planning system is already implementing the New South Wales Government Net Zero Plan through a range of initiatives. This includes increasing sustainability standards for new homes, as well as non-residential buildings. This bill tasks the Minister with reviewing BASIX standards for residential development, with no recognition that this work is already underway.

The New South Wales Government is actively delivering on its commitment to the Council of Australian Governments on the Trajectory to Low Energy Buildings to update these standards up to 2030. Our Government is dedicated to delivering sustainable and resilient communities. We know that now more than ever we need to ensure our homes are durable and comfortable in all climatic conditions. The New South Wales Government's commitment to a housing supply that positively contributes to our greenhouse gas emission targets remains paramount to decision-making and action. That is why we on this side recently introduced the new sustainable buildings State environmental planning policy [SEPP], the first of its kind in Australia.

BASIX has already been a unique and effective policy that monitors and standardises sustainability in homes. Since its inception in 2004, BASIX has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 12.3 million tonnes in more than half a million New South Wales homes. We need to expand on that as we move towards net zero by 2050. Under the sustainable buildings SEPP, residential buildings are required to meet a seven-star rating under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme, which is also being rolled out in other States and Territories. This will mean we can build more comfortable homes, cut energy costs and contribute to our net-zero targets, all at the same time. Our goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from overall electricity and gas use in homes by a further 7 to 11 per cent.

Through better design, better insulation, more sunlight and more solar panels, we will be creating more energy efficient homes and reducing emissions by an extra 150,000 tonnes a year, which is equivalent to planting 485,000 trees. With more renewable energy generation, we are reducing the greenhouse gas impact of electrical appliances and giving home owners greater choice and the option to go all-electric. I can speak to new developments in my electorate where that option is available. With affordability at the forefront of everyone's minds, I want to clarify that the Government is only imposing these higher standards where the benefits outweigh the upfront costs—that is, where reduced energy bills offset any increase in mortgage repayments.

Sixteen per cent of the Australian building sector's total emissions come from manufacturing construction materials. As fossil fuels disappear from our electricity supply, embodied emissions become the next frontier for the building industry in the race to net zero. As a first step to addressing this, the Government will start to collect data through the BASIX tool to develop a suitable standard for the embodied emissions of building materials in the future. In his second reading speech, the member for Balmain mentioned the impact dark roofs have on the urban heat island effect. I point out to the member that under updated BASIX standards, dark roofs are only allowed if they are offset, for example, through more insulation.

The Government also has a number of programs aimed at addressing urban heat stress, particularly in western Sydney. This includes the installation of solar panels on social housing, establishing new parks, and increasing tree-planting efforts. The new SEPP also features sustainability provisions for larger commercial non-residential developments. All large commercial and State significant development will submit a net zero statement to ensure they are future ready and demonstrate that buildings are either all-electric or have sufficient space and infrastructure to convert from fossil fuel use by 2035.

Prescribed large commercial development will need to verify energy and water performance 24 months post occupancy to close the performance gap between what a building is designed to achieve and what it actually achieves. Prescribed large commercial developments will also be required to offset any onsite fossil fuel use and to offset any performance gap between the required energy standard and the actual energy used on site. Analysis shows proposed measures for prescribed non-residential buildings will lead to a reduction of 0.72 megatonnes in greenhouse gas emissions over 10 years, ensuring New South Wales is leading the nation in the verification and measurement of sustainable performance. The Government also continues to support good urban design for communities and is finalising the *Good Practice Urban Guidelines*, to be published later this year. I recognise the hard work of the planning Minister and his team towards that end. These guidelines provide common objectives

to help designers, developers and assessment teams create more cohesive urban design outcomes. They explore urban elements like tree canopy, natural systems, active transport and built form.

The *Local Government Design Review Panel Manual* will also be released later this year, to support councils in their design review processes. As can be seen through those examples, among others, a lot is already underway, being consulted on and getting done. The Government is already proactive in implementing environmental and design policy so it can create sustainable and resilient communities where people are comfortable and proud to live. The Government is therefore doing the right thing by not supporting the unnecessary amendments proposed in this bill.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (11:27): I contribute to debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022. I have read the second reading speech of the member for Balmain. I appreciate the matters the member has brought to the attention of the House and I agree with much of his policy response. I also agree with the object of the bill:

...to require the exercise of functions under the Act to be consistent with the object of mitigating and adapting to climate change, and for related purposes.

The question is whether this bill is the appropriate response to adopt such a policy. I always ask whether legislation is an appropriate response to enact a particular policy provision. This Parliament has a history of overreacting to policy responses by introducing legislation—with the best will in the world and after detailed consultation. However, it is usually in response to media stories and there is no public consultation, which leads to considerable unintended consequences. Unfortunately, law reform in this State is littered with legislative responses to media articles rather than consideration being given to determine whether a legislative response is required, or whether the common law or the courts' decisions are sufficient to enable a policy response. If ever there is an example of a fine piece of legislation being destroyed by a legislative response, it has been the repeated amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979—a groundbreaking piece of legislation that actually has been destroyed successively by successive governments since about 1990. I will come back to that.

I want to deal with the attempted policy response by the member for Balmain and why I say that the bill in this form is not the appropriate policy response and why I say this continues to repeat what I consider to be a parliamentary error in dealing with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Firstly, when the New South Wales Land and Environment Court Chief Judge, Justice Preston, handed down his decision to refuse the Rocky Hill coalmine in the Gloucester Valley, that decision effectively had international ramifications. Although the court held that the project should be refused due to its significant and unacceptable planning, visual and social impacts, it was actually Justice Preston's consideration of greenhouse gas emissions of the proposal and the impact of those emissions on the climate system, environment and the people that has changed the law in New South Wales. The Land and Environment Court is a court of superior jurisdiction and its decisions, if they be the court's ratio, are binding decisions as a matter of law. The Rocky Hill case comes in the wake of an international agreement made in Paris in 2015. That agreement provides:

...to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to limit the increase to 1.5°C ...

Evidence was placed before the court where expert evidence provided that a carbon budget—that is, that caps the amount of global emissions that can be released in order to maintain warming below a certain temperature—must be adhered to if the objective is to be reached. Whilst in arguing that refusing a single coalmine in the Gloucester Valley may not help in the long-term impact of climate change—and I imagine that that would be the argument made by members opposite, if they had thought to do so—Justice Preston summed it up when he said, significantly:

The global problem of climate change needs to be addressed by multiple local actions to mitigate emissions ...

The main point of contention in the Rocky Hill case was whether the coalmine was able to proceed on its merits, looking at what is known as the carbon budget and the need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade post-industrial levels. The court found that the greenhouse gas emissions of the project and their likely contribution to adverse impacts on the climate system, environment and people were reason for that refusal.

In my view, the outcome should not be controversial because decision-makers are tasked with assessing the impacts of development proposals on the natural environment and on communities, who are already living with the impact of climate change. The science is clear: Limiting the effects of climate change is necessary to achieve sustainable development and intergenerational equity and is in the public interest, all of which are considerations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and all are currently required to be taken into account when determining development applications. Prior to Justice Preston's decision, there were no specific climate change laws in New South Wales. There is as a result of the Rocky Hill case and the decision of Justice Preston.

Whilst the member for Balmain and The Greens, as well as the Environmental Defenders Office [EDO], argue that the planning law lacks the specificity needed to ensure that we are reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade and effectively protect the environment and communities already at risk from climate change, the fact of the matter is that that is inconsistent with the decision in the Rocky Hill case—unless they want to argue, of course, that it is not the ratio decidendi of the case and it is simply obiter dicta. I do not agree with that assertion because I think Justice Preston went out of his way to specify the principle that needed to be applied.

If I am wrong and the member for Balmain and the EDO are right, Labor in itself has also been working on a bill to try to address those shortcomings. But as Labor works down that path, it needs to consider the very principles that I am bringing before the House, and that is whether or not legislation is needed as an appropriate response. I remind the House why I say what I have said. I invite the attention of the House to what used to be section 5 of the Act but has been renumbered—confusing to someone who is part of the old guard, like I am. It is now section 1.3 which states the objects of the Act. They are set out in subsections (a) to (j):

- (a) to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources,
- (b) to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment,

[*Extension of time*]

Subsection (e) states:

- (e) to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,

Subsection (g) states:

- (g) to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,

I will not read the other objects because time does not permit. But we can see that the objects of the Act are pretty well all-inclusive. There are two issues within this bill that concern me. They relate to two of the clauses of schedule 1 item [7], which relates to the ability of changing consent, and schedule 1 items [10] to [13], which relate to third party appeals. This highlights the problem with a bill that has fine objects but again becomes a tinkering with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. It has the same ills as the changes by the pro-development lobby to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act itself—that is, there are always unintended consequences.

Development consent attaches to the land and is based upon the material that has been provided to a consent authority or somebody that grants development consent. In my view, the consent that attaches to the land needs to be final, absent fraud. To be able to have a consent effectively varied by adding a subsequent condition whose effect could make a development consent unsustainable is not a way that would permit the encouragement of economic investment in this State.

I accept that there are major failings in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. I accept that consent authorities—and the member for Balmain was part of a consent authority in his early life, as was I—were misled in thinking the conditions of consent would control a particular application. Ultimately consent authorities would love to be in a position to revoke that consent or add conditions to it, but the law does not enable it because the consent attaches to the land and there must be consistency. I would much prefer licensing for environmental impact statements, for example, so that dodgy environmental impact statements are stopped in this State and so consent authorities have confidence in them. I would much rather criminalise material that causes a consent authority to be misled as an act of deterring accurate information before the consent authority rather than being able to later change a consent, absent fraud. If we can do it for climate change, why can we not do it for something else? That in itself tinkers with an Act that has unintended consequences and cuts across the very fabric of the Act and the way development consent should work.

The other issue is third-party appeals. As a matter of policy and philosophy, I would support third-party appeals. But one can only do it by looking at the Act as a whole, or maybe repealing everything from 1990, because by allowing third-party appeals we would allow competitors to utilise that process to delay the implementation of a consent. That is not unheard of. I have seen it over the years for major developments. I saw it with the approval of Westfield Eastgardens, when the then owners of the Bondi Junction shopping centre, which was not Westfield at the time, litigated against the approval of that shopping centre simply because it did not want its customers to go to Pagewood. It wanted to retain its customers in Bondi Junction. That is a prime example of what happens if we do not look at the third-party appeals process as a whole and incorporate it into an Act to give

it some proper effect. The theory is good, but implementing it in this way is not successful. While I value the contribution from the member for Balmain, I am not sure the bill will achieve the intended changes.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (11:42): I oppose the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Climate Change Response) Bill. I appreciate the member for Balmain's intention to create a robust planning system that considers climate impacts. However, the New South Wales Government is already achieving that. Our legislative framework hinges on detailed assessments and close consultation. Where appropriate, consent conditions are imposed to best manage or mitigate environmental impacts. The object of the bill is to make specific reference to climate change. However, the Act already caters for that. Under section 1.3 (b), one of the objects of the Act is to "facilitate ecological sustainable development", which requires a great deal of consideration of climate change impacts. Since the Act's introduction in 1979, it has undergone considerable change to strengthen how consent authorities should consider ecologically sustainable development.

Strategic planning and community engagement sections have been significantly strengthened over time. That is in line with the Government's commitment to reach net zero by 2050 and reduce our emissions from 2005 levels by 50 per cent by 2030. Through community consultations and public hearings on coalmining projects particularly, we often hear concerns about the effect of greenhouse gas emissions on our environment. Our Government knows the impact of coalmining on climate change and it has become an increasingly more important issue in the assessment of such projects, particularly in recent years. That is why, as part of the assessment process, the Government requires all mining projects to undergo a detailed assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, including proposed mitigation measures to minimise them.

The bill puts unreasonable expectations on how development proposals should be considered. It also constrains the decision-making process by requiring consent authorities to prioritise development that does not result in greenhouse gas emissions, which curtails almost all development types in New South Wales. They would all result in some type of emission under the proposed definitions. Proposals with significant objection from the community are referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination. The bill suggests an additional independent advisory panel and is therefore confusing and redundant. The bill also includes new definitions of direct and indirect emissions, which may be inconsistent with the definitions and assessment methodologies established for the assessment of major projects in New South Wales, particularly fossil fuel developments.

The New South Wales Government also assesses the costs and benefits of each project, including close and thorough consideration of climate change impacts. Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021, the consent authority is required to consider conditions to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions are minimised to the greatest extent practicable and must have regard to applicable State or national policies, programs or guidelines. That has been put in place through the recent mining assessments such as the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project and the Glendell Continued Operations Project. The Government determined those projects would have substantial benefit to the New South Wales economy and energy production, yet it still recommended that strict conditions be put in place to minimise, mitigate and offset greenhouse gas emissions if required.

The Government's Biodiversity Assessment Method outlines how direct and indirect impacts to biodiversity from development should be assessed. It provides guidance on how to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity, and identifies what offsets are needed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity. The Biodiversity Assessment Method is considered for all developments that meet certain thresholds for significant impacts on biodiversity, from major projects to local development. It also includes any land that is subject to biodiversity certification under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The Government's Biodiversity Offsets Scheme helps to balance the need for development while protecting the national surrounds. The scheme ensures biodiversity impacts from developments are assessed and, when an impact on the environment cannot be avoided or lessened, the biodiversity impact is offset by improving biodiversity values elsewhere. That is an important factor in the Tweed, which is considered to be a great area of biodiversity, and we are very proud of that. My local government assesses lots of projects on that issue and it has the full support of my local area and community. That has long been a requirement for coalmines. The Government actively ensures offset sites are managed for biodiversity conservation, with arrangements for managing the land secured in perpetuity under an approved conservation mechanism.

The Government continues to work to make sure future tracking and reporting of offsets is easy and efficient. The Government understands the role it must play in transferring to renewable energy in order to deliver on its Net Zero Plan and contribute to the Commonwealth Government's Paris Agreement. The NSW Electricity Strategy also sets out how the Government will deliver on those net zero objectives, while ensuring a reliable, affordable and sustainable future that supports our growing economy. Our *Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline* also provides the community, industry and regulators with guidance on the planning frameworks for the

assessment of large solar projects. To date, over 60 large-scale solar energy projects have been approved in New South Wales, with 18 in operation and nine under construction.

However, the fact is that our State still requires coal production for the short to medium term to generate the power we need. The Government effectively manages that through a robust assessment framework and by offsetting biodiversity impacts. I agree with parts of the proposition put forward by the member for Ballina. Mining is a very contentious issue no matter where it occurs, but particularly on the North Coast. The member for Clarence will probably speak to the bill. Recently a mining exploration licence was granted to look for lithium, cobalt and many other rare minerals. While mining sounds offensive to some in the community who think we should not do it, unless we get those rare earth minerals like lithium, cobalt and nickel, we cannot build batteries. If we cannot build batteries, then we cannot have electric cars.

In recent times I have heard a lot of comment about the methane produced by cows. Yet consumers like a nice steak, lamb chop or leg of lamb. You cannot have one without the other. It is the same with mining and exploration for rare minerals. Australia is very innovative. We lead the world with some of our advances, particularly in solar technology. We need batteries and we need rare earth minerals to make them and maintain their large-scale production and use. If we change all our vehicles to run on renewable energy, we will need literally millions of batteries. To date, batteries have a lifespan of only 10 years to 20 years before they must be replaced.

There is lot of work to be done. I am positive about the direction the Government is taking. There are some in the Chamber and in the wider community who think the Government is not doing enough, but I see a transition happening. Climate change is being discussed by everyone from schoolchildren to seniors in my electorate. Everyone is concerned. We love our planet dearly. We love nature dearly and we want to do all we can to preserve it. But we must do it in a way that will not destroy our economy and stifle growth. I do not want pensioners in my area taking cold showers because they cannot afford to pay rising power bills. That has happened before. It is horrifying that in Australia some people cannot afford to pay their electricity bills and cannot have hot showers. Seniors, who have worked hard all their lives, deserve to be able to take a hot shower or turn on the air conditioning. We do not want to end up in the situation that Europe is facing right now. With that in mind, I oppose the bill.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (11:51): I oppose the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Climate Change Response) Bill 2022. It contains a lot of worthy ideas. The reality is there is no-one on this side of the Chamber who has not long argued about the impact of climate change and what it is doing to our environment. We can go back to the 1970s and Delcia Kite's inaugural speech in the upper House. Delcia Kite was way ahead of her time. Her inaugural speech centred around the impacts of climate change, particularly on the city of Sydney. It has taken a long time for governments—especially some governments—to take seriously the impacts of climate change. The reality is we live in a growing and expanding city. Between now and 2041, the Sydney Basin will be home to an additional 1.7 million people, and the development and housing that goes with that increase must have parameters.

The shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change, my colleague the member for Lakemba, introduced the Climate Change (Emissions Targets) Bill 2021, which will establish a net zero commission. It takes a different approach to the bill brought forward by the member for Balmain, which looks specifically at parameters for planning guidelines. His bill amends a number of the schedules to the Act to address the problem of climate change by ensuring that land development is consistent with certain premises relating to climate change. The bill inserts certain definitions relevant to mitigating and adapting to climate change and sets out climate change response principles. The bill deals with exempt developments and when they do not cause a material increase in greenhouse emissions. New section 1.3, Objects of Act, seeks:

- (k) to address the problem of climate change by ensuring that the development of land is consistent with the following—
 - (i) humans have caused and continue to cause changes to the Earth's climate ...

Any State significant development will be captured by that criterion. In Wentworth Point—the birthplace of Bennelong and the lands of the Wangal people—nearly 20,000 people live on a 0.6-hectare development on the Homebush Bay mudflats. The area—for example, Hill Road—floods regularly. There are State significant developments in that precinct, including proposed stage 2 of the light rail. It is a slow process at the moment. The long-overdue Wentworth Point High School will essentially be built on what would be one of the green-and-blue canopies as defined by the legislation. Some 3.9 hectares of green space was set aside to form part of the proposed continuous wetlands biodiversity. But now State significant development is going onto that land.

How do we deal with the effects of that under the broad objects in the bill? The bill gets more specific, but new section 1.3 contains very broad objects. It deals with high-impact developments, State significant developments, State significant infrastructure, designated development and any other development prescribed by

regulations for the purposes of that definition. The bill has worthy objectives, but it is very broad. It seeks to establish an independent planning and climate change advisory group tasked with publishing guidelines on adapting for climate change, phasing out fossil fuels, identifying regional level climate risk, reviewing planning instruments and recommending carbon budgets. The group will be appointed by the Minister, who appears to have no further oversight of its activities other than requiring it to publish material periodically.

The Labor Party took a different approach with the Climate Change (Emissions Targets) Bill 2021. The bill was introduced in the other place and gained unanimous support. It is expected to be debated in this Chamber shortly. That is Labor's approach going forward. I return to the bill introduced by The Greens.

Ms JENNY LEONG: I move:

That the question be now put.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the question be now put. A division has been called for. There being five members for the question, the question is resolved in the negative.

Ayes, 5

Greenwich, A

Leong, J

McGirr, J

Parker, J

Smith, T

Motion negatived.

Debate interrupted.

Motions

PARAMEDIC STAFFING

Debate resumed from 13 October 2022.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (12:09): I support the motion moved by the member for Wallsend about paramedics and ramping across Sydney. There is no doubt that COVID has created tough times across New South Wales and the world, and huge problems in the health system. I thank everyone at every level of the health system for their hard work. Everyone has gone out of their way to try to get the best outcomes for the people of New South Wales. I say that to members across the Chamber as well as bureaucrats, health staff, cleaners, attendants, ambulance drivers, GPs and everyone who has worked so hard. The origins of the difficulties in the hospital system go back to the policies that this Government has put in place over years.

In the other place I was the duty MLC for a number of electorates, particularly Myall Lakes. One of the first decisions the Barry O'Farrell Government made for health in regional New South Wales was to remove the chief medical officer from Bulahdelah Hospital, leaving only nurses. That decision meant that ambulances were required to take people from the township of Bulahdelah, which no longer had a chief medical officer, to Manning Base Hospital. Ambulances that were needed to deal with emergencies were transporting patients to the nearest hospital and getting caught up in the system. When an ambulance was needed for Bulahdelah, it was sent from Maitland Hospital. If Maitland Hospital ambulances were already out on jobs, it was sent from John Hunter Hospital, leaving that hospital short. That is the flow-on effect for doctors in regional New South Wales in particular.

The Australian Medical Association pointed out that over time the number of approved and available public hospital beds per 1,000 people aged 65 and over—who are the people most likely to call for ambulance services—across all States and Territories has dramatically dropped. That is as true in New South Wales as it is anywhere else. I make the point all the time that this Government speaks about increasing the health budget, but it does not speak about the fact that the increase in budget weighs up against population growth.

The reality is that Sydney will grow by 1.7 million people by 2041. Over a 20-year period there will be a 25 per cent increase in the population of Sydney. As this Government forces more people off the toll roads and onto our local streets, emergency services will have to navigate a more complex road system. Around Westmead and Auburn the traffic does not move. People cannot get down Parramatta Road. Everybody complains about it. Those Government decisions have a flow-on effect to the health system. We will not have the paramedics and ambulances we will need in our already congested areas to deal with the 25 per cent increase in population that Sydney is expecting. That will have huge impacts. That short-sightedness is leading to the huge problems in our hospitals, particularly ramping.

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:13): In reply: The Government has moved an amendment to the motion to avoid dealing with the problems of bed block, overwork, long hours, high rates of overtime, ramping, staff shortages, crazy rostering and low morale. I will speak about Beresfield Ambulance Station in a moment, which is problematic. It is small and dilapidated. It is a credit to the staff that they work hard. Before I continue, it was remiss of me not to thank the member for Tweed, the member for Shellharbour, the member for Clarence, the member for Balmain and the member for Auburn for their contributions to debate on the motion. I thank them.

The problems have not been addressed. While it was nice of the Government to move an amendment to the important motion, we do not accept it. We want the Government to address the issues that the ambos are all telling us about across New South Wales. I quickly mention Beresfield Ambulance Station. I invite the Minister to visit Beresfield any time to see the tiny, dilapidated, outdated, dysfunctional station that the staff are supposed to work in. It is unbelievable. The working conditions are atrocious, and they must be addressed.

Ambulances at John Hunter Hospital are ramped on a daily basis because of bed block. One reason for that is that many elderly people are at the hospital when they should be in the Wallsend Aged Care Facility, a State Government facility with over 60 per cent of beds vacant. Hunter New England Health has not explained why those beds are vacant. I suspect it is because, by stealth, Hunter New England Health and the State Government want to close Wallsend Aged Care Facility. I sincerely hope that is not the case, but the budget for Wallsend Aged Care Facility has been dramatically lowered by Hunter New England Health and the Government. One can only assume that is because the Government is on a quest to close it. If that facility were open, elderly people in the John Hunter Hospital, in the Calvary Mater and from the local Hunter area who need respite could go there.

Paramedics and ambulance drivers are highly stressed. I thank them for their wonderful work, but I wonder how they continue to do their jobs. I am glad that the Government agrees with us that NSW Ambulance responded to an unprecedented 116,000 cases just in April. COVID was a problem, but it is not the sole source of the problem. Overwork, long overtime hours and low morale are the source of the problem. The Government must address those problems or more ambulance drivers and paramedics will be lost. The Government is not addressing staff shortages. Those issues add up to cause upset ambulance drivers, longer response times and bed block, which is no solution to the problems in hospitals at the moment. Let us find a solution and increase the number of ambulance drivers and paramedics. I encourage members to support the original motion.

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

The House divided.

Ayes41
Noes39
Majority.....2

AYES

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

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

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

NOES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C

Doyle, T
Finn, J
Greenwich, A
Harris, D

Mehan, D (teller)
Mihailuk, T
O'Neill, M
Park, R

NOES

Butler, R	Harrison, J	Parker, J
Car, P	Haylen, J	Saffin, J
Catley, Y	Hoenig, R	Scully, P
Chanthivong, A	Holland, M	Smith, T
Cotsis, S	Hornery, S	Voltz, L
Crakanthorp, T	Kamper, S	Warren, G
Dalton, H	Leong, J	Washington, K
Dib, J	Li, J	Watson, A (teller)
Donato, P	Lynch, P	Zangari, G

PAIRS

Bromhead, S	Lalich, N
Evans, L	Daley, M
Hazzard, B	Tesch, L
Perrottet, D	Minns, C

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion as amended agreed to.**PROSTATE CANCER**

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:26): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.
- (2) Acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men in Australia after non-melanoma skin cancer, with around 3,200 deaths in Australia each year.
- (3) Notes that early detection and treatment can significantly improve prostate cancer outcomes.

This is an important subject. First, I acknowledge Ross Davis of Prostate Blue Tweed City 2485, who leads our local advisory group on this important men's health issue. September was Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. It is a time when the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia asks people to get involved and create awareness and raise funds to help reduce the impact of prostate cancer. The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer is a tremendously important men's health issue. In New South Wales prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men. Approximately 7,000 men were diagnosed in 2018, accounting for 27 per cent of cancers diagnosed that year. The risk of being diagnosed with cancer increases with age—approximately 70 per cent of diagnoses occur in men aged between 60 to 79. In 2018 prostate cancer was also the second-most common form of cancer to cause death among men in New South Wales. Approximately 1,000 deaths were due to prostate cancer that year, which accounted for 12 per cent of cancer deaths in men. However, it is encouraging to see that the rate of prostate cancer deaths in New South Wales has decreased over recent years.

Prostate cancer has one of the highest one-year and five-year cancer survival rates. The most recent data available indicates that the five-year relative survival rate for men diagnosed between 2012 and 2016 in New South Wales was 95 per cent, up from 86 per cent between 1997 and 2001. Since 2011, the New South Wales Government has invested more than \$313 million in cancer research through the Cancer Institute NSW. Tumour research provides opportunities to advance new technology, develop treatments and benefit all people affected by cancer. Since 2011, the Cancer Institute NSW has awarded over \$6.4 million in research grants, with the main focus on prostate cancer.

In April 2018 the Cancer Institute committed \$3.75 million over five years to a transitional program grant for joint funding between St Vincent's Hospital, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the Kinghorn Cancer Centre. That will assist the research team to integrate prostate cancer research findings into clinical practice. That New South Wales Government initiative solely focuses on prostate cancer. The grant was a result of a previous investment of \$3.75 million on molecular biomarkers in clinical decision-making for breast, prostate and pancreatic cancer. A prostate cancer diagnosis can lead to unnecessary treatment. The grant will help develop improved imaging techniques to better determine which early-stage prostate cancers become life-threatening and need aggressive treatment, and those that can be managed through active surveillance.

While the prostate-specific antigen test, or the PSA test, can detect some prostate cancers earlier, elevated PSA levels do not necessarily mean cancer is present, as other conditions can also raise a man's PSA. Men who are considering having a PSA test need to be informed about the benefits and harms of testing and any treatment. We encourage men to discuss their concerns about prostate cancer with their doctor so they can make an informed choice about PSA. They may also want to ask about getting a second opinion and have discussions with their general practitioner. It is likely that several opportunities are available for treatment and it is important that every man takes the time to fully understand the options and associated benefits, risks and costs.

Active surveillance is one of the options for many men with slow-growing, localised disease. Men with advanced prostate cancer will not have the same treatment options. They should be referred to a specialist who is a member of a multidisciplinary cancer care team. Further, the Cancer Institute NSW has an online directory called Canrefer that can provide guidance for people diagnosed with cancer, and their general practitioners, about specialists who are members of a multidisciplinary cancer care team. As with many cancers, we all want to reduce the human cost through prevention, early recognition and treatment wherever possible. In its early stages, prostate cancer can manifest few or no symptoms at all.

Since February 2022 a prostate cancer specialist nurse has been based in Lismore on the North Coast. That position is funded and trained through the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. There are 3,010 men living with prostate cancer and around 267 new cases treated each year, which is 26 per cent of all male cancers in our local area district. Prostate cancer comprises 14 per cent of deaths in this area. The prostate cancer specialist nurse has become the patient's primary point of contact from diagnosis right through to survivorship. Engaging with a multidisciplinary team encourages referral as close to diagnosis as possible and the provision of evidence-based information to all prostate cancer patients and their families.

This is an important motion. As a male, I know men are reticent to get checked. It is well worth it, as early detection is best when treating many cancers. I believe many in this House have known people who have suffered from prostate cancer. People have to talk to their GPs and find out what their options are. Go and get the tests, otherwise the tumour will grow and become advanced. I have heard stories of men who have had no symptoms. They have an aggressive form of cancer and were told midlife that they have six months left to live, which is a shocking outcome. I encourage all men across New South Wales to be aware of prostate cancer. Women are far more proactive when it comes to breast cancer and cervical cancer. They talk about it openly and get tested. I know many women do not like the breast cancer screening procedure, but it is a necessary thing. Men should take advantage of what the New South Wales health system is offering. Please go and get tested and have peace of mind.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (12:33): I contribute to the motion of the member for Tweed on Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I thank him for his advocacy on this very important medical condition and for his very comprehensive statements. The motion notes that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men after non-melanoma skin cancer. I agree that early detection and treatment can significantly improve cancer outcomes. Prostate cancer is among the most common cancers in men worldwide, with about 11 per cent of men being diagnosed over their lifetime. The electorate of Bega falls into the Capital Region for statistics. In the region, nearly 2,700 men are living with prostate cancer, with approximately 250 new cases diagnosed each year. As mentioned before, the incidence rises with age, which makes it particularly important for my contemporary on the Government benches and me—

Mr Christopher Gulaptis: Are you calling him old?

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: I googled it. The average age of diagnosis in the Capital Region is 68 years. The good news is that with early detection and appropriate management, the five-year survival is over 80 per cent. The bad news is that approximately up to 30 men in the region will die each year from this cancer. If members are patient with me, I will get into the medical explanations. Like all cancers, tumours vary from low-grade, well-differentiated tumours, which may never become clinically significant, to aggressive high-grade cancers, which by their malignant nature spread early and lead to morbidity and death.

To explain that, medically cancers are referred to by their grade and stage. Both are related and important when dealing with appropriate treatment and clinical outcome. Grade is how close a tumour is to normal tissue. It varies from well-differentiated, which may behave in a less aggressive manner, to poorly differentiated, which will behave aggressively and spread locally and distantly to other organs. This grading is therefore directly related to staging, which in other words: Is the tumour confined to the prostate or has it spread locally to lymph nodes or other organs, particularly bony tissue? Fortunately, 80 per cent of prostate cancers are localised to prostate. The majority of men do not have symptoms, with only a minority presenting with urinary tract symptoms or blood in their urine. This emphasises the need for early detection in the first place. It is of the utmost importance that men undergo testing for symptoms and undergo appropriate diagnostic testing.

What will a man's journey be with this disease? I do not want to enter a debate regarding screening for prostate cancer through either prostate-specific antigen [PSA] blood testing or routine digital rectal examination. That is left for a decision between a man and his local medical carer. I will talk about diagnosis firstly, which, having referred to those things paradoxically, includes PSA testing and digital rectal examination. That would be followed by imaging through trans-rectal ultrasound examination and a targeted needle biopsy. Ultimately the urologist will decide the need for further imaging such as MRI, and that will guide the management decision. As mentioned earlier, some men will be suitable for active surveillance, and others according to their risk factors, grade or stage of tumour may require radical prostatectomy, radiotherapy or hormonal blocking therapy.

As with my respected colleague on the Government benches, our constituents live in rural and regional areas. We know that rural and regional residents have poorer health outcomes due to lack of access to medical care. We need rural and regional men to have equitable access to both the diagnostic and therapeutic options available in metropolitan areas, and that includes MRI services. It includes access to the specialist urological surgeons that can provide therapy. It includes access to local radiation oncology services.

One thing we forget about in dealing with cancer is survivorship issues. They are the non-lethal consequences of treatment that cancer survivors live with every day. One of the most significant and troubling survivorship issues for men after being treated for prostate cancer is lower urinary tract symptoms such as urinary incontinence. Men require locally available continence advisory services to improve their quality of life after cancer treatment. For those unfortunate men who are reaching the end of life, the best palliative and symptomatic care must be available either at home or in residential aged care or hospital. Finally, every debate on health should reference prevention. Men must have a healthy lifestyle by not smoking, not drinking alcohol to excess, staying in shape by losing weight and having a good level of physical activity. I acknowledge the member for Tweed for bringing this important issue to the Chamber. I fully support the importance of the principles of community awareness such as the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and the need for early detection and treatment.

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (12:39): I too thank the member for Tweed for bringing this important issue to the House. Prostate cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers facing men. At the outset, I note that prostate cancer was one of the cancers that afflicted a former member for Clarence, the Hon. Ian Causley. He passed away a couple of years ago from organ failure, probably as a result of prostate cancer, among other illnesses he had at the time.

I support the sentiments of the previous member who contributed to this debate, including the view that men and their families should receive appropriate support through evidence-based information and resources and be able to make an informed choice about their testing and treatment for prostate cancer. We know the method of diagnosis can be a bit sensitive and embarrassing for men, but it is well worth going through that exercise, as it will save your life. I have been tested a number of times. As much as it feels uncomfortable and unpleasant, I feel reassured once I come out of that doctor's surgery knowing that it is all clear. The thwack of the rubber glove behind my back sends shivers up my spine but it is something we all get used to. It is a small price to pay to ensure you do not have to worry about your health.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia and the most commonly diagnosed cancer among males. The decisions that men who do not have any symptoms need to make about testing, diagnosis and treatment are often more complex than the decisions they need to make about bowel cancer, for example—another cancer that is unfortunately all too common. Population-based screening programs test populations with no symptoms of cancer for the purpose of detecting cancer or precancerous conditions at a stage when treatment is more effective.

The evidence indicates that the prostate-specific antigen [PSA] test used in the ongoing management of men who have been treated for prostate cancer is not a suitable test for population screening. That has been mentioned by members previously in this debate. The PSA test may detect some prostate cancers earlier, but elevated PSA levels do not necessarily mean cancer is present. In many instances, elevated PSA levels are due to non-cancerous conditions. Further, PSA levels may be low in the presence of prostate cancer.

It may seem counterintuitive to a man who hears the words, "You have early prostate cancer" and is anxious to start treatment as soon as possible, but there is almost always time to gather the information to fully understand the options, benefits, risks and costs. A positive PSA test may lead to the diagnosis of a cancer that is progressing so slowly it would not have caused any health problems if it had been undetected and untreated. In these instances treatment can result in harmful effects, such as impotence and incontinence, without any health benefits.

The New South Wales Government's Canrefer website, managed by the Cancer Institute NSW, provides patients and doctors with the opportunity to locate the right type of cancer specialist, a recommended hospital or cancer centre, and active members of a multidisciplinary cancer care team anywhere in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Men who have a suspected or diagnosed localised prostate cancer are advised to get

a referral to a urologist and a radiation oncologist, both of whom are members of a multidisciplinary cancer care team. I have a lot more to say, but I note my time has run out. I support the motion and say it is important for men to adhere to its intent. I thank the House.

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (12:43): I thank the member for Tweed for this motion on a seriously important issue, and for his advocacy in this important space. I have raised the issue of prostate cancer in Parliament many times and I actively raise it at every appropriate opportunity in my electorate. Given prostate cancer is the cancer of highest incidence, it warrants more attention and open discussion than it presently receives. One of the biggest issues is that men are notorious for avoiding seeing a doctor for any ailment. Unfortunately, macho stoicism or burying our heads in the sand and ignoring symptoms is a big part of the problem. There needs to be social adjustment to help improve the situation. The women in men's lives are an important element of that equation. They need to encourage and support men, and teach our young men especially, to see a doctor as a matter of routine. It is like getting our vehicles regularly serviced. Testing may no longer have to be invasive, and sometimes a simple blood test is all that is needed.

The sad reality is that prostate cancer has the highest incidence of the top five cancers, followed in order by breast cancer, melanoma, lung cancer and colon cancer. Disappointingly, the recent indicative allocation of grants funding for the Cancer Institute NSW for carer support, research and innovation for each of those top five cancers, in the order of highest funding, is number one, breast cancer; number two, lung cancer; number three, melanoma; number four, bowel cancer; with prostate cancer the last of the five. One in five men will get prostate cancer in their lives. Every day some 60 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Each year in Australia 3,200 men die from prostate cancer, an average of nearly 61 men per week. These are alarming statistics that many people are probably not aware of, which is why it is important we have these types of discussions.

I thank the member for Tweed for raising awareness of what is an important issue in the community. The Government and all members in this Chamber need to do more to raise the profile of prostate cancer and encourage more men to get tested. There needs to be more funding allocated to it given it is the number one cancer in the State and across Australia. I have persuaded the Government to allocate additional prostate nursing hours for the western region, which encompasses my electorate of Orange. However, there remains fewer than two full-time equivalent positions to service the wider western area of the State for men who are suffering from prostate cancer. Clearly that is not enough.

I regularly attend the Orange prostate cancer support group meetings. Ray Manchester and Charlie Everett are the president and secretary of that group, which meets once a month. It is an important support group in our community. Recently at one of their meetings I heard a story, which I will share with members without naming the individual. A recently retired gentleman in his early 60s caught conjunctivitis from his young granddaughter while looking after her. He went to the doctor to get a script for antibiotics. The doctor did an examination and detected that he had an enlarged prostate. Subsequently he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. A few years later he is still here after going through treatment. He would never have seen a doctor had he not gone there to get a script due to his conjunctivitis. He says his granddaughter saved his life.

Simply, it is a matter of raising awareness. I encourage men who have symptoms or a family history to speak to their doctor. There is a Cancer for Comedy event in Orange on 26 November to raise funds for prostate cancer support services in Orange. I am hopeful I will get to that event as well. I thank the member for Tweed for raising this important issue.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (12:47): Today in this House I am pleased to support the motion of my good friend and colleague the member for Tweed. I acknowledge all members who have previously contributed to this debate. As has been expressed already, it is absolutely vital that we break the stigma attached to prostate cancer. That stigma is still so prevalent in rural and remote parts of New South Wales. It is a cancer that not only impacts a large number of men but, if diagnosed early enough, has incredible survival rates with treatment. As the member for Clarence said in his contribution, whatever discomfort you go through in the discussion when you see your doctor has to be worth saving your life.

Mr Christopher Gulaptis: It's a small price.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: It is a very small price to pay. I acknowledge that interjection from the member for Clarence. The member for Orange was bang on. He expressed exactly the comment I was going to add to this debate. Many men in rural and regional New South Wales are macho and stoic, and are reluctant to burden the health system if they feel okay. They say, "What would I see a doctor for?" "I am not sick," "That's someone else's problem," or, "I can deal with it." I see that in my grandfather and his generation in particular. Why would a man potentially put their loved ones in a situation where they lose their husband, father, grandfather or a sibling prematurely when it could be completely preventable? As the member for Bega said, we can debate the availability

of medical staff and specialists but that is at the treatment stage; diagnosis is relatively simple and all it takes is for men to take responsibility for their health.

Men should put aside their views on their health and think about their family, who certainly do not want to lose them prematurely. It is important to send that message and I am glad that the member for Tweed has moved this motion because we should talk more about this topic. We have made enormous strides in the community to remove the stigma and reluctance to talk about breast cancer and breast cancer screening. I feel strongly that prostate cancer is that next frontier because, like breast cancer, it is easily diagnosed and treatable, and early detection saves lives.

In conclusion, I acknowledge a wonderful advocate for prostate cancer awareness in the Northern Tablelands, Kerry White, who was recently awarded the Max Gardner Foundation Award for his distinguished service towards raising awareness of prostate cancer. He, along with the group he formed in Inverell, has been a tireless advocate for trying to convince men over 50—and men over 40, if they have a family history of prostate cancer—to get tested. I cannot endorse those sentiments enough. I thank the member for Tweed for moving this motion and the members who have contributed to debate. It is an important discussion to have in this Chamber.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (12:51): I thank the member for Tweed for moving this motion on prostate cancer. I was diagnosed with breast cancer and I went through the hell of an awful surgery and the whole kit and caboodle of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. My clear message to the men of Australia is to go and get screened. They should not be embarrassed. My electorate is made up of a very diverse multicultural community. In some of those cultures the man is the one who works hard for his family. He is a tower of strength and everyone looks up to him as the father figure. The member for Lakemba also represents an electorate with diverse multicultural communities. When we attend our mobile offices or community functions we try hard to work side by side with our community leaders to make sure the message to go and be tested goes out deep into those communities. September was Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

A number of unions have majority male members. They should send the message—whether it is at the pub or on the worksite—that it is macho to go and get tested and screened, and that men should not be embarrassed by it. That message should also be sent to men's sheds and communicated at community functions. It is critical to get that message across. I urge the Government to work with the Cancer Council and the Cancer Institute to provide local community grants so that organisations can tailor the message in the appropriate language and culture, and to target men through organisations such as men's sheds.

The statistics for prostate and lung cancer in our community show that it is often too late and people are in dire circumstances once diagnosed. The Cancer Council conducted a study of prostate cancer mortality and treatment in New South Wales with respect to Aboriginal men. It found that Aboriginal men are diagnosed at a far later stage and are more likely to die. I know the health Minister is listening to this debate and I urge him to target our resources into communities and to reach out to Aboriginal men as well as men in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (12:55): By leave: I thank the member for Tweed for moving this motion. I had not planned to contribute to debate but when I realised what the topic was I felt compelled to speak because of a personal connection to prostate cancer. I reinforce the data and statistics referred to by other speakers and the importance of early detection and then treatment. About 15 years ago my dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Like a typical bloke of his age, he waited a long time to get tested. He did not think there was a problem and had put it down to other things like stress, teenage kids and whatever else it might have been.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: You as a son.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Yes, me as a son! Eventually, we convinced him to go to the doctor. When he was diagnosed our whole world collapsed around us, as any diagnosis of cancer does to family. He went through radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment. For 15 years he has been treated for prostate cancer. It has affected the family and him a great deal. In some ways we had to convince him that there is nothing embarrassing about having prostate cancer. As so many earlier speakers have said, maybe it is particularly difficult for blokes. My dad has regular tests and check-ups every six months. Normally he does not tell me about them, other than to say, "I had the test." I rip into him for not telling me because he has seven kids so one of us could have taken him to the appointment, but he is a stubborn old bloke. However, this time he called me and asked me to come over. When your parents tell you to come over like that, you know it is not a good thing.

The cancer had come back a lot more aggressively. It had spread to his bladder and to other parts, and the doctor said it had to be dealt with really quickly. This time the whole universe collapsed around us, but we had to deal with it. I put on record my thanks to his doctor, Dr Aslan, who is a beautiful human being. He has been treating

my father for 15 years and has virtually become part of our family. Dr Aslan was able to convince my father to undergo treatment because my father trusted him. Last week he had his big operation, where his prostate and bladder were removed, including a fair bit of muscle around them. If people thought I looked a bit off-colour last week, it is because I had something else pretty serious on my mind. He is in hospital now and of course I hope that everything is all right. I spoke to him this morning and we are getting there, which is really good and I really hope so. He said the doctor is happy and if the doctor is happy, that is good.

I did not necessarily intend to talk about my dad in this debate, but rather to talk about how this topic is personal. We should do everything we can to ensure others do not have to go through that experience. It is not a Government thing; it is a Parliament thing. We must try to break the social stigma so that people are not too embarrassed to get tested, and we must create more opportunities to be tested. But, more importantly, I want people to know that there is hope and that they can get through a cancer diagnosis. It is not the end, and there are support networks. I especially thank all the healthcare workers who, over those 15 years, have been with us at our lowest point, and I particularly thank Dr Aslan. I wish anybody with cancer a full recovery, and I wish strength for their loved ones.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:00): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate, including the member for Bega for his insight; the member for Orange; the member for Clarence; my friend the member for the Northern Tablelands; the member for Canterbury; and the member for Lakemba for sharing with us a very personal but important message. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I extend best wishes to his whole family. As we have heard from members who participated in debate, early detection is really important. I state for the record some of the early symptoms because prostate cancer must be brought out of the closet. It needs to be front and centre. For men of all ages, awareness of the symptoms of prostate cancer will always be important. They include needing to urinate frequently or suddenly; having difficulty or discomfort when urinating; finding blood in urine or semen; and experiencing pain in the lower back, upper thighs and hips. It bears repeating that if people experience any of those symptoms it does not mean that they have prostate cancer; it means they should talk to their doctor as soon as possible.

Men should also be aware of their family history. For example, if their father or brother have been diagnosed, they will have twice the risk of developing prostate cancer. Obviously, prognosis is a highly individual issue; however, we know the chance of survival for at least five years after diagnosis is about 95 per cent. I encourage everyone to be tested. I thank members who contributed to debate. Like many men, I have been tested once or twice. As the member for Lakemba and the member for Canterbury pointed out, the people around you are important. Like many, I received in the post a bowel cancer test. I threw the envelope somewhere. Recently, after getting married, I was ordered to do it. I think it took about four days for me to work up to that particular point. Fortunately, the test came back negative.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: Remind them where your wife works.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: It is a good point. My wife works in a private hospital theatre with the scoping doctors, so she sees people with symptoms on a daily basis. Her job in the operating theatre is to write down the issues that people are facing. It is a very important job—something that probably I could not do—and I praise her for doing it. Early detection is key. If we take one message to heart and to keep in mind, it should be to spread the word. We all go to a lot of community functions and we all have friends, associates et cetera. It is simple to ask whether someone has been tested recently or whether they have it in their family. If so, encourage them to get tested and to talk to their doctor to get the facts. I once again thank all members who contributed to debate. It is an important topic and all of us should spread the message to get tested as soon as possible.

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

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: BILLS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide that, on Tuesday 8 November:

- (1) General business order of the day for bills for the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022 be called on for debate at 1.15 p.m.
- (2) Debate on the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022 be interrupted at 2.00 p.m.
- (3) Debate on the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022 be resumed at the conclusion of routine of business after question time, including after any business with precedence under Standing Order 118.

- (4) At 5.00 p.m. any remaining questions regarding the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022, including consideration in detail, if foreshadowed, be put forthwith without debate.
- (5) The public interest debate commence at the conclusion of the consideration of the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022, or at 5.30 p.m. if concluded earlier.
- (6) To provide for the following speaking time limits for debate on the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022:
 - (a) in the second reading debate, Premier or one Minister deputed—15 minutes, without extension;
 - (b) in the second reading debate, Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed—15 minutes, without extension; and
 - (c) any other member—5 minutes, without extension.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

NSW ATP CUP TENNIS LEGACY FUND

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (13:06): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Congratulates the Government for funding community programs through the awarding of grants in round 3 of the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund.
- (2) Notes that RALLY4EVER and Henty Park Tennis Camp and Coaching Program have both received tennis legacy fund grants this year.
- (3) Supports RALLY4EVER's program to assist those in the community who are homeless, disadvantaged or isolated and suffering from poor mental health or loneliness; to engage in weekly sessions of on-court fun, games and instruction; and to support Henty Park Tennis Camp and Coaching Program, which aims to increase participation in tennis by providing professional coaching opportunities to young people aged five to 18 years within this rural community.

I am pleased to speak in support of this motion on the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund. As I came into the Chamber, the member for Oxley asked me why I would want to speak about anything to do with tennis when I am from a rugby background. The member made some disparaging comments about rugby players that would probably be unparliamentary to repeat. Having said that, my participation in this debate has to do with growing up in a rural regional area, because tennis is part of the fabric of country communities. In my childhood I saw firsthand the importance of country tennis clubs.

In the Boree Creek Hotel a few years ago I got a real buzz when I saw that the local community had a tennis competition going with smaller clubs, such as Greenvale. I then travelled up towards the east of the electorate to see communities like Ournie where, after the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, people gathered together to rebuild their community centre. At the heart of that is the tennis court. They are talking about reinvigorating the tennis competition in the upper Murray. Tennis is a big part of our communities, not just from an athletic or fitness point of view, but from a social point of view, particularly in regional areas.

I congratulate the Government on funding community activities through its grants program and supporting the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund. At the inaugural ATP Cup in January 2020, the New South Wales Government and Tennis NSW announced the launch of the legacy fund, which is an investment of more than \$2.4 million through a number of funding streams into all levels of tennis in New South Wales. The legacy fund targets infrastructure, facilities development and participation programs. A program in Walla is related to the funding, which shows that there is support for the growth of tennis across the State. That is important not just for the here and now, but for generations to come.

That significant investment into grassroots tennis, a partnership between the New South Wales Government and Tennis NSW, is a direct result of Sydney securing the ATP Cup group stage and finals from 2020 to 2023. With more than 160,000 registered participants of tennis in New South Wales, the legacy fund will ensure the growth of the game in local metropolitan and regional communities. That is why it is important to draw it to the attention of members. I have touched on the regional communities. It is pleasing for me to see the community of Henty in my electorate receive funding for that. Henty is close to my home country. It is a small, remote rural community in the Riverina district of south-western New South Wales, halfway between Albury and Wagga Wagga. Henty Park Tennis Club is a big part of the community. It provides services to the town and surrounds.

The tennis club has eight courts and runs a myriad of tennis programs, competitions, coaching clinics and free holiday camps. It is a place for kids and adults of all levels to pick up a racket and have a hit, whether it is in a social or competitive environment. In 2022 Henty Park Tennis Club received almost \$8,000 in funding through the third round of the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund to conduct tennis camps and coaching programs for

young people. While members often talk about funding in the order of millions or billions of dollars, \$8,000 is still an important amount for a grassroots community program that helps to get young people involved in tennis. The aim of the camp and program for Henty Park is to provide professional tennis coaching to young people aged between five and 18. I hope those professional coaches have better luck coaching the younger brigade than my coaches had in coaching me 35-odd years ago. Who knows? We might find the next Ash Barty in those programs. That is a big part of it.

Importantly, tennis gives kids the opportunity to build healthy, active habits into their everyday lives. By holding a spring camp prior to the commencement of the Saturday competition, the club hopes to encourage participants to join with their friends and continue developing their tennis skills. That harks back to what I said about the social aspect of playing tennis. The grant from the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund will help to introduce tennis to a new audience. It is yet another regional organisation the Government is proud to support and is another great example of how the Government is ensuring tennis in the Riverina and throughout New South Wales continues to grow. I am thrilled to see local communities benefiting from the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund. Those clubs are continuing to progress the development of the sport in the regions through such initiatives.

As I have said, most of all it demonstrates the power of sport, which benefits social participation, helps to build community and keeps our kids fit and healthy. I am really pleased to announce the funding because it encourages tennis and sport more broadly in our regional communities. I have seen that from Boree Creek in the west to Ournie in the east. It is really pleasing to see it in a community like Henty, which is beautiful and passionate. I am really pleased to see that funding help the tennis club drive forward. In that sense, I commend Henty Park Tennis Club on that great project. I know it will continue to serve the community in southern New South Wales for many years. I congratulate the Government on its support of the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund.

Debate interrupted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Members

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

The SPEAKER: I wish the member for Lismore all the best for her upcoming birthday.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: There are a number of people in the gallery today. I welcome members of the Penshurst, Mortdale, South Hurstville, Kingsgrove and Oatley RSL sub-branches, guests of the member for Oatley. I welcome Allison and Colin Schofield, guests of the member for Campbelltown. I welcome Tim Kelly, guest of the member for Dubbo. I welcome Leon and Jenny Li, guests of the member for Hawkesbury. I also welcome Ms Prudence Johnson, guest of the Treasurer and the member for Orange. I had the pleasure of meeting with Ms Johnson earlier today. I welcome Ebony O'Connor, guest of the member for Blacktown. I further welcome my guest Michelle Stegbauer, a former colleague, who is accompanied by my senior electorate officer, Koharig Boulghourjian. I also welcome Patrician Brothers College Blacktown Principal Frank Chiment, a guest of the member for Fairfield.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I advise the House that the Minister for Health will be absent from question time today. The Premier will take questions on his behalf.

*Bills***CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) AMENDMENT (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) BILL 2022****CRIMES (SENTENCING PROCEDURE) AMENDMENT BILL 2022****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****CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ASSAULTS ON FRONTLINE EMERGENCY AND HEALTH WORKERS) BILL 2022****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROSECUTION OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES) BILL 2022****ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST AMENDMENT (FACILITATION OF SYDNEY METRO WEST) BILL 2022****SCRAP METAL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT (REVIEW) BILL 2022****SECURITY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL 2022****WORKERS' COMPENSATION (DUST DISEASES) AMENDMENT BILL 2022****Assent**

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

*Question Time***TRAIN AND FERRY MANUFACTURING**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:19): With the leave of the House, I welcome St George RSL Sub-Branch members to the New South Wales Parliament.

My question is directed to the Premier. Given last night Chris Rath attempted an attack, saying, "Labor is obsessed with the idea of local production," and tried to convince Labor members to look overseas for procurement of transport infrastructure, does the Premier support his comments that New South Wales should not be building trains and ferries in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:20): Let us start with the Emerald-class ferries. Under Labor's local procurement policy, 50 per cent local content; under the Liberal-Nationals, 63 per cent local content. That is an inconvenient truth. That is what happens with a blunt instrument policy that does not take things on a case-by-case basis and creates an environment that drives local jobs growth across our State. The reality is that we live in a global market but ultimately our obligation is to the people of New South Wales. That means driving jobs growth across the State and getting value for taxpayers at the same time. That is why in Port Macquarie we are manufacturing ferries. In Penrith we are manufacturing buses. In Macksville we are manufacturing buses. In Dubbo it is something else. In fact, everywhere we are building trains, buses, ferries—the lot. I lose count of all the manufacturing that is happening right here in our State.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Why is onshore manufacturing important ultimately?

Mr Ryan Park: Tell Chris Rath.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Because it drives jobs growth in our State. Did members see the jobs numbers that are out today?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The New South Wales unemployment rate is 3.3 per cent. That is a record low, the lowest in the country.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Unemployment is going up in every other Labor State. Nationally it is steady. Why? Because of New South Wales. Our Liberal-Nationals policies are driving infrastructure investment and lowering taxes. We have the fastest growing economy in the country. That delivers opportunity and prosperity for everyone across the State.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (14:22): 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) (14:23): I am blindsided by that one. Just going back to jobs for a moment. Queensland unemployment rate, 3.7 per cent—a Labor Government; South Australia, 4.3 per cent—a Labor Government; Tasmania—it may as well be a Labor Government; Western Australia, 3.4 per cent; and Victoria, 3.5 per cent. New South Wales is leading the way. That is more opportunity for the people of the State.

In answer to the question of the member for Heathcote about housing, our suite of policies in New South Wales is certainly leading the way. As I informed the House yesterday, as written in that great article, which will get a Walkley Award—

Mr David Elliott: A weekly award.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It will get a Walkley Award. The article said it was "the biggest bucket of hope" for first home buyers in a very long time. As I said, our First Home Buyer Choice scheme will give home buyers the choice to pay a small yearly property fee or the traditional up-front stamp duty, which is the worst tax there is, at a cost of \$728 million to the budget. Our shared equity scheme will see the New South Wales Government help single parents, older singles and key workers, especially in the regions, by taking on a portion of their deposit. That is a \$780 million commitment driven by the planning Minister.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That is an up-front lower deposit, lower repayments, and, most importantly, no lenders mortgage insurance. The planning Minister is also driving investment in accelerating shovel-ready infrastructure projects, which will see the construction of new homes in regional New South Wales. This morning I met a lot of councils from regional New South Wales who spoke very highly, the Minister would be happy to know, about the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund. They said that it was assisting their councils to drive home building in regional New South Wales, so that fund is making a difference.

The quality of 15,800 social homes has been improved to ensure that they are suitable for aging and less mobile residents. That is a \$300 million investment. Also, 271 new and refurbished homes have been provided for our key workers, particularly in regional and remote communities, meaning that teachers and police officers are getting support. Led by the infrastructure Minister, now the planning Minister, we are really focusing on reducing planning assessment time frames to boost housing supply. We work very closely with councils on that. They again raised that with me this morning, supporting our proposals.

Mr Lee Evans: I seek additional information from the Premier.

The SPEAKER: I will allow the Premier an extra two minutes. I call the member for Keira to order for the third time.

Mr Geoff Provest: Throw him out. He is a waste of space.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Tweed to order for the first time. I usually allow the Government and Opposition Whips a fair amount of latitude to walk around the Chamber and talk to members. Over the past week the Opposition Whip has abused that privilege, which has resulted in an undue amount of disruption to proceedings. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber, encouraged particularly by the Opposition Whip. The Opposition Whip will come to order. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: She should desist immediately. Additional funding for State-led rezoning has led to 70,000 extra dwellings. The Regional Housing Taskforce is doing amazing things as well. Our policies—which are built on existing measures, such as stamp duty concessions for first home buyers—extend New South Wales Government support—this is interesting—to around 97 per cent of first home buyers, or 55,000 households, each year. We on this side of the House manage money well so we can provide that support.

Why don't we go around the grounds? All the other States are being urged to follow the New South Wales Government's lead on stamp duty reform by providing an option, a choice, for first home buyers.

I note that the Real Estate Institute of Queensland said that stamp duty significantly hinders home ownership, discourages housing turnover and restricts mobility. It also said how great New South Wales is and why Queensland should follow suit. Over in Western Australia there has been the same response. Ninety-one per cent of residents say that they consider stamp duty to be a significant barrier to home ownership. Unfortunately and regrettably for Western Australia, stamp duty concessions only apply to home buyers in New South Wales. They are encouraged by the steps that we have taken in our State and they want Western Australia to follow suit. That is from the cave over in Western Australia. The business chamber in Victoria said, "We think this is a really easy win. We've got to at least be as competitive as New South Wales, because if we're not we run the risk of losing businesses across the border."

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Eighty per cent of businesses have said they should do it. I even saw today that the NSW Council of Social Service, NCOSS, has come out and supported the approach.

TRAIN AND FERRY MANUFACTURING

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (14:29): My question is directed to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with his fellow Liberal MP the Hon. Chris Rath, who last night said regarding the New South Wales manufacturing industry that—

Mr Dominic Perrottet: What did you say?

Ms JO HAYLEN: You will want to hear it. He is one of yours.

The SPEAKER: Order! Government and Opposition members will come to order. I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time. The member for Summer Hill has the call.

Ms JO HAYLEN: Does the Premier agree with his fellow Liberal MP the Hon. Chris Rath—

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: —who last night said, regarding the New South Wales manufacturing industry, "It's not easy for us to manufacture mass transportation options, such as ferries, at a reasonable cost," and, regarding manufacturing mass transportation, "We do not hold the comparative advantage."

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:30): I am terribly sorry. I apologise to my friends in the upper House but I was not watching last night. I am sure it was a riveting debate, as it always is over there.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I note that great—what year was it, Mr Elliott, the first Labor conference?

Mr David Elliott: It was in 1893.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The 1893 Labor platform was to abolish the upper House, and I still believe we should. I note that we had a celebration in the strangers dining room on Tuesday evening for the bicentenary of the upper House, which we will be celebrating very soon in 2024. Hopefully we will have abolished it by then. I am not sure if the celebration will continue if we have achieved that great feat. I say to the member for Summer Hill in relation to the statements that on this side of the House we believe in freedom. We actually allow members to have opinions and speak. I do not sack them if they speak out. Do you know what?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Opposition members lined up one by one on property reform, even though most of them actually agree with the policy, because they are forced into it.

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

Ms Jo Haylen: Point of order: The Premier's fascination with the Labor Party conference continues. My question was very clear: Does the Premier agree with his MP Chris Rath?

The SPEAKER: The Premier will come to the leave of the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I respect Mr Rath's opinion. He is a legend. He is a great member in the upper House who is passionate about our State and passionate about New South Wales moving forward. To the member for Summer Hill I have said very clearly that I believe we need to drive onshore manufacturing in this State. New South Wales manufactures more than anywhere else in the country. Why? Because we manage money well and our economy is the fastest growing in the country, which provides opportunity and prosperity for the people of our State. As the Hon. Chris Rath noted in the upper House, our policies have resulted in a 3.3 per cent unemployment rate, which was much higher under Labor. [*Time expired.*]

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:34): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is delivering services for the people of regional New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:34): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question and the work he does in his area. I also note that as part of the Government's 16 Regional Cities Services Improvement Program, 81 new weekly bus services have been delivered for Coffs Harbour. That program has delivered more than 2,500 new weekly bus services around regional New South Wales since 2019. Some 476 weekly services have been added in Tweed Heads, 253 in Orange, 93 in Tamworth, 249 in Wagga Wagga, 59 in Lismore and 57 in Griffith. Those services are making it easier for people to travel to school, work and shops or visit family and friends. The new services allow those who cannot drive or have mobility issues to connect with their communities. It allows people to stay in their homes longer and have independence.

Mr Speaker, I know that you care about regional New South Wales and that you are an avid listener of my dixers in this place. When we talk about our investments, we are creating opportunities. When we invest in road projects, like the Coffs Harbour Bypass and the Pacific Highway, Newell Highway, Silver City Highway and Cobb Highway upgrades, those projects create jobs and ensure that we are building a safer and stronger regional New South Wales. The Government's investment in public transport is just as important. Tomorrow I will be in Bathurst celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Bathurst Bullet. I invite members to come along. Investment like that makes a difference to the lives of people in regional New South Wales.

For those opposite who do not know about the Bathurst Bullet, it is a daily return train service connecting Bathurst with Sydney. For those opposite, Bathurst is a town in the central west of New South Wales, three hours from Parliament House, 200 kilometres down the road. I welcome them to visit a regional town where I will show them how the Government's investments are making a difference to the lives of people in those areas. I will get back on track. Importantly, in 2011 there were calls for that service but they fell on deaf ears. The Labor Government had no interest. It said that the service would not work, that there was no spare rolling stock, that no-one would use it and that it prefers to put investment in city services. Guess what? The Government got the service, and it is now being well patronised by the people of Bathurst and the entire region. [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Keira that he is on three calls.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: It is so popular that a second service is now running from Bathurst to Sydney, with stops at Rydal and Tarana. A celebration is being held tomorrow for the people of the region to come together to acknowledge another service delivered by the Liberals and The Nationals in Government. That is the Government's typical approach to things in the bush. Members opposite create problems and members on this side of the House seek opportunities. When they say no, we say yes. While the Federal Labor Government is out there cutting spending, this Government is investing more in regional New South Wales. It is not just the Bathurst Bullet. There are new weekly train services to Griffith, two extra services to Singleton and new on-demand bus services across the State, providing new ways to connect regional communities, at places like Dubbo, Tamworth, Goulburn, Canberra, Broken Hill, Adelaide and many more.

Those services are at risk if the NSW Labor Party has its way. Like its Federal colleagues, it sees "NSW" as standing for "Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong". It says it stands up for everyone in the State but it does not back that up with actions. Labor knifed the Hon. Mick Veitch in the back at its annual conference. I say to the House, where is that great party Country Labor? I will tell you where Country Labor is. It has been disbanded and deregistered because Country Labor was a front to receive dodgy donations. Labor has turned its back on regional New South Wales, but the Liberals and The Nationals in Government will continue to fight for the regions to get a fair share.

VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (14:39): My question is directed to the Attorney General. This morning I met with representatives from the 61 organisations of the Victims of Crime Interagency, who wrote the

Attorney General a letter in November last year expressing concerns about victim support services. Some of those representatives are in the gallery today. Almost a year on, they are still waiting for a reply. How long do they have to wait for the Government to take action on victim support services, listen to their concerns and make the system better, not worse?

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (14:39): I acknowledge the victim advocates in the gallery and thank them for their advocacy. Those of us in the Chamber who have never been through any road trauma or experienced crime can only start to imagine the potentially lifelong trauma that is suffered and the re-traumatisation that occurs when coming into contact with the criminal justice system. That said, we will not be taking lectures from a party and a government that left victims' compensation and support in shambles. We will not be taking lectures from a former government that left us with a victim compensation scheme with an average 30-month wait for a payment.

Our Victim Support Scheme is now paying out some \$120 million per year in immediate needs payments, in recognition payments and in counselling. The big announcement today from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Attorney General was about the extension of counselling services under the Victim Support Scheme to those who are the subject of road crime. I say to Opposition members, wakey, wakey. Where were they last night when the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government announced that this Government was introducing a new bill, the Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2022?

Ms Jo Haylen: I was sitting right here.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: Were you listening? Let me remind you of what you may not have heard. The Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government outlined in his second reading speech on the Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2022 this Government's excellent commitment to enabling the State Insurance Regulatory Authority to establish a trauma support service, to be funded by the Motor Accidents Operational Fund.

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

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: The Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government said, "This trauma support service will support families of those who have been injured or killed because of a motor accident. This new service will provide support in the period after the accident and will connect and guide those impacted by the incident." Is the member for Maroubra going to ask for an extension? [*Time expired.*]

HOME OWNERSHIP

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (14:43): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Government's policies are supporting families and first home buyers?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:43): I thank the member for Holsworthy for the question. I update the House on what the Government is doing to support families and first home buyers. We are stopping Derek Zoolander from getting into Parliament, the man who thinks a selfie is a substitute for a policy. I have been going through the Leader of the Opposition's policies, and what do we have? We have multiple photos of him and a photo of a ferry blocked out by him.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: My point of order relates to props, for one.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied that—

Mr Ryan Park: A3 portraits of the boss are weird.

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

Mr Ryan Park: What's he going to do next? A calendar?

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will resume his seat. I make my ruling very clear. When a newspaper article is briefly raised in the Chamber, I do not regard it as a prop. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am just talking about the clear choice we are giving the public between Policy Perrottet and Chris Kardashian. The choice is clear with Policy Perrottet versus Chris Kardashian.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Swansea takes a point of order. The Treasurer will resume his seat. What is the member's point of order?

Ms Yasmin Catley: The Treasurer knows that he is supposed to refer to the Opposition leader by his title or by his electorate.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr MATT KEAN: It takes a very good person to defend the Leader of the Opposition, when he never defended the member for Swansea because he was too busy knifing Jodi McKay.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron takes a point of order. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Ron Hoenig: The point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Treasurer has not come close to answering the specific question about our first home buyers and families.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: On this side of the House, we are proud of our policies to help first home buyers shave years off the time it would take for them to get into the property market, because we know one of the best ways to help people generate wealth is to help them own their own home. Our policy will give first home buyers a choice to enter the property ladder sooner, a choice to shave years off the time it takes to get into the property market, and a choice to enable people to make decisions that best meet their financial interest. That is what this side of the House is about. We support choice. Who else supports choice? Who else supports choice for first home buyers? Is it just the Concord-Concord West-Rhodes branch of the Labor Party? Is it just the Sapphire Coast branch of the Labor Party, the member for Bega's branch, supporting the Government's choices?

Ms Melanie Gibbons: I seek further information from the Treasurer.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Holsworthy has sought an extension of two minutes, but I will hear the point of order taken by the member for Heffron first.

Mr Ron Hoenig: As the Treasurer concluded his time, he was not being remotely relevant to the question, Mr Speaker. I ask that you do not give him an extension of two minutes because his answer will not be relevant.

The SPEAKER: While that is not necessarily a point of order, I note the member's comments in the context of the request of the member for Holsworthy for an extension of time. I grant the Treasurer a further two minutes, but I also bring his attention to the fact that he has had a good go attacking the Opposition and in the next two minutes I expect him to be directly relevant to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: I think it is important that I update the House on the third-party endorsements for the Government's First Home Buyer Choice scheme to support first home buyers in buying their own home sooner. What would be the greatest endorsement we could possibly get for offering choice? Maybe an endorsement from one of the last Labor leaders who had economic credibility. Maybe an endorsement from the great man himself, Paul John Keating. What did he say about our plan? He said it was a positive plan. The worst thing about an endorsement for the Government by Paul John Keating is that he is the one person in the Labor Party that the Leader of the Opposition cannot sack, cannot silence and cannot stand down. He cannot sack him like he sacked the member for Bankstown. He cannot roll him like he rolled Jodi McKay.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Treasurer has completely departed from the leave you gave him, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied that the Treasurer is barely hanging on.

Mr MATT KEAN: The Leader of the Opposition certainly cannot disendorse Paul Keating in the way he did to the bushie's friend Mick Veitch. On this side of the House, we stand with Paul Keating in standing up for first home buyers. How far has the once great Labor Party fallen when Paul Keating cannot even back Chris Kardashian, the emptiest suit to have ever led the Labor Party? He has no policies, no plans, no ideas—certainly none for first home buyers.

VIRTUAL FENCING

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (14:49): My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales. Virtual fencing is high-tech ag technology that assists in autonomous animal control, especially useful for cattle, which will help to reduce farmers' costs on internal fencing whilst facilitating rotational grazing principles, improving animal performance and aiding in stopping stock theft. It can also assist with detecting if animals are sick or when they are cycling and is a potential huge game changer for our farmers. Will the Government amend legislation to permit this new technology and innovation?

Mr Anoulack Chanthivong: That is the sort of question Mick Veitch would ask.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (14:49): That is a good point—it is the sort of question Mick Veitch would ask. I thank the member for Orange for the question. Our farmers are great adopters of technology. They are always looking to embrace technology, however it looks. That includes drones to check water troughs and check their stock. It includes digital water monitoring devices, which they are now embracing in the hundreds, as well as things like electronic identification tags, which we are introducing again for sheep and goats as part of a biosecurity uplift we are delivering on this side of the House. That is an investment worth \$229 million we are pumping into biosecurity, whilst the Opposition sits on its hands.

Virtual fencing devices are currently prohibited in New South Wales under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation unless they are being used under and in accordance with the Animal Research Act 1985. Certainly on this side of the House we recognise the potential benefits of virtual fencing technology—the member for Orange and I discussed this yesterday—and recognise the important role that it can play in safeguarding animal welfare and providing strong opportunities for farmers while doing it within a regulatory framework to support good animal welfare outcomes. That is what we are looking at.

Work that is proactively being undertaken with stakeholders and other jurisdictions across the country to help this Government make an informed decision regarding virtual fencing devices includes our involvement with the Commonwealth-led Animal Welfare Task Group, which is examining virtual fencing technology and the associated regulatory issues at a Commonwealth level. We are part of that work. Any consideration must have solid scientific evidence and backing. Thorough community consultation will be needed, which I am happy to see happen, to ensure any of the animal welfare risks, real or perceived, have been thought through. All of that will be considered as part of the ongoing New South Wales animal welfare reform process. Anything that can help farmers get to where they need to, particularly in tough times like now across regional areas, is something we will continue to support. I look forward to the recommendations coming to us.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (14:52): My question is addressed to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Sport, Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is investing in our communities?

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) (14:52): I thank the member for the Upper Hunter for his question. He has seen a great deal of government investment made in his electorate, which is an example of what the New South Wales Government has done across our State. The Government continues to invest in our communities to deliver a brighter future for families across our State. Whether it is in the city or in the regions, we believe in investing not just for the present but also for the future. It does not matter whether it is a Coalition, a Labor, The Greens or an Independent electorate, we will invest for our communities.

Not all investments are good investments. Last night I was absolutely devastated to hear that Shaoquett Moselmane gave his valedictory speech in the Legislative Council. He asked the question, "How do you sum up 12 years in Parliament in 30 minutes?" I could do it in just a few words: wasted investment. The speech was an absolute tome for the ages that Chifley, Menzies and Bob Brown would have all been proud of! It was a remarkable speech. But what was most remarkable—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear further from the Minister to see if he is being relevant.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: What was most remarkable were the people who were there to hear the speech. I am not talking about ASIO, the AFP, ICAC, Hamas or the PLO.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear from the member for Heffron.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I am not talking about them. I am not even talking about Jamie Clements.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129 and Standing Order 73. In relation to Standing Order 73, the Minister by inference is imputing improper motives or is making a personal reflection on a member of the other place. Under Standing Order 129, he is not relevant.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order taken under Standing Order 73, but I ask the Minister to come directly to the question. I remind the member for Maroubra he is on three calls to order.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I was, of course, referring to Kenrick Cheah of the Labor parliamentary friends of China fame. He was in the audience. He got a shout-out in the speech. And, guess what?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear from the member for Heffron.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I accept that it is a circumstantial case, but guess what was found outside the door of the Leader of the Opposition last night?

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. I note the member for Upper Hunter is on his feet.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Minister has just ignored the Speaker's ruling.

The SPEAKER: Yes, he did. The member for Upper Hunter?

Mr David Layzell: I seek an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: There is no extension of time. We will move to the next question. I warn the member for Maroubra for a final time that he will be removed from the Chamber if he does not remain silent.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:56): My question is directed to the Premier. Why is the Government opening up public school sites at Macquarie Park and Edmondson Park to retail shops and apartments instead of building the schools it promised? Is there no end to the Government's obsession with privatisation?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:56): There is a bit of a difference here: We are opening schools while you closed them. This must be the latest Labor scare campaign.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We know that right across New South Wales we are going on the biggest school building program in the history of this State.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Edmondson Park—how good is it?

Ms Melanie Gibbons: Awesome.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Awesome. The local member is backing it in.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Macquarie Park—right across the board. I remember being out in Parramatta recently and seeing new schools being built out there—Arthur Phillip High School. Everywhere you go, you see new schools.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I remember this very clearly because when the infrastructure Minister was the education Minister we sat down in that budget—2018-19 maybe, I think it was.

Mr Rob Stokes: One of them.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: One of them—either 2017-18 or the 2018-19 budget. We put the largest investment in our schools across the State.

Mr Rob Stokes: It was 2018-19.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I told you it was 2018-19. I still remember because that was the "schools and hospitals before stadiums" campaign of the member for Maroubra. In that election we were building more schools and more hospitals than ever before in the history of this State. Let us go back to Labor members. Did they close 50 schools? No. Was it 60, 70 or 80 schools? They closed 90 schools across New South Wales and they

had a secret plan to close 100 more. We found it when we came into office. The reason was that they could not manage money well. Every one of our initiatives—our asset recycling approach, opposed by the Opposition—is unlocking capital which has enabled us to invest record amounts into school infrastructure across the State. That is the difference. We open record amounts of schools; Labor closed more schools than ever before in our State's history.

UNITED NATIONS INSPECTORS ACCESS TO PRISONS

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (14:59): My question is addressed to the Minister for Corrections. Will the Minister update the House on the New South Wales Government's position on independent oversight of prisons and our commitment to keeping the people of New South Wales safe?

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Corrections) (15:00): I thank the member for Monaro for her great question. She is obviously a champion for Monaro. I congratulate her; she is making a real mark. I can confirm for members that New South Wales has the best prison system in the whole country. In fact, we have some of the best prisons in the world. One of the reasons for that is that we have dedicated officers working day in and day out. As the Premier said yesterday, our priority is to keep the community safe, and that is what we are doing. In principle, we have no objection to the UN inspectors coming in, but there are issues: There are security issues, there are operational issues and there are funding issues that the Commonwealth needs to resolve.

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

Dr GEOFF LEE: This is not new. The Commonwealth signed up without any consultation with the States.

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

Dr GEOFF LEE: We treat everybody with respect. We are a highly regulated system. We have rigorous and significant independent oversight. We have the Inspector of Custodial Services, we have the Ombudsman and we have the Auditor-General. We have faith in the independent oversight of our prisons. With such rigorous oversight, it is unnecessary that an unelected body comes in and tries to visit, just like they did in Monaro Queanbeyan court complex when they demanded to come in and inspect our services knowing that they did not have permission. Why should the taxpayers pay for things that are unnecessary? Why should our taxpayers pay more than they already have to pay? We have seen the experience of what happened in New Zealand. Their recommendations were that the white bread was too thin, the stairs were too narrow, and they needed to put blinds on the cells to give the prisoners a bit more privacy. We will continue to work very hard, but Opposition members seem to have a different view. My opposite number, Tania Moriarty, who is in the other place, is normally a very clever, considered person.

Ms Kate Washington: Tara.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Tara. She is very good—Tara Moriarty. She is normally very good and very sensible, but she seems to be siding with the Commonwealth. She wants us to just open up and let the inspectors come in. Furthermore, she says that the Liberals are more interested in picking fights with the Federal Government. If picking a fight with the Commonwealth Government means keeping our communities safe and preserving taxpayer dollars, we will fight every day.

WESTCONNEX TOLL REVIEW

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:02): My question is directed to the Premier. Today we saw confirmation that tolls on WestConnex will rise 6.1 per cent on 1 January 2023. Given most of that toll burden falls disproportionately on drivers in western Sydney and given the Minister for Western Sydney claims that western Sydney has never had it so good, when will the Parliament finally see the result of the Premier's toll review?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:03): I thank the member for Auburn. I am disappointed with the direction that she gave the Concord-Concord West - Rhodes branch on the weekend to get rid of the Hon. Mick Veitch. I spoke to Andrew Ferguson and I said to him, "We need to back in the man from the bush." He told me that Lynda told him not to.

Ms Lynda Voltz: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. It was a very clear question relating to a 6.1 per cent toll increase.

The SPEAKER: It was, but the Premier was only 12 seconds into his answer. I am happy for him to continue.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This is coming from a member who drives down WestConnex every day after opposing it in this Chamber. The investments that we have made in public transport and motorways right across the State have transformed New South Wales. Members can see it in the north with NorthConnex—opposed by Labor—which is now transforming and connecting Sydney with the Central Coast. Pennant Hills Road is going so well since we took the trucks off it that it is now a tourist attraction. WestConnex is a great road that was opposed by Labor. Ultimately, not only does it save travel time for families in western Sydney, enabling them to get to work faster and get home quicker to spend more time—

Ms Lynda Voltz: Point of order: My question was clearly about the tolls and when the long-anticipated review will be. He has not mentioned tolls once.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is talking about roads. I am happy for him to continue.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Parramatta Road, that blight of a road corridor, is now turning around because we are getting the cars onto the WestConnex. Guess what? If people do not want to pay a toll on the motorway, Parramatta Road now flows faster. Why? Because of that choice.

Ms Lynda Voltz: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will not hear the point of order of the member for Auburn if it is the same as her first two points of order. I am satisfied the Premier is being relevant. The member for Auburn will resume her seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is about choice. Building the motorways of the future transforms our State. The Government stands loyally with the people of New South Wales, unlike the way those opposite did not stand by Mick Veitch in the upper House. They removed the only regional member of Parliament in the Labor Party and brought in the most left-wing member in the history of the Labor Party in the Legislative Council. [*Time expired.*]

COERCIVE CONTROL LEGISLATION

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (15:06): My question is addressed to the Attorney General. Will he update the House on the Government's commitment to creating a coercive control offence and its ongoing support for women?

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (15:07): I thank the member for Oxley for her question. She has been a passionate advocate for women and children not only in her electorate but also across the State. Yesterday she made one of many moving contributions by members to debate on the coercive control bill in this Chamber. Coercive control is not just something we read about that happens in other corners of the State. From the contributions made during that debate, members know how close to home it is for us all. The Government has delivered on its commitment in December last year to develop, publicly consult on and introduce a bill to criminalise coercive control in intimate partner settings. Coercive control is obnoxious in its own right—commonly described as "domestic terrorism"—and we know it is almost invariably a precursor to domestic violence and intimate partner homicide. This is the latest in a long list of substantial legal reforms this Government has undertaken to protect our community, strengthen frontline services and improve the lives of women and children. It is a reform that could literally mean the difference between life and death.

I acknowledge the strong support the bill has had from Opposition and crossbench members in this Chamber. I thank all members for that support. I hope we will be able to see the reforms pass both Houses this year. The bill is the result of extensive, unprecedented consultation and creates a bespoke standalone criminal offence of coercive control with appropriate safeguards, recognising that this is not just social policy but criminal justice policy. We undertook over seven rounds of consultation in 2½ years, including a discussion paper, a parliamentary inquiry, a public exposure draft and multiple stakeholder round tables. We are committed to addressing the scourge of domestic and family violence, and sexual violence, at a resourcing and policy level.

Last year we announced—and I thank the Treasurer for his support—\$484 million over four years to provide housing and related support for women and children. Most of that will go to the core and cluster model, which will basically double the number of refuge places for women escaping domestic and family violence. We are spending approximately \$44 million over four years to expand Safer Pathway. Importantly, that will include funding for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program to enhance case management services and the central referral point. There is also around \$33 million in the budget for Staying Home Leaving Violence. Of course, that is a program for keeping vulnerable women in their homes and moving the perpetrator out when it is safe to have that arrangement. It is important, too, that domestic violence and sexual assault complainants can give their evidence safely in court to avoid the re-traumatisation of facing a perpetrator directly in court. This year we are spending \$18 million to increase the rollout of audiovisual links in courts, correctional facilities and safe rooms. [*Extension of time*]

On the law reform front, we have led the nation in developing a model of affirmative consent in sexual assault in New South Wales. More importantly, we have created five jury directions to explode rape myths that, unfortunately, are common in the community. All of this law reform has been backed by a powerful advertising campaign to resonate particularly with young people. We have banned the direct cross-examination of complainants by self-represented accused in criminal and related domestic violence proceedings, and there is a presumption of closed courts or audiovisual links for complainants to give their evidence in those proceedings.

In the case of apprehended domestic violence orders [ADVOs], we have doubled the default length from one to two years and allowed the possibility of indefinite ADVOs in the most serious cases. All members know that it is common for a perpetrator to use companion animals as a way to control or intimidate a domestic violence victim-survivor. Therefore, protection of animals is now a standard condition of ADVOs. We also know that non-fatal strangulation is a common precursor to domestic violence homicide. We have streamlined strangulation law to make it easier to prove that offence.

This week has seen the assent to our historical sentencing laws. Sentencing of historical offences, which are in large part either fraud or sexual assault, will be according to current, more informed and more stringent sentencing standards than those in the past. On the child abuse front, we have legislated new crimes of failing to report and failing to protect, as well as tougher criminal sentencing for child abuse, and we were one of the first States to sign up to the National Redress Scheme. Premier Perrottet, Treasurer Kean, women's Minister Taylor, women's safety Minister Ward and I—and, indeed, all Government members and, I hope, all members in this Chamber—know the importance of women's safety. We are determined to make New South Wales the safest place in the world for women and children.

The SPEAKER: In the absence of any other member seeking the call, I call the member for Albury to ask a question.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (15:12): My question is addressed to the Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing. Will the Minister update the House on the status of water infrastructure projects jointly funded by the State and Federal governments?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (15:13): It is already lights out for those opposite. The boxes are vacant, the stalls are empty—they did not even come out of the stables this morning. They just know that it is not worth racing today. I thank the member for Albury for his question. What a fantastic regional MP he is. He does what regional MPs should do: They fight for their communities. In these really difficult times they are fighting for water infrastructure. They are fighting for their water treatment plants. They are fighting for their sewage treatment plants to make sure that aging infrastructure is upgraded. Water infrastructure is so important. Over the past nine years the Government worked collaboratively with the Federal Coalition Government to unlock billions of dollars of programs in water infrastructure. Water is a basic human right. We were looking to continue those programs.

The Menindee to Broken Hill pipeline and the Lostock Dam to Glennies Creek pipeline secure water for regional communities. With \$3 billion for regional water projects such as the Better Baaka and Better Bidgee programs around the Murrumbidgee border areas of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, we are doing the heavy lifting on behalf of the State. Where is the State Opposition on water infrastructure? We have not heard a peep. The tap has been turned off. When I talk about regional representation, the member for Albury and other regional members come to talk about water infrastructure with me. But hang on—the new Federal Labor Government is ripping the guts out of water infrastructure in the electorates of Bega, Cessnock, Maitland and Lismore. There are horrible signs coming out of Canberra. Has the member for Lismore spoken up? No. Has the member for Bega spoken up? No. We generally hear from the member for Maitland, but have we heard from her? Come and speak to me about water infrastructure. We have not heard a peep. What about the member for Cessnock? Where are you? Come and speak with me about your water infrastructure. We have not heard a peep from those regional members.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: When Minister does not address his remarks through the Chair, the House becomes disorderly. I ask you to ensure that he addresses his remarks through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied on this occasion the Minister was referring his comments to the House generally, not specifically to a member.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: Only the Liberals and The Nationals at a State level care for regional water infrastructure, not those opposite.

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:16): I direct my question to the Premier. For seven years the Government has tormented the lives of over 5,000 families by not properly addressing fair compensation for the taxi industry—small business operators and hardworking people who had their lifesavings devalued overnight. When will the Premier commit to finally delivering a transparent and fair taxi compensation package?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:16): I thank the member for Rockdale for his question. In New South Wales the package that has been put forward by the transport Minister—over half a billion dollars—is the largest compensation package for the taxi industry in the country. We know with all industries over time there is disruption to those industries in respect of advancements in technology.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The transport Minister continues to have discussions with stakeholders in relation to this matter. The package put forward by the Government is by far the largest in the country. We want to make sure there is care and support for those people who invested in taxi plates, and the transport Minister will continue to work through that issue.

NORTHERN RIVERS LAND BUYBACKS

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (15:18): I direct my question to the Premier. For over eight months flood-affected residents in the Northern Rivers have been in the dark about supports for residential rebuilds, and we anticipate that only a handful of people will be eligible for a buyback. Will the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation acquire land to enable affordable house relocations or will our communities be abandoned to the free market?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:18): I thank the member for Ballina for her question and acknowledge the support that she has provided to her community following the devastating floods in the Northern Rivers, the Tweed, Clarence and Lismore in what has been a difficult time. As the member for Ballina would appreciate, in relation to buybacks we have initiated an expression of interest for landowners through this process to identify land so we can have strong communities well into the future. The New South Wales Government is working closely with the Commonwealth Government on a joint funding package for the buyback scheme, particularly in the Northern Rivers, and there have been constructive discussions. I know there have been difficulties because of the time that has passed but, ultimately, we have to get this right.

The member for Ballina has raised questions relating to the reconstruction authority and the expression of interest in land. Ultimately, we want to make sure that, as we rebuild, we rebuild well; that we do not have spot rebuildings; and that we are building conducive communities with character. That needs to be done properly. I inform members that we are close to making a joint announcement with the Commonwealth Government in relation to a buyback scheme that will provide certainty. I appreciate that it will not be open to everyone, but it will be done in a way that we believe will be balanced, measured and fair, and that will ensure support for families across the Northern Rivers. When the next flood event occurs there will be less damage and greater support for those communities in the future.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:20): I address my question to the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is delivering on its positive vision for the people of New South Wales?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport) (15:21): I thank the member for his excellent question. I am mindful of the heady responsibility of getting the last question on a Thursday, and I take that responsibility seriously. The question was about vision. P. J. Keating had a great vision for the future of the State. The Premier has a great vision for the State. The Leader of the Opposition does not think he needs a vision because he is a vision. I am not going to deny it. I am only human. I mean, just look at him. He is a bit dishy. The New South Wales Government is powering ahead with the biggest infrastructure pipeline in our State's history. It has committed \$112.7 billion to infrastructure over the next four years, delivering projects of all shapes and sizes to enhance people's lives. This comes on the back of the \$178 billion delivered since we were first elected to government. We have committed over a quarter of a trillion dollars to transform New South Wales.

That is not just the biggest spend in our State's history; we are also Australia's leading government when it comes to infrastructure delivery. The Federal Government recently announced \$9.6 billion for national infrastructure projects—impressive, but less than a tenth of our infrastructure pipeline. The people of New South Wales have rightfully become accustomed to a government that builds things. Labor talks a big game about

making things. But there has never been a government that has made more things in New South Wales than this one. We are building metros and motorways, hospitals and schools.

For all of Labor's sanctimonious outrage over manufacturing jobs, let us reflect on this: For a decade under Labor, New South Wales had the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. For a decade under the Liberals and The Nationals, New South Wales has had the highest jobs growth in Australia. More than 700,000 new jobs have been created. We all remember Labor's broken promises, but I will remind us anyway. There was the north-west rail link that Labor announced five times and never delivered; the M4 East they promised in government and opposed in opposition; the Parramatta to Chatswood rail line, which only got to Epping—a bit like the Premier; and two of Labor's toll roads, the Lane Cove tunnel and the Cross City Tunnel, which both went broke within months of opening.

Our infrastructure pipeline is only possible because of two levers that control our expenses and boost our revenue: our wages policy and our asset recycling model. The Leader of the Opposition has not announced much in the way of policy, but the things he has announced spell absolute disaster for the infrastructure pipeline we are delivering. [*Extension of time*]

He will abolish the wages policy because he answers to the public sector unions, and he has ruled out any asset recycling or private investment. He is true to form when it comes to Labor leaders on infrastructure. They do not deliver. They have no vision. They just cancel everything. Mr Speaker, you and I are old codgers; we are on our way out. But one thing I have learned in politics is that the most cynical tactic is to oppose reform. It is much easier to generate support to stop things rather than do them, to stop development rather than take on the challenge to shape it. Labor is promising 100 per cent local manufacturing, which is an easy promise when it will not build anything. One hundred per cent of nothing is still nothing, and that is exactly what you get under Labor. The choice is clear. With New South Wales Labor, maybe a few bureaucrats might get a big pay rise, but with the Coalition, everyone else will actually have a job.

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

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the public gallery the Eastlakes branch of the University of the Third Age, led by Jill Hall, who is a former member for Swansea. They are guests of the member for Swansea and the member for Charlestown.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Reports

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: As Chair: I table report No. 5/57 of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Review of the 2020-2021 Annual Reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC*, dated October 2022. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Reports

Mr GREG PIPER: As Chair: I table report No. 11/57 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled *Examination of selected Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports June - December 2020*, dated October 2022. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

WAUCHOPE SHOW SOCIETY PRESIDENT NEIL COOMBES

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (15:28): I take this opportunity to congratulate Neil Coombes, who has been the President of the Wauchope Show Society since 2016 and whose term finished last week. Neil was in charge of running the poultry club for 13 years and prior to that was a director and spent five years as a very loyal and decent vice-president. From the first day I met Neil, it was all about the Wauchope Show. He has done an

incredible job by working with his team, his board and community members in obtaining \$300,000 in 2019 for two grandstands and \$82,000 in 2020 from the Stronger Country Communities Fund to upgrade the multipurpose undercover areas. In fact, millions of dollars have gone into the show. After the bushfires, he was there to ensure that people had somewhere safe to go. I wish Leanne and Neil all the best for the future. We will be friends forever. I thank you for your dedication to your community.

TRIBUTE TO RANESH MAITRA

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:29): On behalf of my community, I pay respects to the noted Bangladesh journalist, freedom fighter and award-winning language movement veteran Ranesh Maitra, who passed away recently at his home in Bangladesh. Ranesh Maitra was a regular visitor to our shores, where his son, Prabir Maitra, lives with his family, and he was celebrated by the local community during those visits. Ranesh Maitra is the author of more than a dozen books. His political life started in 1948 when he joined the language movement rallies with the Chhatra Union. He was one of the founders of the Chhatra Union and the National Awami Party as well as a notable organiser of the Liberation War, Tanti Adhikar Andolan, and the farmhands movement. At one stage he was imprisoned.

He started his journalist career at the weekly *Nawbelal* paper before moving on to the daily *Sangbad* in 1955 and went on to the *Daily Morning News*, the *Daily Observer* and the *Daily Star*. He was awarded the Bashundhara Media Award for his contribution to investigative journalism. He served as president and secretary of the Pabna Press Club in 2018. Ranesh leaves behind his wife, Purabi, two sons, three daughters and scores of wellwishers who mourn his death.

AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:30): I am proud to announce today the finalists in my electorate who have been nominated for the Australian Hotels Association New South Wales Awards for Excellence. Three local pubs nominated across five categories will battle it out shortly for a chance to win the illustrious Australian Hotels Association New South Wales Awards of Excellence, with a gala presentation evening to be held on Monday 24 October at Barangaroo. The Settlers Inn Port Macquarie/Flower Hotels have been nominated for Heart of the Community, Best Regional Local and Group Hotel of the Year. Alistair Flower recognised his staff, in particular publican Brendan Johnson, venue manager Zoe Archer and functions manager Abby Fraser for their amazing contribution, not forgetting his front-of-house employees who are so critical to the success of Flower Hotels.

Co-owner of the Royal Hotel Kew, Scott Coman, is understandably excited to receive a nomination for the Best Parmi and extended much gratitude to his chef, Peter Davidson, and the team. I also acknowledge that the Royal recently received one of the first Blue Plaques, recognising pioneering aviator Nancy Bird Walton. General manager of Finnian's Irish Tavern, Corey Baker, also was ecstatic to be named as a finalist in the Best Regional Local category. Congratulations to all the finalists.

OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:31): This year, Oak Flats High School celebrates 60 years of providing quality education to the Oak Flats community. Situated on the land of the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation, the school opened in 1962 with just one building, 213 students and eight staff. The first principal was Mr Rex Penfold, who remained principal for seven years to 1969, at which time enrolment numbers had exploded to about 970 students, with 51 staff.

In 1979 the student council was introduced and by 1987 the school had built a dedicated computer room and had begun new courses, including photography, drama, and society and culture. Sports also broadened to include activities like surfing, tenpin bowling and rollerskating, and discos replaced school dances as the most popular entertainment and fundraisers. Many changes have occurred since then, with the addition of a school hall, a bus bay, a security system and a telephone system. By 1991, 22 demountables helped house the huge student population before the overcrowding was finally alleviated by the opening of the Albion Park High School. I congratulate the community on their sixtieth anniversary.

FRESH FINDS BINGARA

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (15:32): I congratulate Jenny Brown and Mandy Loudon of Bingara on their newest business, Fresh Finds Bingara. Located in Bingara's main street, which is the busiest place on the planet, the business offers produce including fruit, veggies and nuts as well as freshly made sandwiches, juices and old-fashioned milkshakes—and they are good. The business unfolded when Jenny and Mandy were discussing the prospect while working at Touriandi Lodge, Bingara. Jenny moved from Toowoomba in 2016 to manage the lodge while Mandy moved from Newcastle to work in reception and administration.

Jenny always wanted to have her own business in Bingara, which is a great little town but it did not have any fresh produce. So they thought it was a good time to make their dream a reality. Jenny and Mandy are sourcing fresh fruit and veggies through wholesalers and from selected local and regional suppliers. Fruit and veggies will come from the Sydney Markets; seeds, nuts and soft drinks from Australian-owned companies; and they are using as much Australian content as possible. They are looking at stocking seasonal produce to avoid high prices and to ensure their produce is as fresh as possible. Congratulations, Jenny and Mandy, for having a crack in Bingara.

CAMP BREAKAWAY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (15:33): Camp Breakaway at San Remo celebrated its fortieth anniversary with its first annual black-tie charity ball at Mingara Recreation Club to pay tribute to the visionary Wyong Rotarians who hatched the idea for the first camp in 1982 to enhance the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families. Camp Breakaway is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers that provides camps for people with disability, senior citizens and the frail aged. The camp offers an opportunity to build resilience and self-esteem, receive peer support, form friendships and make community connections. It also provides emergency respite care and hires out the site and its facilities to other respite care providers to raise additional funds. I recognise the dedication and effort that Rotarians have put into Camp Breakaway since the beginning. I also recognise the fundraisers, builders, cooks, cleaners, carers and amazing nurses who have contributed to make the program such a success. Congratulations to the volunteers, sponsors and donors who have made a positive impact on supporting the community.

MIDDLE HARBOUR 16 FT SKIFF CLUB PRESIDENT PETER TINWORTH

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:34): I acknowledge the President of Middle Harbour 16 Ft Skiff Club, Peter Tinworth, or "Tinny", who was recently awarded an honorary life membership by fellow club members at the club's recent annual general meeting. I congratulate Peter on that remarkable achievement. The club stated:

This award is bestowed only to those who have made the most significant contribution to the club.

That could not be more true of Peter, who has been involved with the club for many years through various roles, including as junior president, board member, race officer, skiff sponsor, association representative and, of course, club president. I have worked with Peter on and off over the years. It has been a great pleasure. He is very good at advocating for the club's needs. I have enjoyed many events at the wonderful club. I congratulate Peter. It is much-deserved recognition for his hard work. He has given much to the local community and to sailing. I look forward to seeing what is next for the club and I wish Peter all the very best in his continued strong leadership.

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (15:35): Today the taxi industry held a peaceful protest outside Parliament. I was happy to join the protest and speak to licence owners and industry participants. It was important to hear from them again about the impact the past few years have had on them and their families. I thank licence-plate owners who participated in the protest, especially those who travelled from regional New South Wales. I acknowledge the members of my community who attended, including Noor Linda, whom I have met a number of times. She reminded me again that her family bought the taxi licences as nest eggs for their self-funded retirement, but those licences have lost 90 per cent of their value due to government policy. Indeed, the capital loss to the industry has been valued at \$1.6 billion. Industries change, technology becomes obsolete and systems evolve, but the taxi industry has been highly regulated, with expensive licences and registration plates, the value of which has significantly diminished. We must show the industry compassion and respect. I thank the Taxi Council for its strong and ongoing advocacy for taxi-plate owners and always ensuring their voices are heard.

MAMRE ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (15:36): I congratulate Mamre Anglican School on its consistent effort in supporting students academically and in their extracurricular interests, particularly in football. In recent months the school has produced three international football players. Recently year 12 student Alexis Tan, year 11 student Mary Stanic-Floody and year 10 student Ella Abdul Massih returned from a football tournament in Indonesia, where they represented the Philippines and the Junior Matildas. Australia took out the AFF U-18 Women's Championships in style and was undefeated. It was an experience none of those girls will forget. Mamre Anglican School's football program aims to develop players' technical and tactical skills, knowledge and understanding of the game. It is headed by Mamre's longtime head of football Julie Kennedy and well-known A-League Women's coaches Catherine Cannuli and Tiana Gauci. All three girls decided to enrol at the school due to its impressive football program and state-of-the-art sports facilities. The school has been instrumental in looking after their needs on and off the pitch, providing support in football and academics. I congratulate Mamre Anglican School on supporting its students and assisting them on their journey to reaching their full potential.

MACKENZIE ELYSE BLAKE

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (15:37): I recognise Tracy, Rohan and Jordan Blake of Winmalee for their passionate and heart-wrenching advocacy for justice for their daughter and sister, Mackenzie Elyse Blake. Sweet Mackenzie was 21 years old when she was tragically killed last year after a disqualified truck driver mounted the footpath on the Great Western Highway at Blaxland and mowed her down. Mackenzie was walking to the train station after work, heading home, but she never made it. The Blake family is determined to ensure laws change. I am proud of their steely determination to see legislative reform and practical measures taken to address road killers and repeat offenders; to support victims of road crimes; and, among a range of requests, to have a pedestrian barrier installed between the footpath and highway so that other families might not suffer such a tragedy. The important work that has been undertaken by the Road Trauma Support Group is worthy of mention. I also acknowledge Mackenzie's pet border collie Jasper, who still waits by the door for her to come home. For the mourning Blake family and Blue Mountains community, I forever remember Mackenzie.

PARRAMATTA POLICE AREA COMMAND

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:38): I recognise the Parramatta Police Area Command for the terrific work it does in the local community. In particular, I thank the Crime Prevention Team, which attended the Constitution Hill Retirement Community to speak with local residents about fraud, elder abuse and how to stay safe in the community and at home. I also recognise the efforts of the Parramatta Police Area Command for its work in the local high schools. I thank the youth and school liaison officers for attending Pendle Hill High School. I recognise and thank outgoing police area commander Julie Boon for her service to our community through the years and congratulate Barry Vincent on his recent appointment as the new commander for the Parramatta area. I look forward to working with Barry on issues that affect the community of Seven Hills.

KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL ONSTAGE PERFORMANCES

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (15:39): OnSTAGE is a presentation of performances and projects by HSC drama students that showcases the best performances across New South Wales schools. Kotara High School's year 12 drama class received three OnSTAGE nominations, which is a testament to its wonderful commitment to helping students explore their interests and develop their potential. I congratulate Kaylee, Freya and Caitlyn, who were nominated for their group performance entitled *Love and Other Bruises*. Kaylee and Freya were also nominated for their individual performances. Kaylee performed *If You'll Be Glad, I'll Be Frank* and Freya performed *Alice in Wonderland*. It is a wonderful achievement for those students and it is indicative of their dedication. Kaylee, Freya and Caitlyn are all undertaking their HSC exams at the moment, so I wish them and their fellow Kotara High School students all the best.

NRL WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS YASMIN CLYDSDALE AND TAYLA PREDEBON

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:40): I congratulate Newcastle Knights teammates Yasmin Clydsdale of Scone and Tayla Predebon of Gloucester on their NRL Women's Premiership grand final win over Parramatta by 32 points to 12. They also combined to win the Telstra Women's Premiership in April with the Sydney Roosters. Currently Yasmin is training with the Australian Jillaroos for the Women's World Cup in England, which begins on 1 November. I congratulate those ladies on their success and wish them all the very best for their future endeavours. Go Knights!

FISAF INTERNATIONAL WORLD SPORTS AEROBICS AND FITNESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (15:41): I acknowledge three young ladies from Cessnock who are off to the FISAF International World Sports Aerobics and Fitness Championships 2022 in the Czech Republic in November. I am talking about Jillian, Blair and Elsie. Interestingly, those three athletes train with different aerobics organisations—two in Newcastle and one in Cessnock. It is important to point out that they come from Cessnock, because we add a special ingredient to the water in Cessnock—it is called "champion"! Look out, world; look out, Czech Republic. Brace yourselves—three young ladies from Cessnock are coming your way, and they will be champions. Go the mighty Cessnocks!

GOSFORD ART PRIZE WINNER CLAIRE TOZER

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:42): I celebrate the excellence of Yattalunga resident Claire Tozer, who claimed first prize and \$15,000 in the annual Gosford Art Prize with her acrylic and ink masterpiece entitled *Web*. Claire's piece is an excellent expression of the Central Coast's natural beauty. The artwork was inspired by the refraction of light through dew on a spider's web in the early hours of the morning. Any Davistown local would know of the expansive webs that cross the boardwalk that runs through the casuarina forest. The abstract piece was developed using photographs taken by Claire, which is part of her artistic practice. Claire uses photography to tap into her background and qualification in graphic art, which she practised in Melbourne. *Web*

was chosen from a highly competitive field of artists who used various artistic mediums. The judges were looking for a strong piece that exhibited a high degree of skill, consideration and integrity. I congratulate Claire on that fantastic achievement. It is a true testament to her skill and inspired artistic eye.

WOODVILLE ALLIANCE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:43): I congratulate Ms Melanie Andrews on her recent appointment as chief executive officer of Woodville Alliance. Melanie is a wonderful asset to Woodville Alliance and brings with her much experience and knowledge. Having worked in the community services sector for over 20 years and with a strong sense of social justice, Melanie is a strong leader whose presence I am sure will benefit the socially disadvantaged communities across the Fairfield electorate. Melanie has held senior leadership positions in local, large not-for-profit organisations, bringing her expertise in social work to assist with children and family services, mental health services and aged care. Melanie's passion for social justice will be of great assistance to our community, who will certainly benefit from her vision to deliver services that will improve the lives of so many vulnerable people in our community. I congratulate Melanie once again and I wish her all the best in her new role.

KOORI KNOCKOUT

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (15:44): Thankfully, the 2022 Koori Knockout event went ahead this year at Rugby Park, Nowra and Bomaderry's sporting complex, with upwards of 40,000 people visiting our area. Assistance was provided by the New South Wales Government, with the event receiving a golden sponsorship of \$150,000 and later granted an additional \$75,000 in funding to support the event. It was a great opportunity for visitors to our community to visit the beautiful South Coast and all that our area has to offer and to help to boost local tourism. The NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout was a great opportunity to showcase sporting talent and to bring family and friends together for what was a massive four days. The knockout also provided an opportunity to engage in initiatives that help support Aboriginal people. This was an exciting event for the Shoalhaven that saw some of the country's best players come to the region. I am glad it finally went ahead—rain, hail or shine—after two previous events were cancelled due to COVID. I know it was a huge success for the whole community. I say well done to everyone involved.

PACIFIC LINK HOUSING

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:45): I acknowledge and congratulate Pacific Link Housing on winning the Outstanding Community Organisation category at the 2022 Central Coast Business Awards. The award is presented to an organisation that works to improve the social, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the community. Pacific Link does exactly that. It aims to provide housing solutions and referrals to those with the greatest need across the Central Coast. It liaises with stakeholders and government agencies to provide safe and affordable housing to tenants who may not be able to sustain a tenancy in the private market. The organisation also invests in projects and initiatives to provide affordable housing accommodation, allowing tenants to regain their independence in the private housing market. On behalf of The Entrance community and the wider Central Coast, I congratulate Pacific Link Housing, all its staff and chief executive officer Ian Lynch on this impressive achievement. I thank them for their continued service to the Central Coast region.

BERRY COTTAGE CHILDCARE CENTRE NAREMBURN

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (15:46): I am proud to recognise Berry Cottage Childcare Centre in Naremburn, which I visited recently in celebration of Early Childhood Educators' Day. It was a pleasure to view the excellent facilities the centre offers and to meet with its dedicated team of early childhood educators. They go above and beyond the commitment to provide basic care by ensuring the proper development and education of our young. For many local parents, childcare centres such as Berry Cottage are an essential part of the balancing act between work, family and leisure. Parents need the peace of mind that their children are well cared for and fostered to be the best they can be, and Berry Cottage more than meets that high bar. I thank the team of John and Kerry Owens, Harriet, Isabelle and all the educators for their clear passion and dedication to our next generation. I say well done for providing quality early childhood education and care to our local community.

WYONG WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (15:47): The Wyong Women's Health Centre does an important job in our community supporting women in need. Recently I visited the centre to reconnect with staff and volunteers following a hiatus after COVID. I was able to catch up with them and see their newest upgrades, funded through the Community Building Partnership program. The centre created an outdoor space for childminding as well as an indoor space and a shelter between the two buildings. Tracy, the staff and volunteers are doing an amazing job in our community supporting women through a variety of services. Without organisations such as the Wyong Women's Health Centre, which is part of a wider network of Central Coast women's health centres, our community

would be much poorer. The services they provide are a leg up for those people in need. I commend them for the work they do in our community.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BUSINESS CHAMBER

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:48): I acknowledge the Sutherland Shire Business Chamber and the important role it plays in promoting small businesses in our community. The Sutherland Shire Business Chamber is a dynamic not-for-profit organisation that seeks to boost economic growth, represent the voice of local businesses and help its members succeed. The chamber was established in 2017 and has seen membership double in that time to around 1,000 local businesses. There are nearly 7,400 small businesses in the Miranda electorate, and 98 per cent of the businesses in our State are small businesses, so the chamber is vital in creating a thriving network of local businesses through social and educational events. None of that is possible without the hardworking executive committee members who strive to maximise business potential in the Sutherland shire. I recognise president Jeanne Zweck; vice-president Terry Likidis; secretary Sophie Brown; acting treasurer Nathan Rigney; and directors Joanne Costanzo, Brody Ivory and Jacinta Marshall. I commend the Sutherland Shire Business Chamber for its advocacy for local businesses, and I look forward to celebrating Small Business Month with it in November.

WHITEBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL WORKSHOP

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (15:49): Australia is blessed to be home to the world's most ancient, ongoing culture. My electorate is located on the land of the Awabakal people and any chance to recognise and celebrate Awabakal culture and traditions is a welcome reminder of our area's long, pre-colonial history and the continuing richness of First Nations culture. On Tuesday 20 September Whitebridge High School hosted students from a local preschool for a cultural workshop day. Led by the school's fantastic Aboriginal leaders, the day involved an art workshop and a dance workshop, as well as opportunities for the preschoolers to learn the Awabakal language. I congratulate Whitebridge High School on its ongoing efforts to celebrate First Nations cultures and empower Aboriginal students through a connection to culture. I extend my particular thanks to Whitebridge High School Aboriginal leaders—Thor Harradine, Lily Crockett, Oslo Harradine and Koda Chapman—for sharing their knowledge and pride in their culture. They have done great work on this fantastic initiative.

TASTE OF SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:50): I recognise the amazing efforts of every organisation that took part in the inaugural Taste of Seafood Festival in Dubb Vegas last weekend. It was sunny for a change. Trish and Gary from the Professional Fishers Association dedicated a lot of time and energy to the first event of its kind that has been held in Dubbo, in combination with the Dubbo Farmers Markets and Dubbo Regional Council, which allowed the event to occur in the main pavilion of the Dubbo Showground in case it was a wet and windy day. The Sydney Fish Market was extremely supportive through its recently launched SFMblue digital online platform. I also acknowledge the Newcastle fishermen's cooperative, which provided all the amazing fresh seafood on the day—everything from school prawns to ocean jackets and tremendous oysters. I give a big thumbs up to everyone who took part in the Taste of Seafood Festival.

H&L SALON

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:51): I congratulate the amazing team at H&L Salon in Kareela on winning the Hairdresser of the Year category at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Over 30 years H&L Salon has built a reputation for delivering quality hairdressing services. Over the years, the salon has stayed true to its heritage but has also embraced a modern look and feel, especially when rebranding to the small business's current name in 2020. Today H&L Salon specialises in cut and colour. I acknowledge the incredible team, who are passionate about creating the latest trends for their clients in a friendly environment in Kareela Village. They use their expert creative knowledge and technical ability in cutting and colouring to deliver outstanding results for their clients. I recognise owner Leon Morrisey, manager Lauren White, along with Jade Maddocks, Jessica Bryan, Gabriela Amara, Taydra King, Emily Laverance and Martina Stamatov. Small businesses like H&L Salon are an important part of our local community as a key provider of goods, services and jobs. I again congratulate the team at H&L Salon on their success at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards and extend my best wishes for the future.

WELLINGTON ARTS FONG LEES LANE FESTIVAL

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:52): I recognise the amazing work done by all the team at Wellington Arts which, unfortunately, has had to cancel next Friday's Fong Lees Lane celebration due to wet weather. After two years of cancellations thanks

to COVID, this is the third year in a row that the event has had to be cancelled. This year the committee made the disappointing decision due to an ominous weather forecast—not just for this week but also leading into next week. For the organisers, Lisa and her incredible team of people who are dedicated to supporting, developing, nurturing and enriching arts in the Wellington area, it is disappointing. But making the call early provides the community with certainty. I am sorry to hear that the event has had to be cancelled again this year, but I am looking forward to it being back bigger, brighter and better than ever next year.

GYMEA TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:53): I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of the Gymea Technology High School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by one's peers is an incredible achievement of which those students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I acknowledge the student leadership team for 2023, namely school captains Jessica McTulty and Meghan Hollingsworth; vice captains Maxwell Streeter and Brock Faint; and the senior leadership team, consisting of Bonnie Summers, Jacqueline Marsh, Ayden Hollingsworth, Ash Noble, Jeremiah Brand, and Luke Holland. I have every confidence that these dedicated young adults will capably lead their peers through their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models for their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to the student leaders as they continue to exemplify Gymea Technology High School's motto of "inspire, learn and succeed".

OXLEY COLLEGE PIPE BAND

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (15:54): The Australian Football League grand final—which, unfortunately, saw Geelong defeat Sydney—was made even more exciting by the performance of the Oxley College Pipe Band from my electorate. The band delivered a beautiful rendition of John Farnham's *You're the Voice* to an incredible crowd of 100,000 people, with an estimated 35 million people watching on television worldwide. The band made everyone in Wollondilly very proud. The community also took great pride in the fact that the students' incredible talent was showcased across the world. The pipe band has performed at key events in my electorate in the past, including at the 2022 Bowral Anzac Day march. The band consists of 12 pipers, two tenor drummers, four snare drummers and two bass drummers. I thank all those involved with the Oxley College Pipe Band.

NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FIONA AVEYARD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:55): I recognise and congratulate Fiona and Bill Aveyard. Fiona recently received a Nuffield scholarship for 2023, which is an incredible recognition of Fiona's hard work and dedication within the meat and livestock industry. It is great for Fiona and her family to be recognised in this way. I caught up with Fiona the other day. Fiona and Bill run a fantastic business called Outback Lamb, which I suggest everyone does a bit of research on. They make tremendous lamb pies, and all their products are outstanding. The scholarship will no doubt provide Fiona with all of the right tools and resources to help the Australian red meat industry in future years, enhancing all the things that she is currently doing and building on the experiences that she has already had. I am really excited to see Fiona receive the Nuffield scholarship. I know she will uncover lots of opportunities. I am keen to learn how they will help positively impact job growth in regional centres in the future.

GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:56): I acknowledge the wonderful work that the Gymea Baptist Church undertakes in my local community. The church began as a community of faith, meeting as a Sunday school in a humble house in 1940. It was officially founded as a Baptist church in 1949 and has been a light in my community for more than 70 years. The church holds weekly 9.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. services on a Sunday, where locals gather as a community for fellowship. During the services the congregation is encouraged to serve the community. The church frequently works with the not-for-profit organisation Hopefield. Furthermore, the church leads a weekly youth program, where it champions young people and encourages them to positively influence the environment around them. I commend all Gymea Baptist Church members and volunteers for their wonderful work in our community. I particularly recognise the following volunteers for their efforts: Marc Rader, Roxane Lawler, Matt Willis, Vicki Sherry, Kat Lewis O'Connor, Bec Venum, Karen Watkins, Belinda Lakelin, Steve Foxe, Meddwyn Hinton, Marjy Robertson, Greg Williams and Beryl Davenport. I thank Gymea Baptist Church for its continued service and extend my best wishes for the future.

*Petitions***FORSTER-TUNCURRY BRIDGE DUPLICATION**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now consider the paper petition signed by 10,000 or more persons that is listed on the *Business Paper*. It is about funding for the construction of a duplicate bridge for Forster and Tuncurry, lodged by the member for Myall Lakes.

The question is that the House take note of the petition.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:58): This petition has been signed by 10,000 or more citizens requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to fund a duplication of the Forster-Tuncurry Bridge and has been backed by both locals and visitors. We are here today due to the efforts of Mr Stephen Bromhead, who has done a wonderful job advocating for this issue in his electorate. I thank the people of Forster-Tuncurry and Myall Lakes for making sure that the petition arrived. I also thank all the people who signed the petition, because this is an important issue. Finally, I thank The Nationals candidate for Myall Lakes, Tanya Thompson, who has been ringing me to make sure that the petition is debated. I can say to her that it is here and we are going to debate it right now, which is great.

The Forster-Tuncurry area is a beautiful holiday destination. Looking at its turquoise waters makes one truly feel like one is on holiday. I am sure many members have holidayed at Forster-Tuncurry, which is a thriving community of small businesses and people who love boats and enjoy life on the water. I have always loved this great community almost as much as I love the Upper Hunter. When I am crossing the bridge I know I am on holiday. I have a lot of love for the area, which is heaven on earth. The bridge is 631 metres long and 13.5 metres wide. At the time of opening it was the longest prestressed concrete bridge in the Southern Hemisphere. It is an iconic part of the twin towns. The bridge is now more than 60 years old but is still in great nick, which is good news for the area and for the original builders—good on them.

The reason we are debating the petition is that the bridge has just a single lane each way. Mr Stephen Bromhead has been advocating for extra lanes across the water between Forster and Tuncurry for a long time. If members have ever holidayed in the area, they would know why the petition has been lodged. During the summer months, when the population of the town swells due to visitors, there is serious gridlock on the bridge. But it is not just that. Looking to the future, if COVID showed us anything it was that there is a change going on in the way that people want to live their lives and work. They are now asking where they can live. They work on computers so just need a good internet connection. This change is being seen at Forster-Tuncurry, with hordes of people from Sydney waking up to how they can enjoy their lives with all the benefits of living in the regions.

The population of Forster-Tuncurry has grown from 19,918 in 2016 to 20,986 in 2021. That is a 5 per cent increase in five years. I look forward to the next census, which will show an even greater increase. With that population boom has come pressure on local infrastructure, particularly the bridge, which links the communities of Forster and Tuncurry. It is an important access point for emergency services, including ambulance, police, Fire and Rescue, RFS, SES and all the other emergency services. When the bridge gets blocked, drivers must take a huge detour of nearly two hours, almost going into the electorate of Upper Hunter, to get back to the other side. Tragically, last year the bridge was blocked. This great petition is an opportunity to debate what can be done to duplicate the bridge. It has a huge amount of support from the community; the Federal member for Lyne, the Hon. David Gillespie; MidCoast Council; Business NSW; Destination North Coast; and Barrington Coast tourism.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:03): I thank the member for Upper Hunter for that tourist walk through the bridge and its history. I am glad he gave a shout-out to the people who constructed the bridge back in 1954, but he forgot to mention that the bridge was planned by a Labor Government under Premier Joe Cahill. It was opened under a Labor Government in 1959 and in 1987 a review by the then Labor Government said that it would need some enhancements in 2005. In 1988 the first ever member for Myall Lakes was elected to this place, Mr John Turner. He was from the Coalition and served until 2011. In the period of Liberal Government from 1988 to 1995 one would have thought a Nationals member would say, "We need to do some enhancements and planning." But what happened? Nothing.

In 2005 the then Labor Government enhanced the bridge and built a shared pathway. Roll forward to 2011, and the member for Myall Lakes, Mr Stephen Bromhead, is elected to this place. One would have thought, "Wow, this is his chance. He can bang on about six years of neglect." But nothing happened at all until 2016. The member for Wyong was in the Chamber then. The government of the day launched a bit of an attack on Labor over the Government's investment in rural roads and bridges infrastructure. But nothing was said in that debate about this bridge. There was a small mention of the Bulahdelah Bypass and that, "Roads and bridges are being built everywhere"—except, perchance, in Myall Lakes. Roll forward to April 2017, and the member for Myall Lakes

mentioned the bridge again in a long list of infrastructure projects in his electorate that he wanted completed. But, again, nothing was done.

In 2019 the member for Myall Lakes finally got a member of the Government to say, "Let's do a plan." It was probably the member for Oxley, who was roads Minister at the time. But then nothing happened. Nothing happened until last year, when there was a big incident on the bridge. More than a decade after he was elected, there was a petition in this place and a private member's statement. We do not talk about the review because there is nothing, but we have this petition. The community—all those people that the member for Upper Hunter spoke about—are aware of the situation. The member for Upper Hunter should think about that. At least the Myall Lakes electorate has been around only since 1988. His electorate has been around for centuries, and was always held by Labor. So many projects in that area are not completed, and the only reason they were started is that Labor pushed for them. That is a problem for the member.

This Government has no credibility when it comes to bridges. The member for Bega cannot be in the Chamber for this debate because he has a very important meeting. He is probably getting money for something. Cuttagee Bridge in Bega is another country bridge that is past its use-by date. It is only 110 metres long but it is in such poor condition that in December a couple of years ago the speed limit on the bridge was reduced to 10 kilometres per hour because it is so dangerous; the bridge is going to fall down. The Bega Valley Shire Council, a very proactive council, submitted a proposal to this Government under the Fixing Country Bridges program and it got the cash: \$7.5 million towards the \$11 million cost.

But what happened? Nothing. In fact, it was even worse than that. The Government took the money away because the Fixing Country Bridges program—which Government members spout about in this place—is only for timber bridges, not composite or concrete bridges. So if a bridge is made of any other material, it is out. Who was the Minister back in 2021? It was Andrew Constance. Whose electorate was the bridge in? It was in Andrew Constance's electorate. He gave himself the money until somebody realised and the jig was up. What was the result? Nothing.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:08): I congratulate members of the community who signed this petition. Ten thousand signatures is nothing to sneeze at—it is a significant percentage of community members. I pay my respects to my colleague the member for Myall Lakes, who has been a fantastic leader of his community. We wish that he could stay longer with us in the Parliament. I am advised that recent investigations around Forster-Tuncurry have informed Transport for NSW actions to improve transport and roads in the area. The Lakes Way corridor plan, completed in 2020, provided a high-level overview of the current performance of the corridor between the Pacific Highway in the north and Breese Parade in the south, along with anticipated future issues, challenges and opportunities. The plan also considered Failford Road between the Pacific Highway and The Lakes Way.

The plan identified a range of initiatives for further investigation to improve transport outcomes for walking, cycling, public transport, freight and general traffic. One initiative proposed was a detailed analysis of the Forster-Tuncurry CBD to identify where congestion was occurring during peak and holiday periods and identify potential infrastructure and services solutions to better manage traffic, taking account of planned growth in the area. A key priority of the plan was to seek funding to undertake this more detailed assessment. This was secured in late 2020. Transport for NSW has undertaken the Forster-Tuncurry CBD investigation and a range of improvements have been identified, including a series of intersection upgrades, improved active transport paths, and a review of bus routes and frequencies across the broader precinct.

The investigation included developing a comprehensive understanding of where future growth was planned across the area and preparing a micro simulation model for The Lakes Way through Forster and Tuncurry to test the performance of potential solutions, both under current traffic conditions and 10 and 20 years in the future. The opportunity to provide additional capacity across the Coolongolook River, which separates Forster and Tuncurry, was tested and found to improve travel times along The Lakes Way. However, without the intersection upgrades either side of the bridge, any potential travel time savings gained by that proposal would be lost as traffic volumes increased over time. Accordingly, it was recommended that a staged approach be considered by implementing the intersection upgrades in Forster and Tuncurry first, with the development of a future bridge upgrade occurring in parallel and implemented as a longer-term project.

Any bridge upgrade of that magnitude is a highly complex project and will require significant time to develop to ensure that all legal, environmental and safety requirements are met. The current congestion is likely to be increased with any urban release areas in both Forster and Tuncurry, and Transport for NSW is committed to working with key stakeholders to develop the best outcomes for the community.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:11): I contribute to debate on the petition tabled by the member for Myall Lakes. I thank those from the beautiful Myall Lakes area who signed the petition. It is

interesting that so far today the member for Upper Hunter read from a travel brochure and now the member for Coffs Harbour has read from a prepared script in a dismal pretence of appearing interested in a project backed by the people of Myall Lakes. Today's debate is really about The Nationals members delivering to Parliament petitions for projects in rural and regional New South Wales that never materialise. That has happened, and there is a history of it happening in the Myall Lakes electorate. The Myall Lakes community signed a petition calling for a hospital in Forster, which I will speak more about in a moment. According to the member for Upper Hunter, the council and the local Destination NSW branch back this petition for a bridge. It seems that everyone backs it, except The Nationals and the Government.

Mr David Layzell: What about the Labor Party?

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: Apparently the member for Upper Hunter does not realise that the people who signed the petition are seeking something from the Government of which he is a member. It seems odd to me that he points to everybody else who is backing this bridge but does not speak on behalf of the Government of which he is a member and from whom the petitioners are seeking a commitment to deliver the bridge they need. I am getting a description of visitors when in fact thousands of people who live in this area are keen to see this infrastructure built. From everything that we have heard today The Nationals clearly will not be delivering. They are not taking responsibility for this bridge.

The member for Myall Lakes presented another petition in this place concerning a promise he made to the people of Myall Lakes going into the last election. People relied on that promise because it was about a big issue that they and everyone living in rural and regional New South Wales were very interested in—the lack of health services. Before the 2019 election they were promised a hospital in Forster. The member for Myall Lakes has since said that it relies on the clinical services plan; that that is the first step in getting a hospital in Forster. The clinical services plan was outdated so it did not mention anything about a hospital in Forster. The commitment that was made related to an outdated plan.

Fast forward past the election, the member is re-elected on the back of a commitment and a promise to the people of Myall Lakes that he will deliver a hospital in Forster. Hunter New England Health redid its clinical services plan which does not mention a hospital in Forster, even though, according to the member for Myall Lakes, that plan was the first step to getting a hospital in Forster. The Minister for Regional Health then stepped in and said, "Ignore that. The bureaucrats don't make the decision; it's the Government. It's the politicians who make these decisions. So don't worry about that. We're still going to deliver on that promise, even though the promise was for the hospital to be delivered in this term of government."

Time is ticking by. I do not know where they will find the land for the hospital because they have not yet identified where the hospital will go. Find the land and deliver it. Good luck with that. The people of Myall Lakes have seen through the promises made by The Nationals in that area. If this issue is so important to The Nationals I suggest that they start talking to the people of Myall Lakes and deliver on the promises that they made. [*Time expired.*]

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (16:17): In contributing to debate on the petition I am honoured to assist my colleagues the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Upper Hunter and the member for Coffs Harbour. The member for Port Stephens has not been in this place for very long but she has a history. As much as I do not want to do so I will only go back a little into history. When I was first elected to this place many years ago, Michael Costa, the great Treasurer and Labor luminary, promised public transport on the North Coast. Three years later he took our train away. In 2007 when Tony Kelly was police Minister—some members may know him or know of him; I think he is appearing in court down the road somewhere—he promised me a new police station. Nothing happened for about six or seven years. It was not until after this Government came into power in 2011 that it happened.

Members opposite need to understand that there is a planning process. Recently the regional roads Minister was on the North Coast—it is a great place—announcing funding of \$316 million, in conjunction with the Federal Government, for the Betterment Fund to fix roads and old wooden bridges and to build new bridges. New bridges have been built in my electorate. The member for Myall Lakes is representing his town which is what one does as the local member. We do not listen to head office and what the party wants us to do; we are elected to listen to the local people on the ground. They pay our wages, not some Sussex Street union down the road. It is all about looking after local people and taking on board their issues.

Some of those issues take a long time to resolve. It took me close to 12 years to get a brand new hospital. In 2007 Carmel Tebbutt, who was health Minister at the time, told me, "You need a new hospital, but we've got no money. As soon as we get some money, we'll do it, but you keep fighting for it." Ms Tebbutt was a lovely lady and a good health Minister, but she failed to deliver for the people of the Tweed. Opposition members choose to forget that the member for Myall Lakes is fighting for his electorate. They follow party politics too much.

Ms Kate Washington: No, we've just been ignored for 12 years.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Yes, they do. They follow party politics otherwise Mick Veitch would be standing for the upper House.

[Opposition members interjected.]

It is all about logic. It is not what we say in this Chamber; it is what we deliver on the ground for our people. It may come as a rude shock to the Labor Party, but politics is not real. Politics is a game. Politics is smoke and mirrors. What is real are the people and their issues. The member for Myall Lakes, supported by the member for Upper Hunter, is trying to deliver services for his people. Is that bad? The member for Maitland and the member for Port Stephens seem to think that that is a terrible thing to do. It is not. That is what we were elected to do.

We were elected to deliver for our people. Some of those processes take a long time. I am probably one of the few Government members who has been on the opposition benches. Under the Labor Government, the funding tap was off. We did not exist; it was Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney. Look at the infrastructure up and down the coast. The M1 would not be where it is today. Look at the bridges, roads, playing fields, hospitals and ambulance stations. The list goes on. When I became a member of Parliament nothing happened for four years. We did not exist. The member for Maitland and the member for Port Stephens are new to this place but the member for Wyong was here in those days.

Mr David Harris: I got lots.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Yes, he got lots. He is still getting lots. I think Maitland is getting a new hospital.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: We've opened it, mate. We're just waiting for the staff.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: The member for Maitland did not get a hospital when Labor was in government.

Mr David Harris: I did. I think I got two.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: You got two.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Tweed will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: I support the people. The member for Myall Lakes is representing the people in his electorate. If members have been to Myall Lakes during the Christmas holidays they will know it is a nightmare. At Christmas time it is nearly as bad as Coffs Harbour. I support the petitioners and the member for Myall Lakes.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:22): By leave: I acknowledge the people who signed this petition. I have been to the area on numerous occasions to visit "Costa the Good"—Phil Costa who now lives at Nabiac. I will not mention "Costa the Bad". That is how we used to describe the two—Costa the Good and Costa the Bad. Phil Costa, who is a good bloke, lives in that area. Every now and then I have had the opportunity, particularly pre-COVID, to go and see him. I give a shout-out to the member for Myall Lakes. I often talk to him about his local area. I was unable to be in the Chamber for his valedictory speech. If he is watching this debate, I know he has a pretty tough journey in front of him and I send him my regards.

In politics we have a go at each other on different issues. Myall Lakes is a great place to take a boat and the member for Myall Lakes and I often talk about that. Maybe the legacy of the member for Myall Lakes will be that the Government delivered on this project. It is a significant issue. An accident on Toukley Bridge in the electorate of Wyong causes massive problems. We love our waterways. We love that we can use them for recreation and that they create a great environment to be in, but with regard to transport infrastructure they create massive challenges. It is up to governments to deliver the infrastructure and make sure it is kept up to date with growing areas. That area has grown significantly since I first visited.

The member for Maitland outlined clearly that an ongoing process has taken considerable amounts of time. I know the people who have signed this petition now want to see some action. They want to see more than just consultation and planning. The road through Wyong has been in planning for 12 years and costs \$40 million, so my heart goes out to those people who are waiting and waiting for the concrete piers to be driven into the area. Nothing is worse for a community when a tragic accident happens and people are blocked off, particularly emergency services, from getting to them. The people who signed this petition can live in hope. The funding for the road through Wyong has been announced, which is great. The construction does not start until 2024-25, but at least we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. I commend the petitioners for continuing to lobby for the project. I hope the Government has listened. I did not catch The Nationals candidate's name who is running there.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Tanya Thompson.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: Perhaps the constituents greatest chance to get the bridge built is to elect a Labor member because being in opposition for the electorate of Wyong, I have secured a new hospital, two new ambulance stations and massive road upgrades. Myall Lakes should elect a Labor member and maybe finally they will get their bridge.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (16:26): In response: I appreciate some of the thoughts from Opposition members, but to wrap up by saying that the Government delivers things for Labor members is exactly the point. We have the programs, like Fixing Country Roads, Fixing County Bridges and Fixing Local Roads, that are delivering over \$1 billion around the State. Today's petition debate focuses on a bridge at Forster linking Tuncurry. We have heard a lot about other projects. There is a lot disingenuous whingeing from Opposition members, when they have had things delivered in spades across their electorates and are trying to chuck rocks about things that are completely irrelevant to what we are talking about. When the Government does deliver things, wherever it may be, there are accusations of pork-barrelling. When we try to deliver things for regional areas, we get accused of pork-barrelling. Transport for NSW intends to keep working with the council to look at exactly how a duplicate bridge might be built. As members well know, lots of things inform how a bridge is built.

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

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: With regard to bridge options, it has been noted that there is no preferred option at this point, nor any detailed environmental analysis of impacts. Implementation would need to be done, and some Federal Government assistance would probably be needed as well. We are looking forward to seeing what happens in the Federal budget. In the meantime, as we have already heard, and as Opposition members have been sledging Government members, what they are doing is working on the existing Wallis bridge to strengthen the foundation for it to keep doing what it needs to do. At the same time as investigating, we are working with council to make sure there is an opportunity to look at what that looks like in the future.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: So where is the plan? Are you going to make it public?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: If Opposition members had been listening instead of sledging, the main work for the—

Ms Jenny Aitchison: I am not; I am asking a question.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: It is really hard to hear myself over the battle that is going on over the other side. We are developing plans with council on all of the obvious opportunities.

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

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Transport will keep working with council. Transport will keep looking for opportunities to work with local businesses and local residents to make sure that everyone is informed during the process. But the process now is to make sure that the current bridge is kept safe. There are shifting sands; there are problems around that. That will happen, and the main work to strengthen the current bridge is scheduled to commence late in 2023. That will take around 12 months to complete, and information will be provided by Transport for NSW to keep everyone involved and up to date as that happens. In the meantime, Transport also intends to work with council to further progress the investigated time frames and costs associated with duplicating the bridge. I suggest that will have great support from the community.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (16:30): In reply: The petition debate has been enjoyable, and the Government thanks the people for bringing this issue to the House. Members invoked some great former members. I thank the member for Maitland for reminding us of what a great local member John Turner was as the member for Myall Lakes. I thank the member for Port Stephens for her lesson on parliamentary process. I appreciated the patronising manner in which she delivered it. The member for Wyong obviously enjoys that beautiful part of the world and obviously enjoys the benefits of the Liberal-Nationals Government and some of the development happening in that area.

I thank the member for Coffs Harbour who gave us a lot of information. If Opposition members had listened they would have heard about some of the great work that is happening in the transport study and the work that Transport for NSW is undertaking on the future of that bridge. We encourage that work. I thank the member for Tweed for giving a good round-up of history as well. I liked his version of history much better than the version from Opposition members. The member for Dubbo reminded us of the record delivery that has happened in regional New South Wales and how well our State is doing. He reminded us of what life was like back when nothing—

Mr Geoff Provest: Sixteen long years.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: For 16 long years nothing happened under Labor. The beautiful area of Forster-Tuncurry is an area of expansion. We are looking to develop this bridge. We look for Labor to support us in that effort, and we look forward to a commitment from Labor soon.

Petition noted.

Private Members' Statements

LONDONDERRY ELECTORATE SCHOOLS

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:32): I speak about the integral role that schools and their communities play in Londonderry—the electorate that I represent. I represent a fast-growing part of western and north-western Sydney, which is home to many young families who want the very best opportunities for their children. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, and an integral part of the village is the school community of which the children are a part. From Michelle Hedge and her team at Northbourne Public School in Marsden Park, Kylie Becker and the Jordan Springs Public School staff, and Daryl Butler's team at Colyton High School, the work of principals, teachers and school learning support officers across my patch of the world provides the best educational opportunities to local students through the classroom as well as an abundance of leadership, creative and performing arts and sporting programs.

I give a special shout-out to the high schools in my electorate that have supported the class of 2022, many of whom are in the middle of their HSC exams for their final year of schooling, including Australian Christian College Marsden Park, Cambridge Park High School, Colyton High School, Kurrambee School, Montgrove College, Penrith Christian School, Penrith Valley School, Richard Johnson Anglican School in Marsden Park, St Luke's Catholic College, St Marys Senior High School, St Paul's Grammar School, The Lakes Christian College, Wollemi College and Xavier College.

In my inaugural speech in this place I spoke about education being the great equaliser—the one mechanism that truly has the power to circumvent generations of poverty, disadvantage and injustice. In the eight years since my election to this place—I am now proudly the shadow Minister for Education—I believe this more than ever, working alongside schools to improve the lives of students and families. However, this current New South Wales Government has only made it harder for families in the Londonderry electorate to find and attend local, high-quality public schools.

After promising a high school to these communities on the eve of the last election, the Government has delayed Marsden Park High School year after year. Instead, it sends children from new estates such as Elara, in Marsden Park, across Richmond Road to Riverstone High School. Anyone who knows this area would be aware that getting across that road in the morning—in fact, at any time of day—is a mission in itself. I have spoken ad nauseum in this Parliament about the tooth-and-nail fight by the Jordan Springs community to get a primary school, which it was promised and to which it was entitled. The Liberal-Nationals Government is now refusing to even acknowledge the need for a high school in this growing suburb. I still do not understand where it thinks those children are going to go once they graduate from year 6.

Ropes Crossing Public School is the most over-capacity school in New South Wales. Yet again, the Government has failed to allocate funding for a much-needed upgrade for a number of years. This means that surrounding schools are becoming overcrowded—and who is it that suffers? It is our students and teachers. It is such a shame that it is commonplace in my part of the world to have to fight for the basic services and infrastructure that people expect government to provide, and which the Government promised them. Unfortunately, it is one of the things that unites these new communities I represent. They have to fight for something they have been promised. They are promised things with great fanfare, as the Marsden Park community was with the high school. But a full parliamentary term after that was promised, they still do not have the school.

It does not take a genius to work out that people move into these communities and have babies who grow up to become primary school-age children. Where do those children go to high school? It is almost farcical. This afternoon I recognise the local families and students who get involved in local community campaigns to force the Government to take action and build these local schools. So many local community members are active in lobbying this Government to take us seriously. It is those dedicated and passionate community members who are fighting for a brighter future for students. They are dragging this Government kicking and screaming into action. My message to those communities is that Labor believes everyone should have access to high-quality education, and we are committed to delivering it across western Sydney and the State.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (16:37): The member for Londonderry is quite correct: Rapid growth is going on in that part of the world, as it is in the neighbouring electorate of Riverstone. That growth is being met by extraordinary spending in education. The Government has committed \$8.6 billion in the current four-year cycle to new and upgraded schools, on top of the \$7 billion-plus in the last cycle. Billions of dollars

have gone into education at an unprecedented rate in New South Wales—a rate the Labor Party could only dream of. I join the member in wanting it all done yesterday—wanting it sooner, faster and better—but we are all on the same team. We are striving as hard as we can to provide for our school students in New South Wales.

PENRITH PACEWAY SITE

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith) (16:38): Today I speak on an issue that is very disturbing to me and of great concern to the Penrith community: the future of the Penrith Paceway site. While this issue does have some impact on the delivery of a future multi-sport entertainment venue in the heart of the Penrith CBD, it is fundamentally an issue of inappropriate overdevelopment in Penrith. In the past I have spoken in this Chamber about a deal between the Penrith Paceway and a secret developer. Today I can reveal that the secret developer is a company called Capital Corporation, based in Double Bay. The Penrith Paceway is listed on the Capital Corporation website as the "joint venture partner" for "Rezoning and Masterplanning of the current Penrith Paceway site."

It is fair to say that the cat is out of the bag, and that management of the Penrith Paceway has always had a clear intention to leave the site and turn it over to developers to build apartments. What does this development look like? It has been reported that the development is proposed to have up to 3,000 apartments. Yes, members heard that correctly: 3,000 apartments. Those apartments will be housed in 34 towers of up to 22 storeys high, with most apparently over 12 storeys high. It is a completely inappropriate development. It is the textbook definition of overdevelopment. I will do everything I can to prevent this abomination from being a permanent scar on the Penrith CBD.

There is an even more disturbing element to the secret development pact between the paceway and those eastern suburbs developers. The site is currently zoned for recreation uses. To be specific, it has an RE2 zoning. Under the legislation, permissible uses of that zoning include recreation facilities both indoor and outdoor, including things like stadiums or harness racing tracks, restaurants, cafes and kiosks. To build 3,000 apartments on the paceway site, the land zoning would have to be changed to one that allowed for higher density residential development. We have established that this is the paceway's plan, in partnership with the developer. To be clear, that means the paceway has no intention of staying on its current site.

I thank Penrith City Council for being clear about the inappropriate nature of this 3,000 apartment development. At a recent Penrith council meeting, a motion was passed that supported the new stadium in Penrith and not rezoning the paceway for high-rise development. However, I was shocked to see that the motion did not receive unanimous support. The vote of 11-4 was a strong result. But who voted in favour of the high-rise development on the paceway site? It was none other than Labor's Karen McKeown. Councillor McKeown opposed the motion and supported the rezoning of the site, supported by three other Labor councillors. In fact, all non-Labor councillors supported the motion, ensuring that the paceway site will not be rezoned for high-rise development.

I was not the only one shocked by that. Labor supporters have contacted me aghast at this decision. If Labor councillors really want those towers so much, I will name them in their honour. Let this development forever be known as the McKeown Towers. What would the marketing brochure say? "McKeown Towers: 34 towers up to 22 storeys high, right in the heart of Penrith CBD". That sounds truly appalling to me. I will be asking the people of Penrith to join me in the fight against this overdevelopment. There is a better way. Let us keep the paceway site for recreation, tourism, entertainment and hospitality by replacing the old harness racing track with a new stadium.

The New South Wales Government can help the paceway relocate to another site in the Penrith local government area so it can continue its rich history as an agricultural, horticultural and industrial society as well as a harness racing club. To be clear, and for the avoidance of doubt, that means the New South Wales Government providing funding to the paceway for the relocation of its paceway and operations. The paceway has been part of the Penrith community for 170 years, and I want it to be successful for another 170 years. First and foremost, however, we must stop the inappropriate development. Given we have such an obvious alternative that is consistent with the current uses of the site, it might just be time to say stadiums before towers on the Penrith Paceway.

COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:43): The New South Wales Government is proudly delivering transformative and timely major projects across the Coffs Coast that will bring significant economic and social benefits for many years to come. The Coffs Harbour bypass, for example, is taking a major step forward, with the detailed design close to being finalised as the Ferrovial-Gamuda joint venture starts geotechnical work ahead of construction in early 2023. Over the next six months, teams will be drilling more than 300 boreholes and excavating dozens of test pits within the project alignment to verify ground conditions. We are well on our way

towards seeing major construction start next year, with these works helping us better understand the terrain for when shovels hit the ground. This is one of the main steps in informing the final design ahead of major construction early next year.

The Ferrovial-Gamuda joint venture was awarded the \$1.35 billion major works contract in June 2022. There is no doubt the Coffs Harbour bypass will be a game changer for the daily lives of local residents and commuters travelling through our city. The 14-kilometre bypass will include three tunnels at major ridgelines, three key interchanges, access roads and a new bus interchange at Kororo Public School. This key piece of infrastructure connecting Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane—the biggest infrastructure project in the city's history—will result in wider economic benefits for the Coffs Harbour area by making the central business district a more attractive place to visit, shop and work. The boreholes will vary in depth between four metres and 70 metres. Each site will take between two and seven days to drill and reinstate, depending on weather conditions and access. The bypass is jointly funded by the Australian and New South Wales governments to the tune of \$2.2 billion. I encourage people to visit the Pacific Highway upgrade website for further details.

Elsewhere on the Coffs Coast our local community will be a beneficiary with the completion of a major milestone in a \$13 million project to transform maritime facilities at Coffs Harbour. The installation of a new travel lift will deliver a range of benefits for commercial and private vessels as well as members of our community. The travel lift enables 75-tonne vessels, such as commercial fishing boats, cruisers and catamarans, to be lifted out of the water and maintained in an environmentally controlled area, which will minimise the risk of contaminants entering the waterway. The \$13 million Coffs Harbour Marine Precinct Project will deliver improved safety and accessibility for all boating enthusiasts and commercial vessels while reducing environmental impacts. The New South Wales Government's commitment to invest in updating maritime infrastructure makes access to waterways easier and safer for all vessels and watercraft users. Facilities such as these encourage tourism, which in turn delivers an economic stimulus to local communities.

The travel lift was put through final testing and commissioning and was ready for operation as recently as last week. This new equipment will reduce the need for the use of heavy equipment as it can move larger vessels, making servicing commercial and private boats safer and more efficient. Two key projects, construction of a new boat maintenance facility, which now includes the travel lift, and the expansion of the government agency marina have already been delivered as part of the New South Wales Government's \$205 million Maritime Infrastructure Stimulus Program to improve and modernise maritime facilities. Other key projects to be delivered in this program of works will include a new Maritime Operation Centre and the installation of an unleaded vessel refuelling facility for public and government agency use. I believe that is the first of its kind in regional New South Wales. These two projects, particularly the bypass, are transforming Coffs Harbour into a thriving regional city. I am excited to see where our city will be and what it will look like when it is bypassed.

TEACHING PROFESSION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:47): It is well known that before I became a member of Parliament I was schoolteacher. I still stand by the fact that it is the greatest job I have ever had. I give a shout-out to all the teachers and everybody who goes into teaching. It is a profession where one makes an impression on people's lives every day. A while back I met with teacher representatives from my local schools, independent and public. This week I am looking forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Punchbowl Public School. I will talk about the challenges faced by teachers, for whom we need to do a lot better. I discovered only recently that in the past 10 years there has been a 30 per cent reduction in the number of people entering teaching courses at universities. That is a problem to begin with, given that we have an expanding population. But the real concern is that of those, 50 per cent do not graduate. Fewer people are undertaking teaching courses and only half of those students graduate. That is a real problem when one considers the natural expansion of the population.

In recent times, more teachers are leaving the service than there are teachers retiring. That is also a problem because the single greatest contributor to learning outcomes is the teacher. We need to ensure that we have enough teachers for all of our schools and students, including specialist teachers, well-trained teachers and teachers who go to work every day knowing that they are making a genuine difference and are being supported. Obviously, the teacher representatives from the Independent Education Union and the NSW Teachers Federation spoke to me about the challenges they are facing. We know that a lot of industrial action is taking place at the moment. Teachers do not like to take industrial action and they do not do it lightly, but they are at breaking point. They cannot do much more.

I catch up regularly with my best friends, who are all teachers, and speak regularly with former colleagues who are school principals and they all say it is much more difficult now. The biggest difficulty is not having enough staff. They talk about merged classes and collapsed classes. They talk about not being able to cover for teachers who are absent. Under the euphemism "minimal supervision", students are not learning. We talk about a reduction in student outcomes but part of that is because we do not have enough teachers. We have to ask why is

such a noble profession struggling? It is simply because conditions are just not good enough anymore. The cost of living bites exceptionally hard but the impact of the workload means that teachers are not able to teach. The amount of paperwork they have is an additional burden and problematic and the best people are leaving the profession, not because they do not want to teach but because so many obstacles are being put in their way.

It is easy to dismiss this as whingeing about the union but, in reality, it is what day-to-day life is for teachers. At every graduation day I attend, I encourage kids to become teachers and nurses because I believe they are the most noble professions. I do not get as much take-up as I used to. We have to address this matter and take more seriously the conditions that teachers face. We can give teachers the plaudits and say how fantastic they were during COVID—and they were, like all essential workers—but we need them to stay in the profession. Over the weekend Labor announced a great policy to make sure that 10,000 temporary teacher positions are converted to permanent positions. It will give those teachers certainty and permanency so that they can plant roots.

We have to stem the tide of teachers leaving the profession before we start building up teachers coming into the system. We have a teaching crisis. I am not making a bombastic statement; that is the reality. I know what teachers are going through and I know there are some ridiculous ideas. Let us make sure we get teachers into the classroom, that young people want to be teachers, that people are retraining to become teachers, that we pay them properly, that we respect them, that we hear their voice and that we give them much more than thanks.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (16:52): I confirm that the member for Lakemba knows something about teaching and is genuine when talking about the demands of the profession. The workload issues are real and need to be understood, worked through and remedied, where possible. I accept the compliment that Labor has paid to the Government by adopting the 10,000 permanent positions policy. It was trialled last year and the Government is committed to that project in 2023. So we are on a unity ticket on that front.

JACARANDA PRESCHOOL CARINGBAH DIRECTOR LOUISE MURFET

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (16:53): I am sure most of us remember someone in our childhood who stands out as a special part of our time learning. For many in the Cronulla electorate, those memories are of a special woman who is retiring this year. Louise Murfet is finishing up as Director of Jacaranda Preschool Caringbah after 30 years. Before that, for 15 years she was director of Cinderella Preschool Mascot. She has influenced the lives of thousands of children in her 45 years in early childhood education. Many parents, such as me, are thankful to Louise when their children entered the centre on their first day. There was Louise's reassuring presence, leading her wonderful team of educators.

Louise was thrown into the deep end when she joined the industry untrained after working in secretarial accountancy. She says they gave her the job because she could do the wages and gained her qualifications as one of the first to complete a childcare certificate through TAFE. Louise has steered Jacaranda through funding and regulation challenges as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic brought with it the big shock of parents being unable to come into the centre. When she started out, Louise found herself in a preschool room on her own, with the only support being a church helper, who would give her a hand with the washing-up. Early childhood education has come a long way in the years since, and Louise has found the introduction of regulations to be the biggest and best thing to happen in her time.

Jacaranda Preschool is now a centre with a strong reputation, backed up by a National Quality Standard rating of "exceeding" in all seven quality areas measured. As well as being much loved among families in the community as a teacher, Louise is also highly valued for her work with colleagues across the profession to improve preschool education. She has been passionate about the role of early childhood education because, as she says, children learn more in their first three to five years than they do for the rest of their lives. In her spare time, she has been a mentor to the directors of other community-based preschools in the shire. For a large part of her 30 years at Jacaranda, she has facilitated bringing together and supporting directors of shire preschools. She has helped many of these directors with solutions for staffing and complying with regulations, innovative programming and coaching on applying for government community grants.

Development of highly skilled leaders in community-based early education is extremely important to Louise. In 2021, recognising that she would soon be retiring and wanting the culture of director peer support to continue, Louise was a lead facilitator in establishing the Sutherland Shire Preschool Alliance, helping to shepherd its incorporation and providing guidance to the younger directors taking leadership roles. As we would expect, after her years teaching and guiding so many children and partnering with so many parents and fellow educators, Louise has valuable experience to share. She once wrote:

Parenting preschoolers is not an easy business. How often is the first thought, when we see our children, not one of joy of their presence in our lives, but how they look or act. We need to think back to our own childhood and remember how it felt when we saw our parent for the first time after school. What did they say and how did it make us feel? To build resilient children they need to

understand that they might not always be the best, the first, or get what they want, and our job is to help children develop that resilience within themselves.

Now that everyone knows Louise is retiring, it is lovely to see people taking the time to pay tribute to her. For example, there are these tributes on Jacaranda Preschool's Facebook page: From Jayne, "An absolute advocate for ALL. Huge shoes to fill, grateful for all that you have done for the community and our family." From Nerida, "Wow. There are so many children in the Sutherland Shire who have been guided by Louise." And from Kellie: "I have very special memories from Jacaranda, Louise was always kind and understanding."

Louise says seeing the children arrive at the centre has always given her a big buzz and saying goodbye to them will be sad. She is looking to having more time to travel and visit her daughter overseas. But I understand that, ever the passionate educator, she will be continuing to support community-based centres in the shire as a contact for many of the directors and, not surprisingly, that she is in great demand from local preschools to be part of their management. I thank Louise for her extensive contribution to early childhood education and the community generally and extend my very best wishes to her on her retirement. As the Jacaranda Preschool celebrates 70 years of service this year, Louise Mufet leaves a legacy, not only for the preschool but also for the whole Sutherland shire community.

COTTER FAMILY

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (16:58): Monaro is renowned for its vast and diverse natural landscapes, from its rolling plains to its stunning snow-clad mountains, and Kosciuszko National Park with its bush splendour, historic remnants and awe-inspiring views. Some of the other stunning nature reserves are equally as wonderful, though not as well known. The Tinderry Nature Reserve is one. The highest and most spectacular section of the Tinderry Range forms its backbone. It is overlooked by the commanding Tinderry and Tinderry Twin peaks, rising abruptly from the undulating hills of Michelago, cleared save for the huge and abundant granite monoliths that feature throughout. Notable families of the earliest years of European Michelago include the Kellys, Shanahans, Lawlers, McTernans and the Cotters. On 5 November 2022, one of those families will celebrate 200 years of Australian residency. Descendants of Garrett Cotter will gather on family farmland at Michelago to share their stories and memories and to acknowledge their rich heritage.

The Cotter name is synonymous with our region: A local river, a valley, a gap and the ACT's newest dam all bear this historic name. Rather than a simple tribute to a local pioneer, there was much more to the story behind this 20-year-old Irish convict. Garrett Cotter was born in 1802 to peasant farmers in County Cork, Ireland. British penal laws had denied Catholic families like the Cotters the vote, education, and any chance to own land and major assets. Young men like Garrett Cotter dreamed of both vengeance and reform. In the end, this young man's "crime" was a much-trodden path. On a brooding night, mid-January 1822, Cotter, in concert with others, descended on the home of another local who was collecting exorbitant rents. The plan was for him to be intimidated into going on strike until better conditions were secured for the tenants. Although this was agreed to, the plan went awry when the group ran into a military patrol. They were charged with what was known as Whiteboyism—deemed part of a secret agrarian society that defended tenant-farmer land rights. Cotter was condemned to death. His stroke of luck was that the sentence commuted to transportation for life.

Assigned to Mr John Warby of Airds—today's Campbelltown—in 1824, Garrett Cotter eventually was transferred to Francis Kenny, moving to a 120-acre grant on the north-east shore of Lake George at the very edge of Monaro. During this period, Cotter became an expert stockman. A strong oral tradition within the Cotter family has Cotter befriending a local Aboriginal leader, Onyong. Onyong is said to have saved Francis Kenny's valuable stock during a drought around 1827 by leading Cotter across the Murrumbidgee to good natural pasture around what is now the lower Cotter River. From this, the pair were said to have established a strong and enduring bond. It was here Cotter established himself a rough existence. This would be interrupted in 1832 when he was accused of horse stealing. Found not guilty on that charge, he was in strife for knocking the bloke who delivered the warrant for his arrest off his horse. For that, Cotter was banished "Beyond the Limits of Location". This would be the Murrumbidgee area at Tantangara, where now they toil on one of the greatest renewable energy projects of our time: Snowy Hydro 2.0.

Garrett married Ann Russell in Cooma in 1841. Their first child was born the following year. Not too long after, the Cotters settled in Michelago. He had become a respected squatter and one whose name is now firmly entrenched in local folklore. Garrett Cotter died in 1886. He was buried in the soil of the Monaro, which helped him prosper, at Michelago. Truly a tale embodying Australian pioneering history, from convict, to settler—and one positively intertwined with the ancient peoples of this land—after two centuries, it reverberates still. From his own family of nine children, the Cotter descendants today are many. I wish them all the best for their upcoming celebrations on what is still their family land on the plains of Michelago, overlooked by the magnificent Tinderry Range. Finally, a huge thankyou to my friend and fellow historian Richard Begbie for his detailed work in

researching such a valuable part of the Monaro's history and whose words helped form this private member's statement today.

STRATHFIELD ELECTORATE SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (17:02): There are about 18,000 small businesses in my electorate of Strathfield; businesses with fewer than 20 employees. My dad was a small businessman. He wanted to do something productive for Australia, a country to which he came as a student. He established a small manufacturing business that built fire protection and evacuation systems for buildings. When I was a boy, I loved visiting the factory where my dad worked. I remember the grit, the concrete floor covered with metal shavings and the smell of the soldering irons. But Dad had a tough time in business. He competed against larger corporations that would take the more lucrative servicing contracts while squeezing smaller contractors, only paying them months later. Some would deliberately put their companies under so they could wipe out debts to subcontractors like my dad, and then phoenix their businesses. Dad often had to use factoring companies to pay bills. He personally visited his customers to plead with them to pay him on time.

When business was bad, Dad would pay everyone except himself. He was always focused on making payroll, acutely aware that his staff depended on him to pay their mortgages and feed their families. Many small businesses in my electorate are owned and run by migrants. With few contacts, often poor English and unrecognised foreign qualifications, many migrants struggle to find meaningful, secure work. So they hang a shingle and start their own businesses—restaurants, couriers, laundromats, cleaning companies and grocery stores. In today's rapidly changing landscape of work, many others are also striking out on their own. They become consultants, sole traders and small business owners. Many start side hustles to make ends meet or chase their dreams. Some just want to build something great.

Every day, small business owners face down large ruthless competitors and often crushing government regulation. For the past two years they have had to cope with the devastating COVID lockdowns. The statistics are daunting: Only one in three small businesses survive the first three years—and that was before COVID. Small business was ravaged by the pandemic. In the darkest days of lockdowns, local shopping strips were graveyards for small businesses. Many have still not recovered. Small business is hard. Now small businesses face challenges such as rising costs, rampant inflation, supply chain disruption and staff shortages, often with battered and bruised post-pandemic balance sheets. Our economy risks losing the grassroots diversity, dynamism and egalitarianism that those businesses bring. That is why we must continue to support the small businesses of New South Wales as we emerge from the pandemic.

How do we provide small businesses with the skilled labour they need to grow, innovate and thrive? How does government play a larger and clearer role in supporting small businesses through the power of government procurement? How do we provide targeted, strategic demand and cashflow support in a highly uncertain economic and operating environment with soaring inflation? Cashflow is the lifeblood of small business. How do we make it easier for small businesses to do business by removing regulatory and bureaucratic barriers—barriers to attracting and retaining staff; barriers to winning and keeping customers? Sometimes there are very local solutions like ensuring small businesses have sufficient customer parking or adequate customer access; sometimes it is simply by ensuring that migrant owners of small businesses can access important information in languages other than English.

How does the State co-invest with Australia's most experienced and successful venture capital funds in high-potential entrepreneurs, not only to support their success, but also to create value for New South Wales taxpayers? More broadly, how do we create a truly dynamic and innovative ecosystem in New South Wales where government is in partnership with entrepreneurs, researchers, industry and venture finance? How do we rekindle and bolster our export industries as the world reopens after the pandemic? How do we involve the people who are best placed to help navigate trade in overseas markets—that is, our diverse multicultural communities?

As we seek to discover and forge new low-carbon, low-emissions industries such as hydrogen and renewables, how do we make sure that not only big business but also small business can share in that success? How do we break open and distribute the value chains of those new industries so that small businesses can get a piece of them? Indeed, to find solutions to those questions through policymaking and decision-making, we should involve more small business owners. Small business comprises a third of our economy and is our biggest commercial employer. It should become a key pillar of our State and nation's strategy and a platform for building future economic prosperity.

OATLEY ELECTORATE PROJECTS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (17:07): I inform members of the House of the fantastic work that is taking place in the electorate of Oatley. Alongside the

Government I am working hard to deliver real change for locals to make our area the best place to live, work and raise a family. I have called this area home all my life. Throughout my time in the St George area, I have seen it go from strength to strength thanks to investment from the Government. Having attended the local schools, I understand the importance of quality local education. Over the past 11 years we have delivered a wide range of upgrades to local schools in my electorate. Penshurst Public School has significantly benefited, receiving over \$45 million in 2019 to completely redevelop the existing facilities. Penshurst Public School now stands as a crowning achievement in the local area, ensuring that local kids have access to the best possible education in New South Wales.

Penshurst West Public School has also seen major upgrades over the past seven years, receiving \$8.8 million to build seven brand new classrooms. The development was completed in 2020 and has been warmly received by both students and staff. Penshurst West Public School is just one of many fantastic schools in my local area and I am proud of the educational opportunities that are available to kids. Members of the community frequently raise the issues of parking and congestion. The delivery of two brand new commuter carparks to Riverwood and Beverly Hills will tackle the issue of parking for those suburbs, providing convenient access to local hubs like shops and railway stations. Both carparks are multistorey, featuring 140 additional parking spaces in Riverwood and over 200 additional parking spaces in Beverly Hills. Commuters utilising those carparks will also have access to electric vehicle chargers and Opal-operated boom gates, which will provide free parking for those catching the train. We have also ensured that safety is a top priority for locals who use the facilities by installing extensive CCTV camera coverage at both carparks, alongside increased lighting. We are so excited that those projects are being delivered to Riverwood and Beverly Hills. I look forward to their official openings.

The widening of King Georges Road has been a top priority for many years. Recently the New South Wales Government committed an additional \$30.2 million towards the project as a part of the 2022-23 State budget. The upgrades will provide three lanes in both directions and dedicated right-hand turning bays to increase safety. Construction is well underway and is expected to be completed by late 2024. The upgrades will decrease congestion and travel times for motorists in the local area and improve safety on that major road. The community has called for those upgrades for many years, so I am thrilled the project is off the ground. It is a great win for the local community and I thank everyone who backed our campaign. Congestion-busting projects like those help people to get where they need to go sooner and safer, so they can spend less time on the road and more time with their family and friends.

Finally, I acknowledge the success of the Return and Earn program in my electorate. The Return and Earn centre at Peakhurst is one of many reverse vending machines in our local area. The Peakhurst site, which provides six indoor machines in an air-conditioned facility, has had high levels of community engagement. Nearly 3.5 million containers were returned to the facility in less than 18 months. My community has wholeheartedly embraced the Return and Earn scheme—a scheme that I mentioned in my first years in Parliament. Local residents are doing their part to protect our beautiful environment from plastic waste, and that goes a long way. Those are just some of the many projects that are underway in the electorate of Oatley, and there is a pipeline of more important community projects to come. I am excited to see the real benefits that those significant infrastructure projects will bring to my community. I look forward to updating the House on their progress in future.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:12): On 13 August the City of Liverpool and District Historical Society held the fifty-fourth annual Ward and Olive Harvard Memorial Lecture. The society, established in 1959, has made the Ward and Olive Harvard Memorial Lecture a regular Liverpool event—though the pandemic caused two postponements to this particular lecture. The founding society president was Ward Harvard. He and Olive Harvard were central figures in the development of the society and its work. They were both impressive local historians and long-term members of the Royal Australian Historical Society. The guest speaker at the 2022 lecture was Dr Andrew Moore, who is well known for his work on right-wing extremism in Australia such as both the Old Guard and the New Guard in his book *The Secret Army and The Premier: Conservative Paramilitary Organisations in New South Wales*, which I first read many years ago.

He is also the author of a very good biography of Francis de Groot and has an interest in early Irish political rebels who were sent to Australia—a matter of considerable historical interest to Liverpool. Additionally, he has written on the history of sport in Australia, particularly rugby league, and he makes no secret of what I would regard as a melancholic attachment to the North Sydney Bears. The lecture he delivered to the Liverpool society was entitled *The history of motor racing at Warwick Farm: 1960-1973*. Appropriately, the venue for the lecture was Warwick Farm Racecourse. The lecture was based on his book entitled *Aintree Down Under: Warwick Farm and the Golden Age of Australian Motor Sport*. Aintree refers to a motor racing circuit near Liverpool in England, upon which parts of the Warwick Farm motor racing track were based.

The focus is on the period 1960 to 1973, when motor racing was conducted at the Warwick Farm racetrack, owned and administered by the Australian Jockey Club [AJC]. Moore is an unashamed motorsport enthusiast and, indeed, in his younger years attended the motor racing at Warwick Farm and was also a flag marshal. Warwick Farm had been part of Liverpool's sporting culture for many decades prior to motor racing. Back in the 1880s William Forrester and then William Long established a horseracing stable at Warwick Farm. The name Warwick Farm came from Forrester, who wanted it to rhyme with his initials. Forrester, I think, is a descendent of Robert Forrester, an early European settler on the Hawkesbury. In 1794 he became the first man in Australia to appear before a court inquiry into the murder of an Aboriginal person.

Motor racing came to Warwick Farm in 1960. There is a sense of motor racing always being at Warwick Farm under sufferance of the AJC. At a venue run by the AJC, equestrian events would always be more important than cars, and certainly the elites of horseracing were always going to be thought to be more important than the loud western suburbs supporters of motor racing. Although, as Moore points out, part of what happened at Warwick Farm is that to some extent motor racing became middle-classed. There was no denying its popularity at its peak, however, and it is an important piece of Sydney's cultural history. A race in 1961 at Warwick Farm had an official attendance of 65,000, with a suggestion that 30,000 more could have snuck through the fence. That is dramatically greater than the largest previous attendance at Warwick Farm for horseracing. In the 1960s the numbers at Warwick Farm had the largest attendances at any sporting event in Sydney—larger than at horseracing or at rugby league matches. As Moore writes:

In the 1960s, motor racing was close to the core of popular culture in Australia.

While Moore certainly provides a history of motor racing at Warwick Farm, he is also keen to locate it within the economic and social developments of the time. He has some interesting vignettes. Talking of the period 1968, he notes that flower power stickers were featured on Peter Geoghegan's Mustang GTA, which I would have thought at best counterintuitive. He also manages to dispatch some historical figures with alacrity. He has some scathing and appropriate comments about the infamous Earl Haig, especially over the Third Battle of Ypres. The first open race meeting in 1960 saw the circuit officially opened by the vice chairman of the AJC and Gough Whitlam's father-in-law, Mr Justice Dovey. Moore also appropriately notes the connection of part of the land to Michael Dwyer, a significant Irish rebel.

But he gets all the significant stuff, including the quite important Tasman Championship, together with the Australian Grand Prix in 1963, 1967 and 1971 and the Australian Touring Car Championship in 1968. The drivers, some of whose names still resonate, are all there: Frank Matich, the Geoghegans, Norm Beechey, Allan Moffat, Bob Jane, Jack Brabham and Jackie Stewart; and also perhaps those not so successful but just as enthusiastic, such as Herb Taylor, a long-term Liverpool local who was present at the lecture. The various organisations are explained: the AJC, the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport and the Australian Automobile Racing Club. The story of the bureaucratic infighting between those is reminiscent of factional fights in political parties.

One particularly significant figure in the story is Geoffrey Sykes, who was known variously as Mr Motor Racing and St Geoffrey of Warwick Farm. An allegedly archetypal Englishman from the southern counties, he is described as unflappable, urbane, erudite, courtly and competent. He is an unlikely hero for Warwick Farm, but that is how he emerges from the book. An interesting contrast is made by Moore between motorsport and motor racing. The more commercialised and professional it became, the more it moved away from being a sport. The sport was based on grassroots engagement and individual passion. As Moore writes:

Individuals' passions and loyalties confer legitimacy more than a financial spreadsheet. In the final resort, that the Farm promoted motor sport as much as motor racing, veterans of 1960-1973 would argue, is why Warwick Farm was special.

This is an interesting and important aspect of Liverpool's past and Sydney's cultural history.

WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE TRANSPORT SERVICES

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (17:17): Isolation—the memories that this word conjures up will differ for each person, but after the COVID lockdowns it is certainly not a pleasant concept. Yet that is what many people in my electorate continue to feel, for a different reason. Wollondilly is a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family and retire. The vast array of employment opportunities, the proximity to Sydney or Canberra from the north and south of the electorate, the space to breathe and the beautiful communities are all attractive reasons to call Wollondilly home. However, a significant drawback is causing many difficulties for members of my electorate: the lack of transport options. The rising cost of fuel and the extra kilometres people living regionally must travel certainly make public transport an attractive option. At least, it would if there was any reliability to the public transport in Wollondilly.

The Southern Highlands train line, which should operate as a connection between our area and Sydney, is unreliable at best. In 2004, under the previous hard Labor Government, the line was leased to the Australian Rail Track Corporation for \$1, putting the people of Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands last. The privatisation of

this line means that freight trains are prioritised, and the NSW TrainLink passenger trains are frequently delayed. This is more than just an inconvenience; it means that passengers travelling to Sydney miss their connecting trains at Campbelltown. When trains run frequently, a slight delay is not so detrimental, but when people must rely on a service that only runs every hour or so, a delay can mean the frustration of all their plans. Elderly constituents have informed me that they cannot rely on the trains to get to a doctor's appointment in Sydney but have to spend valuable money on fuel to drive instead. This is not a viable option for many in my electorate and should not be the only method of reliable transportation.

The aging demographic is not the only one affected by the transport in Wollondilly. For some children within my electorate, trying to get to school on time each morning is a feat in itself, rendering them late to school every day. We also have young people who study at the University of Wollongong and travel from Picton to the university via Picton Road, a notorious stretch that teens are having to drive regularly—quite a daunting prospect. If one wanted to get to the university via train, one would first have to take the train to Campbelltown and then catch a connecting bus service to Wollongong—a trip that takes approximately two hours. This is clearly a very limiting factor for local students who are not able to drive and therefore do not have easy access to a university.

Wollondilly is growing and the infrastructure needs to grow with it. The community is rightly frustrated with more cars, trucks, and motorbikes on poorly maintained roads. My electorate needs more train services to run on a consistent timetable to meet the existing and growing demand. The commuters in my electorate would then be able to enjoy a metropolitan-style train service or something that at least bears a resemblance to it. At present, that is not the case. I have yet to mention the buses in my electorate. While Sydney is living in the future, with the previous budget deploying a fleet of electric buses, in my electorate there are not enough bus services to meet demand and get cars off the road.

The need for better transport in Wollondilly cannot be ignored any longer. The 2019 budget promised rapid bus transport options for Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. The aim was to investigate new rapid public transport options to connect communities in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands with Sydney's electrified rail network. New routes were to be explored, including Bargo, Picton and Wilton to Campbelltown, as well as Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong to Campbelltown. This budget commitment is yet to be realised. I call upon Ministers Elliott and Faraway to deliver on the promise to provide rapid transport to my frustrated and neglected Wollondilly and Southern Highlands constituents. Put simply, we need better public transport, and we need it now.

MEMBER FOR BANKSTOWN

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (17:22): "There is almost nothing more futile than a politician without conviction." Those words were the very first words I spoke in this Chamber, and I stand by them. As the member for Bankstown I have an overriding obligation to act in the best interests of my community and the people of New South Wales. In good conscience I will not sit idly by in silence while the NSW Labor machine at Sussex Street actively endorses a candidate for the 2023 State election of the ilk of Khal Asfour. To begin with, I correct the record. Late on Wednesday 21 September, the day after I delivered my speech, the Leader of the Opposition asked me to meet with him and his chief of staff, James Cullen. I brought with me the member for Fairfield, Guy Zangari. At that meeting no questions were asked about the matters raised in my speech. I was asked only about how we should proceed, with the Leader of the Opposition advising me that he had spoken to Asfour and that he had agreed with Asfour's suggestion of self-investigating the matters and self-referring to ICAC.

I made my view known to the Labor leader that I did not believe that Mayor Asfour organising his own investigation was the best way forward. We agreed to discuss the matter again at a later stage. On Thursday morning I received a phone call from the Labor leader making it clear that should I wish to stay in the shadow Cabinet, I could not raise any further matters under parliamentary privilege and that I was to consider the proposal. A few hours later I received a text from the Labor leader asking me if I had made my decision at a time when I was being snowballed with unrelated media inquiries. The next morning I received a phone call from 2GB producers asking if I would like to respond on radio, given I had just been sacked from the shadow Cabinet. The spin to the media on that day, and in the days after, suggested that Asfour had somehow been exonerated by ICAC. If that is the case, the Labor leader should table those documents in Parliament.

Contrary to media reports and the Labor leader's transcript from Friday 23 September, the idea that the matter closed 10 years ago is wrong. It is an ongoing matter. The Bankstown City Centre Master Plan was only adopted by council in September last year and submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for gateway determination in March this year. It is still under assessment and has not even come back for a gateway determination. Clause 6.12 of the Bankstown city centre planning proposal seeks to increase the maximum floor space ratio from five to one to 5.3 to one, up to a maximum floor space ratio of 5.8 to one. That clause adds 50 per cent additional floor space for any employment-generating uses.

Interestingly, only three sites have been given that extraordinary opportunity. The first is Bankstown Central, which is the largest employer in the Bankstown CBD; the second is the Compass Centre, which will house the new council building; and—surprise, surprise—the third lucky site is The Bellevue Venue, which has been awarded the highest zoning category, with a master plan of 25 storeys and a substantial increase to the floor space ratio. The car park adjacent to The Bellevue Venue, which the owners previously attempted to purchase, has also been rendered open space by the council. Current and former shareholders of Redpoc Pty Ltd, which owns the site, include Eddie Obeid; his son Paul Obeid; his son-in-law Hassam Achie; Wally Wehbe; and Linda Kafroumi, the wife of Remy Wehbe, who is the Georges Hall Labor Party branch president. One must question what exactly is so special about The Bellevue Venue site, other than the identities of its owners and their special relationship with Asfour.

Our party has been plagued by the Obeid factor for way too long. Asfour is an Obeid acolyte and should have never been allowed to be endorsed on the upper House Labor ticket. In my inaugural speech I made an earnest and unequivocal commitment to represent the best interests of my community and New South Wales. I cannot, and will not, be bought or silenced, not even for my seat. People expect and deserve no less. I will continue to serve the interests of the people of the broader Bankstown community. I am disappointed that Labor has not learnt from Nathan Rees' warning that "NSW Labor must never again allow a small cabal of self-interested individuals to control the fate of a great party." Clearly, the New South Wales Labor Party has not cleaned up its act and it is not ready to govern. As a consequence, I will be resigning from the Labor Party. I am left with no other choice.

EGG PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:27): The Sydney electorate is home to a large number of committed animal welfare supporters. Many of my constituents are disappointed by the 2036 deadline to end the use of battery cages in Australia's poultry industry, as set in the recent Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. I join their call for the New South Wales Government to lead the way among the States and expedite the phase-out of battery cages as soon as possible. Like my constituents, I strongly oppose factory farming and the continued use of battery cages. This abhorrent practice sees hens confined to a space smaller than an A4 piece of paper for their entire lives. They are stacked in enormous sheds with tens of thousands of other birds and are unable to perform their basic natural behaviours, such as roosting, nesting, foraging and dust bathing. Birds cannot go outside to breathe fresh air or see sunlight, and suffer severe health problems, such as chronic foot lesions, feather loss and fractured bones. They suffer stress so acute that it can lead to cannibalism. That is not an acceptable price to pay for cheaper eggs.

The industry is currently governed by moral codes of practice that have not been updated for 20 years and that lack enforcement mechanisms. In 2008 the Government increased the minimum cage size by an area the size of a beer coaster. That half-baked reform forced farms to invest in new cages but did little to address the welfare of animals. In 2015 lengthy consultation began to review Australian poultry standards. Four years later, agriculture Ministers from all States and Territories commissioned an independent panel to devise new standards. The goal was to develop consistent legally enforceable standards that would be embedded in State legislation, providing clarity and reassurance to consumers and industry alike. This year those standards have been released. While I welcome the new minimum light, ventilation, and temperature parameters for all species, as well as a requirement to provide ducks with access to water, the new standards fall short of community expectations for battery cages.

The Commonwealth Government has wasted an opportunity to reform a stagnating and cruel part of the egg industry by setting a deadline to end the use of battery cages by 2036—some 14 years away. The people of New South Wales expect more. In 2019 the Select Committee on the Use of Battery Cages for Hens in the Egg Production Industry received 14,000 responses that were overwhelmingly supportive of an end to caged egg production. Voiceless states that an overwhelming 84 per cent of Australians want to see battery cages phased out. Consumers are increasingly avoiding caged eggs. They accounted for just 36 per cent of supermarket egg sales in the past financial year, and both Coles and Woolworths are in the process of removing them from own-brand products. Arnott's, KFC and McDonald's are already cage-free across their global operations. Despite the clear rejection of battery farming by Australians, this country continues to lag behind on hen welfare.

The European Union banned battery hen farming in 2012 after a 13-year phase-out. New Zealand phased out cages this year, as did 10 other American States. Bar the Australian Capital Territory, where battery cages were banned for egg production in 2014, progress in Australia has been painstakingly slow. If the Australian Capital Territory can do it, why not us? At present, cage systems installed before the end of 2011 must be changed by 1 July 2032, while those installed after 2014 have until 2036. In that time, Animal Justice Party NSW estimates that more than 55 million individual hens will be confined to cages in torturous conditions. I appreciate that the

transition cannot happen overnight. However, we also cannot allow the industry to keep pushing the finish line into the distance.

New South Wales is the largest producer of caged eggs in Australia, so we have the greatest responsibility to outlaw this cruel farming practice. The 2036 date is a limit, not a target. While stewardship from the Federal Government may be lacking on this issue, there is still room for the States to act of their own volition. I call on the New South Wales Government to expedite the ban on battery cages by drafting its own law to implement the national poultry standards and lead a coordinated effort among the States to do the same. The Government should take the opportunity to lead on this issue. We should not have to wait more than a decade to end the use of barbaric battery cages in our State.

POPULATION GROWTH

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:32): When governments make planning decisions, they need reliable data to better inform the decisions they make. They need to keep a good, accurate count of citizens to make sure that growing populations are provided with roads, schools, hospitals, telecommunications, sewers, water and other essential services. That is the reason for conducting a census and for using the data to make planning projections. Although the latest versions use computer technology, censuses are not a new idea. The Babylonians held the first known census in about 3800 BC. Other ancient governments like those of the Romans refined the methods of counting people primarily so they knew how many people they could tax. However, knowing how much revenue the State could collect also allowed them to better plan for building roads, sewers and other infrastructure, along with expanding their empire.

The Romans passed on their head count techniques to other parts of Europe. The Viking-descended Normans from Normandy in France made the first comprehensive census of Britain's population and its wealth in the *Domesday Book*, compiled in 1086 on the orders of William I. When Britain later established a colony in Australia, we inherited the long-held British practice of taking stock of a country's people and their assets. As early as 1828 New South Wales conducted the first comprehensive head count of citizens in this country. The first simultaneous census of all of Australian colonies was taken in 1881. Those records were lost in a huge fire at the Garden Palace in The Domain in 1882, which set back government planning for years, but in 1911 the first national census put us back on track. Since then Australia has refined its methods, but it has not always got things right. In 2016 an attempt to innovate by having the census mostly online turned into a bit of a disaster when the system crashed. Last year's census was meant to be an improvement on 2016. As far as regional areas are concerned, it has let us down again. It does not give a true picture of what is going on in country New South Wales, which has serious repercussions, particularly for future planning.

The 2021 Census data shows that Barwon's population is in decline. But a lot has happened since then, including a big season for agriculture. But the rain looks set to continue for some time, which is having a negative impact on some crops. Records have been set in agricultural production, resulting in growth in country areas over the past two years the like of which has not been seen in a long time. Because towns are booming, tourism is also strong. People are moving out of cities and into regional areas. Several big mining, energy and infrastructure projects are also bringing more people and more money to regional areas. There are plenty of other indications that the population is growing, not shrinking—the critical shortage of housing to buy or to rent; the sharp rises in rent, even before the interest rate rise; and an increasing demand for services. It all points to more and not fewer people.

In Barwon the good agricultural seasons have seen the need for an expansion of the workforce in the west, which will likely soon be filled with migrants. But the Census data shows a population in decline, with 77,345 people in the Barwon electorate in 2016 and 73,947 in 2021. It shows things as they were before the boom really took hold and takes no account of where things are headed in the immediate future. That presents a major problem, since it underpins the data used on the NSW Planning Portal. My electorate office has recorded many instances of people who were left out of the Census. In many areas of Barwon people have poor internet service and some have none. Those who are unable to access the online forms should have been provided with paper forms, but many constituents reported that they did not receive them. Some towns had a lack of forms and in others there was nobody to deliver them. In one case, a constituent was told that her address was invalid and she was unregistered, despite having filled out census forms for 50 years.

Some people reported that they were unaware there was even a census going on. As a result, no-one knows how many people were unable to provide the ABS with data. We have also heard from councils and regional development authorities that say they are distressed by the "completely out of touch and inaccurate population predictions" on the NSW Planning Portal, and that inaccurate data is preventing them from applying for much-needed funding. The Census and the Planning Portal are meant to inform the Government about what directions it should take in given parts of the country. It should underpin decisions about the need for roads, schools, hospitals, housing developments and other critical infrastructure. But without data on what is really

happening in Barwon, it is likely to make some poor decisions and deprive us of the opportunity to capitalise on what should be a golden era of growth for country New South Wales. This does not just affect Barwon; it affects all of regional New South Wales. The 2021 Census was flawed and we do not have accurate data on population growth and where it is headed. As a result, the decisions made about funding at a Federal and State level are equally flawed.

CENTRAL COAST PLANNING

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:37): Tonight I draw the attention of the House to the complexities of the planning system for local communities. I highlight two incidents. The first is that, as the *Coast Community News* reported, a landmark 24-storey tower will be built in Kooindah Waters, which is a residential golf development that consists of a clubhouse with hotel accommodation run by Mercure. A surrounding suburb has popped up, with one- and two-storey houses. The development plans sound quite exciting, including alterations and additions to the existing hotel, serviced apartments and a golf club, along with construction of a 24-storey tower comprising 97 serviced apartments, 98 residential units, a restaurant, a bar, a conference centre and additional parking. It is a fairly intense development.

I am not saying whether the development is good or bad; I am saying that it is hard for local communities to engage with the planning system. There is a very short period in which to get information about developments and the council website is often difficult to access. People then must try to get advice. They do not have the money to employ people to write or respond to the reports that are submitted, and so they are always at a huge disadvantage. Tomorrow I am meeting with Kooindah residents to listen to their concerns, which I presume will include the fact that the site has flooded three out of four times in the past 18 months, and the sewer system is at capacity and will struggle with a development of that size. Most residents will probably raise the issue that the road to the golf course—and there is only one road—is in a pretty sad state of repair. There are good reasons for residents to be upset about the development, apart from the fact that it is fairly intensive.

I raise a second incident to show how difficult the planning system is. I have been assisting a community that opposes a boarding house in Toukley—a massive 56-bed, 90-resident development. It was knocked back by council on several occasions so the developer took it to the Land and Environment Court. The community spent a vast amount of effort preparing its opposition to the development for the third time. But before the Land and Environment Court even handed down its decision, the developer came back with yet another proposal and buried the community's plan again. The community is forever trying to keep up with what is happening. The system relies on the community being worn down over time and people throwing their hands in the air and saying, "It's too hard." That is not conducive to good development. If a proposal does not comply, it should not be approved. If it is outside complying development, it should not be approved.

It is unfair that councils are using ratepayers' money to go to court and a passionate community does not have the recourse to prepare proper reports. We must look closely at that situation and ensure the planning system's basic principle is fairness for everyone—the developer and the community. At the moment that is not the case because it is only fair when both sides have equal opportunity. The community does not have the same resourcing to fight a developer. Sometimes people will be nimbys and do not want any development, but that is not what I am talking about. When there are fair and reasonable objections, the community should have the same opportunities as developers, who spent vast amounts of money preparing reports that are often wrong. I will always stand up and help the community and ensure that they have a voice in this place.

AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTRE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:42): Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Amazon Fulfillment Centre in Moorebank. Since my last visit two years ago a lot has changed. It was fantastic to tour the newer part of the warehouse after its recent capabilities upgrade, which allows Amazon to deliver larger-size goods right across Australia. Importantly, the centre also has a new print-on-demand facility, which includes a state-of-the-art printer that allows customers to pick from over 13 million books and have them delivered in hard copy the next day. That innovation gives budding and aspiring authors the opportunity to market and print books they have written or created and get them directly to the customer. Because the printer has the capability to retool itself almost instantaneously, there is no minimum order that customers must make to have their publishing dreams come true.

It was wonderful to see this process was designed to ensure that the production methods used focused on sustainability. Obviously, printing to order makes that happen. Excess materials from production, such as book offcuts, are collected and set aside to be recycled and given another life. One of the things that I enjoyed most about the visit was witnessing the sense of community amongst the staff, the organisation's focus on people, and the relationships between management and teams. Along one of the walls in the warehouse is a brilliant drawing of a person in a roller-coaster car, with the tracks extending up and down the large wall. That is an ongoing project

by a staff member's young daughter, who comes in and adds to it continually. That is because the drawing represents the monthly production numbers from the print-on-demand facility.

I also had the chance to see what goes on behind the scenes when someone purchases an item from Amazon. I saw how they pack and ship and process returns. I even had the opportunity to be involved in packaging up some toilet paper, ready to be transported. Funnily enough, during COVID they did not run out of toilet paper. They were the go-to place, and people still go to Amazon just for toilet paper. The order we put together was just toilet paper.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: It must be good toilet paper.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS: It is very good toilet paper, apparently. There is a lot of choice. Despite the facility being responsible for distributing such a large amount of goods throughout Australia, the process was seamless, and the operation of the warehouse ran like clockwork. I valued the opportunity to chat to some of the team. The team is diverse and includes many individuals from our local area. It is great having another large company in the Liverpool region that is able to provide jobs for our local community. The centre benefits not only Amazon customers but also the local economy. It has generated more than 1,200 brand new jobs, many of which are in our local area.

It can also assist local small- and medium-sized businesses that sell their products on Amazon.com.au with using its Fulfilment by Amazon program, offering them the opportunity to access millions of their customers more easily across Australia. While it is pleasing to see investments being made by the private sector in the Liverpool region, I still believe that more needs to be done by the Government in decentralising jobs from the Sydney and Parramatta CBDs. I again call for our Liverpool local government area, and the broader south-west Sydney region, to be looked after. It is growing and deserves more local jobs. More jobs closer to home mean people could be on the roads less and back with their families quicker.

I am grateful to the Government for listening to my previous calls on this matter by relocating Department of Communities and Justice jobs to Liverpool earlier on in this parliamentary term. But I believe investigations should occur into moving more government jobs to this area. That will provide not only more employment opportunities closer to home for the people of south-west Sydney; it will also help to revitalise and breathe life into the Liverpool CBD, which is a key city of significance to the growth of Sydney and New South Wales, sitting between two airports. I will be speaking to the Minister for Western Sydney and to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade to ensure that they are aware of this request and the benefits it would have for my local residents. I know the difference it would make, and hopefully they will see that too.

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCILLOR LIZ CAMPBELL

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (17:47): Earlier this year, longstanding Kempsey shire councillor and my good friend Liz Campbell made the decision not to recontest the council by-election. Temporary Speaker Layzell and I, along with a strong push from Liz Campbell, tried to make sure we did not need a by-election, but we did and Liz decided not to run again. At her last council meeting, Councillor Anthony Patterson read a tribute to Liz. It was beautiful, fitting and summarised Liz's best qualities and achievements. I share with the House an excerpt from Councillor Patterson's tribute:

I know I am not the only one who lamented the Council Chambers lost a very special lady. Liz's vitality, vision, political savvy, collaborative style, sound leadership and stylish presence will not be forgotten.

Liz was elected to Kempsey Shire Council in 2008. In her 14-year tenure, Liz served two years as deputy mayor and was elected mayor in 2011. In 2012 Liz was the first popularly elected mayor in the Macleay Valley and was re-elected as mayor in 2016 for a second four-year term that was extended to December last year due to the pandemic. Liz's dedication and work ethic throughout this time have been exceptional. Her loyalty and commitment to the Kempsey shire community have been steadfast—a tradition she learned from her father, who was also a former mayor of Kempsey Shire Council. She worked tirelessly 24/7 to improve the quality of life for people in the community across all facets of the shire.

Liz was born and raised in Kempsey and in her family home her parents instilled in her a strong community service ethic. She not only served on council but also volunteered her time and energy to many service organisations within the Macleay Valley. She held executive positions over many years with the Macleay Valley Business Chamber, and her dedication to Rotary saw her awarded the Paul Harris Fellow medal. Liz was elected to the Country Mayors Association executive in 2017, and her longstanding support for the Macleay Valley Mustangs and the Macleay River Historical Society saw her invited to be their respective patron. Until recently, she was chair of the Australia Day Committee and chair of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation. Liz relished those roles, and she can own future conversations on joint organisations for our region. I believe that a more

collaborative effort through joint organisations can still result in genuine achievements to fix road, waste and water issues, and Liz has been a champion for that.

Liz was fierce in her defence of the Macleay and strove to build a community that was inclusive, where everyone—regardless of their background, wealth, race, culture, religion or age—could feel that they belonged. Liz built relationships with people across all walks of life, and she deserves every accolade that comes her way. Her personal, private experience in travel and tourism built her business acumen and helped shape plans for the Macleay to become a prime tourism destination, and she actively promoted the natural beauty and positive attractions of the Macleay at every opportunity to help grow our local economy with initiatives such as the Macleay Valley Food Bowl.

Liz started the Mayoral Community Fund, which has donated funds to many students, clubs and community groups in her years as mayor, starting with moneys not used in her mayoral position, such as not taking a council-allocated car and using her own vehicle and/or paying her own way many times. She is generous to a fault. Her leadership in times of bushfire, flood and drought was exemplary. Too many times we had to stand together to deal with those issues. She tirelessly lobbied State and Federal governments to help rebuild homes and community infrastructure destroyed in those disasters. From its inception, Liz has been a steadfast supporter of the Macleay Vocational College. Council gifted the land in Reginald Ward Street to the college so that it could continue the vital work it does to support kids who have had a rough start in life and who do not fit in the normal school system.

Liz is proud to hold the position of the Country Universities Centre's first chair in Kempsey and is proud that many students in the Macleay Valley are now attending university through the Country Universities Centre establishment in Kempsey. Another initiative that meant a lot to Liz was organising the visit by Father Chris Riley, founder of Youth Off The Streets, to address around 1,000 secondary students at the Kempsey Golf Club. Overseeing the delivery of the Kempsey Bypass master plan, as well as a study of a second crossing for the Macleay Valley—for which she begged me for funding—were strong priorities of hers. Liz initiated a period of significant improvement in the management and structure of the Kempsey shire. She and the relatively newer general manager, Craig Milburn, have done a magnificent job. I thank Liz from the bottom of my heart. I also thank her husband, who is struggling a bit at the moment and she is there for him. She has been a great servant to the community.

BEGA ELECTORATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (17:52): I speak on the need for mental health services in the Bega electorate. According to the *Eurobodalla Health Service Clinical Services Plan*, the adult acute mental health services are currently only 25 per cent self-sufficient in the Eurobodalla. To quantify the need, annually, total separations for acute psychiatry, non-acute psychiatry and psychogeriatric care are greater than 500. Three-quarters of those residents outflow to Bega, Goulburn, the Australian Capital Territory and Sydney. There are approximately 2,000 triage and emergency care support referrals to the Eurobodalla Community Mental Health Team, and the Eurobodalla Drug and Alcohol Services has approximately 300 client episodes annually.

The problem of mental health services is the issue with local community engagement and sentiment. The Eurobodalla shire has similar numbers to Goulburn and Bega Valley local government areas, both of which have inpatient mental health services. In a timely manner, the Senate Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia has identified that, although rural Australians are less likely to seek mental health services and are twice as likely to die from suicide than metropolitan residents, there is an alienation of rural Australians from mental health service design and delivery. Equally there remains a lack of cultural competency in mental health services for Indigenous Australians.

The proposed Eurobodalla Regional Hospital will have flexible mental health beds, which with high levels of general occupancy will no longer be flexible as they will be filled by medical patients. Perinatally, of the more than 400 women per annum booking for antenatal care in the Eurobodalla, approximately 50 per cent are identified as having psychosocial issues. Of those, 15 per cent stand as having intensive needs. The Eurobodalla has the highest number of children and families affected by social determinants of need according to the 2019 Department of Communities and Justice Targeted Intervention Program.

The region has the highest proportion of vulnerable children aged zero to five years; the highest number of children at risk of significant harm; the highest number of children affected by mental illness; the highest number of children developmentally vulnerable in at least one way; the highest unemployment rate in southern New South Wales, with the lowest average family weekly earnings; the highest number of low-income households; and the highest number of reports of domestic violence.

I acknowledge the establishment of a Tresillian early childhood and parenting service in Moruya, for which I have advocated for years. I thank the Minister for Regional Health on behalf of the Eurobodalla residents. That includes an innovative Tresillian 2U mobile van which provides services from Batemans Bay to Bermagui. It also includes the services of the Gidget Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that provides programs around perinatal anxiety and depression to support the emotional wellbeing of expectant and new parents. Despite the success in achieving the Tresillian and Gidget clinic and the Tresillian 2U mobile service, there remains the need for a four-bed inpatient Tresillian unit at the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital. That requires adequate specialist paediatric services and paediatric inpatient beds within the new hospital.

I call on NSW Health to provide those services in the Eurobodalla and to extend the Tresillian services, including the Tresillian 2U mobile service to the South East Regional Hospital at Bega and the surrounding Bega Valley region. I call on the Government to guarantee dedicated mental health beds in the new Eurobodalla hospital. Finally, I call on the Government to provide safe-haven units at both the South East Regional Hospital at Bega and the proposed new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital to allow people experiencing suicidal ideation and psychological distress to access timely and responsive support as an alternative to the emergency departments.

HARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (17:57): I inform the House of a significant celebration happening over the weekend in the electorate of Port Macquarie: Harrington Public School's 150th anniversary. The first classroom in Harrington opened in 1782, 16 years after the opening of the new Parliament of New South Wales, which sat for the first time in 1856. As a former teacher, I am pleased to provide the House with a brief history of Harrington Public School. In April 1872, local residents Thomas Cochrane, Joseph Bradley, Augustus Lindman and George Whitnall requested the Council of Education, which was responsible for State education until 1880, to provide aid for the establishment of a provisional school. The local community provided the site, the building, the furniture and the fencing. The Council of Education provided the teacher and paid the running costs on the proviso that the school operate in all other respects as a public school.

Thus, with a suitable building, 17 eager children and an eligible teacher in Williams Thomas Brewer, Harrington had little trouble getting aid from the Council of Education, and the first school began operating that year. In 1873 the enrolments increased to 20 and remained around that level for a number of years. In June 1876 another teacher, Miss Margaret Stinson, was appointed to Harrington. Her teaching experience and background were very similar to those of Mr Brewer. She was born at Hexham and educated at a private school for young ladies in Sydney. On arriving in the area, she attended Taree Public School for three or four weeks to observe school teaching methods. She was:

... fond of children, fond of study and anxious that the children of the colony should grow up intelligent and educated.

She believed that a teacher should be virtuous, sober, truthful, honest and painstaking. Two years later, she disappeared from the teaching scene forever.

Over the next few years with various teachers coming and going, the school closed on a number of occasions, with house-to-house teaching taking over until approximately 1892 when the local community erected another building to replace the original school which was now in a very sorry state. That same year, Ms Elizabeth Dorward was appointed to the new school as teacher in charge. She remained until 1896 because the magic number of 20 students in average daily attendance had been reached. Enrolments continued to rise as construction of the training walls proceeded to improve the entrance to the Manning River for shipping. As a result, a school residence was added in 1899 and the schoolroom was further extended.

Over the years the school prospered and grew as the village of Harrington, and the local population of the Manning Valley, expanded. Between 1899 and today, Harrington Public School has been led by 34 teachers and principals, from the legendary Esmond Hogan who served at the school for 38 years between 1917 and 1955 to the wonderful current principal Paul Haste, who has been at the school since 2019. A commemorative book has been published to celebrate the magnificent milestone. I was honoured to be asked to write the foreword for the book, and I will read what I wrote:

"Moving Forward Together", the motto for Harrington Public School, is as relevant today as it was 150 years ago, when the doors of this wonderful, small school first opened in 1872. My heartfelt congratulations go to the Harrington school community in commemorating this auspicious milestone, your Sesquicentenary – one that could not have been reached without the hundreds of students, teachers and families whose stories have woven the fabric of Harrington Public School's history and unfolded its future.

From an initial enrolment of 17 pupils, to a now prosperous student population of 125, Harrington Public School reflects the values and foundations of the essential ingredients of a successful school community.

Supportive families, committed staff and happy learners, who over the past 15 decades have and continue to create lifelong learners within these grounds.

I commend the leadership of Principal Paul Haste for ensuring the school is moving strongly in achieving quality learning for all the students. I thank the teachers and staff for their collective and collegial hard work, which underpins the drive and desire of excellence in education. I acknowledge the school captains, Jarrah and Kaiden, and the vice-captains, Byron and Charlie, as they support their peers in modelling self-belief and enthusiasm for primary school life. I wish the entire school community a very happy birthday and look forward to sharing in the celebrations of 150 years of Harrington Public School this weekend. I will be joining in the celebrations at the official opening event, a gala dinner tomorrow night, and a spring fair on Saturday. In closing, I congratulate everybody who has been involved in this incredible weekend of activities, and I give a huge thank you to the very active and supportive P&C led by Sally Anthony. Happy 150th birthday, Harrington Public School.

LAKE MACQUARIE FISH KILLS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (18:02): I have never been too shy in regaling the House about the beauty of Lake Macquarie and all the reasons so many people want to live along the beautiful waterway. But we have had two concerning incidents recently which serve to remind us that it is a fragile natural system that needs careful management and constant attention. Those two incidents involved the undetermined deaths of many thousands of fish in an area known as Mannering Bay at the southern end of the lake. The Environment Protection Authority, or EPA, is still investigating the possible causes of those events, and I will return to that investigation shortly.

It goes without question that Lake Macquarie residents are understandably concerned about those incidents and want answers. In the vicinity of Mannering Bay is the warm water outlet from the neighbouring Vales Point Power Station. I make that point as the warm water attracts many exotic species of fish which are normally found in the tropics and not in this part of the world. In fact, some lucky locals will say that some of their best days on the lake are the days they see a rare spotted eagle ray leaping from the water around Mannering Bay and gliding through the air before diving back into the water. Seeing those types of creatures among the dead fish washed up on the shoreline in recent months has been a shock and distressing for many.

The first fish kill occurred in early August when thousands of dead fish floated to the surface and onto the shores. The EPA began investigating the same day and reported several weeks later that the likely cause was a natural event. Shortly after that, in early September, a similar event occurred in the same spot. The EPA's investigation into the second incident is not yet finalised but it appears that it has been more thorough than the first investigation, which is understandable. In its initial findings into the first event, the EPA found that while there was no clear cause, the kill was likely the result of a combination of factors combined with weather conditions at the time.

Given the flooding that occurred several weeks prior, the EPA believes the kill was likely due to a rapid turnover in the water column combined with high ammonium concentrations and the disturbance of sediments, which could have released sulphides that overwhelmed the fish. As I mentioned, we are still waiting on the results of the second investigation by the EPA, Central Coast Council and Department of Planning and Environment science, biosecurity, food and fisheries experts. We know already, however, that the investigation has included the inspection of property, machinery and data records of the nearby power station. I hasten to add that the power station has been a cooperative participant in the investigation and there is currently no evidence that the plant has contributed in any way to the fish deaths. The EPA has also installed a custom-built buoy in Mannering Bay, which is now providing real-time data on things such as salinity levels, turbidity, oxygen levels, temperature and pH levels in that part of the lake. It is fantastic technology.

While we keenly await any new findings, we are reminded of what a fragile system Lake Macquarie is. Particularly when first elected, I reported to the House many times about the health of the lake. I was involved for many years in the fight to save this important waterway from the degradation visited upon it since white settlement. Industries such as smelting, power generation and coalmining, combined with the run-off from unsealed roads and road verges and the lack of sediment controls on building sites—which were booming in the 1960s, seventies and eighties—all had a huge impact. Of course, the nutrient inputs of phosphates and nitrates coming from onsite effluent disposal and people greening their lawns drove increases in large algal blooms. It really was a mess.

The council and the State did eventually jointly carry out restoration works. The outcome was the rehabilitation of 15 State significant wetlands and 38 kilometres of foreshore, the installation of more than 70 stormwater treatment devices and the planting of 600,000 endemic plants, among many other things. The lake became a benchmark for other restoration projects not just in New South Wales but also around the world. Indeed, it was internationally recognised for its excellence. The health of the lake was turned around. Anyone will tell you that today it is one of the best estuary systems you could wish to find in Australia and the world. With more than 200,000 people now living in the catchment of the lake—and many more visiting from far and wide to enjoy the waterway—we need to keep a focus on protecting this fragile ecosystem to ensure that fish kills such as the ones we saw recently do not become a common experience in the lake.

MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:06): This evening I deliver what will be one of my final private member's statements as the member for Fairfield in this place. Since arriving in this place in 2011, I have had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those people in the Fairfield electorate who have made many positive contributions not only to Fairfield but also to south-western Sydney, the State and the nation. The time allotted to me in the standing orders will not permit me to thank the many individuals and groups who have worked alongside me over the past three terms. I will leave that for another contribution at a later date. On Monday 17 October 2022 I informed the community that I would not recontest my seat at the New South Wales 2023 State election. I make it clear that this decision was mine and mine alone. My statement read as follows:

Today I announce that I will not be recontesting the 2023 NSW State Election after three terms as the State Member for Fairfield. The decision not to recontest the 2023 election has been made with the full support of my wife Melissa and our four children.

It has been an honour and privilege to have been the elected representative in the oldest Parliament in the nation.

I would like to thank the great people of the Fairfield Electorate for putting their trust in me to represent them, this is something that I will never forget.

Over the past three terms I have met the most incredible people going out in the community every day, sacrificing so much for the betterment of others. I thank these people for making the Fairfield Electorate a better place.

Although I am moving on from NSW State politics, I will continue to work alongside local charities and not-for-profit organisations in a private capacity and I look forward to working with them into the future.

I would finally like to thank my family, staff and [Fairfield ALP branch members] for their belief and support in me over the past three terms, I am eternally grateful.

Following this announcement I received many calls, messages of appreciation and well wishes from members of the Fairfield community and beyond. From 2012 to 2019, I was honoured to be the shadow Minister in portfolios ranging from Corrections, Emergency Services, Justice and Police, Sport and Recreation, Trade, Tourism and Major Events, Veterans Affairs and, finally, Citizenship and Communities. Along the way I met and worked with the most amazing stakeholders, each caring for their respective faculties. I thank them for their friendship and assistance during this time.

No doubt one of the hardest things a retiring MP must do is tell their staff that they are not recontesting. Telling my staff of my intentions was the most difficult thing I have ever done. Members of Parliament are only as good as the staff working alongside them. I have been fortunate to have wonderful staff over the years, especially my senior electorate officer, Stella Patane, and electorate officers Jess Daniele and Katerina Sotiropoulos. The care and support they offer to the community on my behalf have been second to none. They have always treated the constituents of the Fairfield electorate with the respect they deserve. I cannot thank them enough for their level of service to the community. Of course, members of Parliament cannot do their job without the support and love of their family. I have been lucky to have my wife, Melissa, by my side along with our four children, Tahlia, Christian, Lorida and Nicola. I will not say too much about my family now but leave that for my final address in a couple of weeks. Until my next private member's statement in this place, I say: Thank you, Fairfield.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I thank the member for Fairfield for his commitment to this Parliament and his community. All members look forward to his valedictory speech.

WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (18:11): I speak about the Western Harbour Tunnel, the Warringah Freeway upgrade and the Beaches Link tunnel projects, and record my strong views, which are shared by the Willoughby community, on the need to make changes to aspects of those projects. When I asked the people of Willoughby to place their trust in me I promised I would listen, learn and prosecute their concerns about the tunnel projects, among other issues. I have since listened and consulted widely with the community. It is clear that a considerable portion of the Willoughby community disagrees with parts of the projects in their present form. I share those concerns. It is the duty of a local member to stand up for their community and be a vocal advocate of the community's views to government. That is what I have been doing, and will always do.

The Willoughby community and I cannot support the Beaches Link in its current form. This is not about us opposing a project to minimise our personal inconvenience, but rather a community with real and valid concerns in relation to major infrastructure and expenditure. I have advocated for the Beaches Link to be put on hold to give more time to consult, amend and get the project right if it is to proceed. With Beaches Link now on pause and approval not imminent, we have the time and opportunity to review and refine details to ensure any proposal works for our local area, and that local views and concerns are addressed. There needs to be a reassessment of Beaches Link, including new modelling, the sharing of the business case and a refreshed round of consultation to better engage the community.

There are many benefits to these three projects and many reasons to deliver substantial infrastructure improvements to our roads network, including materially improved travel times, road safety and enhancement to local amenity. However, we must ensure that all costs and consequences have been thoroughly considered and addressed. It is clear that the proposed use of land within Flat Rock Gully in Northbridge for a dive site for Beaches Link is unacceptable to my community. An alternative option, if at all needed, must be found. I have made strong representations within government on behalf of Willoughby, calling for the abandonment of the Flat Rock dive site. Given the history of land use at this location, the need to ensure that local green space is preserved and its present utilisation, this is a reasonable and fair change that must happen.

I am also calling for filtration of ventilation outlets in Cammeray. The community has expressed understandable concern about the location of these outlets near residential areas and local educational facilities. Both this location and the tunnel's length make it mandatory, in my view, for every precaution to be taken with these particular outlets. I am advised that filtration would be about \$50 million per outlet. In the overall project cost this is minor, yet very material to my community.

Additionally, I have made strong representations directly to Transport for NSW regarding its need to significantly improve community consultation. Government must genuinely reach out to residents, listen and respond in good faith. I stand with my community in expressing deep concern and frustration about the loss of green space at Cammeray Park. Whilst the current situation is mostly temporary, there is a need to ensure that the park is rehabilitated as soon as practicable, that for each tree removed two trees are planted within a 500 metre radius, and that they are mature, suitable local specimens. Those projects must deliver a net positive return of green space to the local area. I have made it very clear that Berries Bay is not an acceptable return for our community. I have set out a vision to return local green space by connecting Anzac Park and Cammeray Park with a green canopy, which is attracting strong support across my community including via an online petition. The facilities building adjacent to the freeway should be placed underground to return as much green space as possible. I have raised that idea with the Premier, among others in government, and said that if it is good enough for WestConnex, so it is for Willoughby.

Community engagement and consultation over the future vision for Cammeray Park needs to begin now, not next year. I have called for the place design and landscape plan to be brought forward to give the community urgent clarity and a say on the future of the site, including the extensive green space and tree planting to come. I am calling for other improvements, including reviewing the proposed impacts on local roads and early delivery of improvements to impacted local roads. We also need a study on improving public transport and active transport accessibility across the Willoughby electorate, including fully considering the option of a metro rail alternative to the Beaches Link tunnel. I am proud of this Government's \$112 billion infrastructure pipeline, investing in the vital infrastructure that Willoughby needs, including public transport such as the Sydney Metro. But there is just one chance to get those major projects right, and I want to ensure that they are done right and work for the residents of the Willoughby area. I will continue to strongly advocate for Willoughby's interests when considering those major infrastructure projects.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:16): I thank the Government for its work on major infrastructure projects, particularly when considering the need for a third harbour crossing because our city's harbour crossings are already at a peak, which Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure NSW have noted. I acknowledge the six years of work done on design and consultation, and particularly the advocacy of the former member for Willoughby who worked incredibly hard on getting the design right for the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Link. We will continue to make sure that we get the right outcomes for our communities in doing so. I also recognise the Government's ongoing and continued commitment to deliver the Beaches Link. It is a key part of our infrastructure program. The three stages of the Western Harbour Tunnel, the Warringah Freeway upgrade and Beaches Link are this Government's commitments. We make tough decisions about the economic circumstances of the day and we will make sure we get those projects right for our communities and for New South Wales.

AFGHANISTAN TERRORIST ATTACK

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (18:17): On 30 September 2022 a suicide attack inside the Kaaj Educational Centre in the Dasht-e-Barchi district of West Kabul claimed the lives of over 35 girls and young women belonging to the Hazara community. It was profoundly distressing to so many of the Afghan community living in my electorate. At the last census, over 14,000 people born in Afghanistan were residing in New South Wales. Of those, 3,325 were living in the Granville electorate and about half of them live in Merrylands. Most of those living in the Granville electorate are Hazarachs or other Shia minorities. This terrorist attack reminds them why they needed to flee Afghanistan in the first place. Many of them have come to Australia as humanitarian entrants over the last three decades. The most recent suicide attack targeted girls in their place of education, which is a reminder why it is an absolute disgrace that the Taliban has again come to power in Afghanistan. People knew that this

would happen and that they would attack girls trying to go to school. Another 82 people were injured in the attack, which was perpetuated while students were sitting a practise university exam. UNICEF stated:

UNICEF is appalled by the horrific attack, early this morning, inside the Kaaj Educational Center in the Dasht-Barchi district of West Kabul, Afghanistan. This heinous act claimed the lives of dozens of adolescent girls and boys and severely injured many more. The victims were practicing for the entrance exam to university ...

Violence in or around education establishments is never acceptable. Such places must be havens of peace where children can learn, be with friends, and feel safe as they build skills for their futures.

Children and adolescents are not, and must never be, the target of violence. Once again, UNICEF reminds all parties in Afghanistan to adhere to and respect human rights and ensure the safety and protection of all children and young people.

That was not the first attack on an educational establishment by the Taliban, or even by ISIS who have become active in Afghanistan in the last few years and are at odds with the Taliban, even though they seem to have a very similar ideology and similar practices. Unfortunately, the Taliban coming to power has not ended the horrific terrorist attacks that have plagued Afghanistan in recent years. Recently, the community commemorated the anniversary of the fall of Kabul which occurred on 15 September last year. After the fall of Kabul, Australia held one of its largest humanitarian evacuations. Over nine days, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Home Affairs the Australian Border Force and the Australian Defence Force worked to facilitate the safe movement of over 4,000 people out of Kabul on 32 flights. It worked to ensure that those people safely departed Afghanistan. Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of people could not be evacuated at that time. Only 167 of those people on the flights were Australian citizens, the remainder were Afghan with approved visas.

I pay tribute to Hashmat Hashmutullah. He came to see me last year after he had been in Australia for a few months. He was having difficulty finding work and asked if he could do work experience in my office. At the time I had a vacancy because someone took long-term sick leave. He worked in my office for a few months until he was recently placed as a humanitarian cadet at Transport for NSW. He is using his skills in procurement. He worked in major hotels but also with the Australian and American governments in Kabul. For that reason, he was a target like so many others. He was able to come to Australia safely and now he has been placed in this excellent program with Transport for NSW.

SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE DISABILITY SERVICES

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (18:22): I take the opportunity to recognise the fantastic work being done across the electorate by disability service providers. Disability Services play a major role in our local community and provide people with specific needs to assist their ability to work, form relationships and play an active in our community. The Seven Hills electorate is fortunate to have a number of disability service organisations that cater specifically for the people of western Sydney. Recently the Minister for Family and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services and I visited a number of those organisations and their facilities across the Seven Hills electorate. It was fantastic to see so many workers and participants in good spirits once again.

The disability service sector was hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic when it lost its face-to-face interaction and daily activities. For many of those individuals, forming relationships with others and developing a sense of community is a fantastic asset in their lives. It was pleasing to see the volunteers working at a personal level to grow the skillset of the participants. Our team visited Ability Options in Seven Hills, which is one of the largest disability employment services in New South Wales. Ability Options at Seven Hills runs a daily program, which is aimed at building friendships and creativity through activities such as bowling, bingo and barbecues. It was great to see this important part of our community getting back to doing that great work.

We also visited the Endeavour Foundation, which is a national organisation that provides services and work for people with disability. Its Seven Hills office provides a range of industrial services, such as food packaging, pharmaceutical packaging, general packaging, and warehousing. The Endeavour Foundation has been a fantastic provider in the electorate for many years. It is always encouraging to visit its site with my colleagues to showcase the wonderful work they do. The Endeavour Foundation also has other sites in Castle Hill and Mount Druitt, and it has its headquarters in Queensland. I would also like to comment on The Hills School and its contribution to the disability services in the Seven Hills electorate. The Hills School is a primary school in Northmead that caters to students with many challenges. Their campus is equipped with modern technology that assists students to learn to meet their challenges. Some of the equipment at that school includes a heated pool, engaging playgrounds and of course staff who are specially trained to help students learn and enjoy their learning environment among their peers. It is wonderful to have a school like this in the local area to assist families and students to overcome the challenges they face.

The William Rose School is also in my electorate and is another great example of a school within the Seven Hills area that offers opportunities for students with special needs to meet their disability challenges. William

Rose School does a fantastic job in providing individual programs for each student. Those programs use innovative technology that is designed to engage the students with their learning. William Rose School focuses on improving students' literacy and numeracy, with a focus particularly on communication and other life skills. The staff at William Rose School are highly qualified in their area and focus on vision, hearing and special education. It is terrific to see the dedication of local teachers who support the dynamic learning environment for local children. I note that William Rose recently launched a mini-Woolworths program, which provides students with the opportunity to participate in customer service training and becoming familiar with such things as handling money and buying goods.

Finally, I thank the countless volunteers, carers, parents, and workers who staff those organisations and sacrifice their time on a regular basis. Whether it is in Seven Hills, Winston Hills, Lalor Park or Northmead, there is almost always an amazing number of individuals who are willing to lend a hand. Those individuals are truly community heroes. It was my pleasure to acknowledge their efforts with the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services. Their work is what allows those organisations and schools to run constantly throughout our community. I look forward to seeing the disability services throughout the electorate continue to grow and expand opportunities for people right across western Sydney.

SCHOOLTEACHERS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:27): Tonight I will discuss this Government's disgraceful treatment of schoolteachers over the past 12 years. Last week I pleaded for a fair share of school infrastructure in my electorate and now, here I am again, on behalf of every student, parent and carer, to demand a fair go for our amazing teachers. The current teacher crisis—where 60 per cent of teachers in New South Wales are planning to leave the profession over the next five years—is a direct result of this hopeless, tired, old Liberal Government's failure to care. The teachers know that they do not care and the parents know that they do not care.

They do not care that there are not enough teachers and that those who are left are overworked, ensuring that students in my electorate are not getting the education they deserve. Parents from Oak Flats and Dapto know why. They know it is because those from safe Liberal electorates in Sydney can afford private schools and world-class tutors for their children—along with pony club and all those lovely things. Parents from Lake Illawarra and Horsley know it is because those opposite hate a well-resourced education system that allows students from working-class families get a top-notch education and compete for high-paying jobs. Parents from Warilla and from Koonawarra know it is because those opposite hate the idea that children with parents in public housing can get a fantastic education and be successful. And everyone in New South Wales knows that those opposite want public school students to have a second-rate education so that talentless Young Liberal members can get ahead of them.

Even members on this side of the House who have done well and can afford the odd tutoring session for their children never stop caring about those in our community who are doing it tough. That is evident from the hundreds of discussions and debates and contributions that Labor Party members have made in this House. We love public education and we care enough to actually listen to hardworking teachers and their union representatives who are on the ground in schools every day. We listen to the hardworking Illawarra schoolteachers, such as Rob Petreski and Samuel Rosete, who see the damage that this Liberal Government is doing every single day. We listen to the experts like New South Wales Teachers Federation Officer Duncan McDonald and Independent Education Union organiser Tina Smith who support teachers across the Illawarra. They know what they need, and what they need is more than just a thankyou.

Those opposite do not want to listen and they obviously do not like the idea of a teacher shortage. They do not care. Fewer teachers means that fewer kids learn how to write to the Minister for Education and Early Learning and ask fair questions such as: Why have you not built any new schools in West Dapto? I have been calling for that for over 12 long, painful years under this Liberal Government. The Government has not even bought the land so that the children can get a decent education. Instead, they put up more demountables. It is an absolute disgrace. Those opposite would rather have students playing games on their mobile phones instead of learning about just how terrible this Government is at running this State.

Parents and carers from the Shellharbour electorate support our teachers because they know that our teachers' working conditions are their children's learning conditions. A Minns Labor Government will create 10,000 extra permanent teaching roles. It will stem teacher attrition rates by shifting temporary positions into permanent roles. This will give teachers job security and will give schools the flexibility they need to deliver the type of education that every child deserves. It will ensure that students get individual attention in a reasonable sized classroom and not be merged with other classes due to a lack of available teachers. Residents of my electorate cannot wait until March 2023 when a Chris Minns-led Labor Government can start delivering decent jobs and decent conditions, security for our teachers and the best education possible for our children.

There is no doubt in the minds of the Labor Party that Labor is ready to govern in New South Wales. We are ready to deliver a strong and properly resourced public education in contrast to those opposite, who just want to cost share and refuse to build schools. There is a maintenance backlog that is so long I could not jump over it if I tried. Those opposite have had every opportunity to fix our schools. They have had every opportunity to build the school infrastructure that this State needs. I can tell the House this much: The people who live in Dapto and West Dapto know exactly how the members opposite feel about them.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:32): In this place we hear stories of the lives impacted and lives lost due to catastrophic natural disasters. Every community, including my own, is concerned. We saw images of the worst flood on record hitting Lismore, which only weeks later was to be inundated once again. Just yesterday, another life was lost in western New South Wales, and to think that only a couple of years ago we were experiencing some of the worst bushfires and worse droughts on record. That is climate change.

For decades we have been warned that it will be cheaper to reduce our emissions than to pay for the cost of a changing climate. Unfortunately today, through the lives, homes and property of the people of this State, we are seeing this come true. That is why we need to have a conversation about what we can do to protect our people from extreme weather events like floods that are devastating families and taking lives in New South Wales and Victoria that climate change is bringing about. The Premier and the New South Wales Government are right to commit to raising the Warragamba Dam wall, but we should also be having a conversation about what we can do to accelerate our emissions reductions because, until we get to net zero, we will continue to add to the climate emergency which out we see people bearing the brunt of day in and day. We owe it not just to our future generations but to the people living in New South Wales today to do as much as we can to reduce emissions.

I am proud to be a member of this Parliament, which two years ago voted for the biggest renewable energy policy in Australia's history. I am also proud to be a member of the Government that has taken huge action on climate change. This Government has set a science-aligned target of net zero by 2050 and a 50 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030. But the reality is that those targets are only enough to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius. The natural disasters that have ravaged our State are barely above one degree Celsius of global warming. We cannot afford to let global warming get to two degrees Celsius. We cannot afford to wait until 2050 to get to net zero. We must move faster. We must look at other jurisdictions and organisations around the world that are setting ambitious net zero targets.

Everyone said that reducing emissions in agriculture would be too hard, but Meat & Livestock Australia has committed to net zero by 2030. Data centres are some of the biggest sources of emissions due to their energy intensity, but Microsoft is already at net zero. It will be carbon negative by 2030 and it has a target to undo all the emissions it has have ever emitted by 2050. As a large, developed economy there are limits to what we can do, but I have every confidence in the ingenuity, creativity and determination of the people of our State. I believe we can get to net zero faster than 2050. I believe we can play our part in achieving the Paris goal of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. To do that we must bring forward our net zero target. While we are having a healthy conversation about making a \$3 billion investment to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, we should also have a conversation about what else we can do not just to adapt to our changing climate but to limit the extent to which our climate changes in the first place.

For decades we did not take action on the science and economics that told us it was better to invest in changing our future rather than responding to the natural disasters when they happened. We did not heed that advice, but there is no reason why we cannot act today on the science and economics, and accelerate our transition to a net zero economy. Next month delegates from across the world will come together in Egypt. We need every major economy to lift their ambitions to ensure that the world is on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It can take as long as eight years to build a new transmission line so there is a limit to how fast we can go, but we must go as fast as we can. We must set deep targets for 2035 on the path to net zero as soon as possible, and no later than 2045. Achieving that should not be partisan. Whether people vote blue, green or red, whether people live in the bush or in the city, whether families have called Australia home for 200 years or two years, we must all respond to this initiative because it is in our national interest and our children's future interest. I look forward to working on achieving that target with every member of this House for as long as I am in public office.

ASQUITH MAGPIES RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (18:37): I recognise one of the best sporting organisations in my local community, the Asquith Magpies Rugby League Club, which recently celebrated completing its seventieth consecutive season fielding competitive teams. It all started for the Magpies in 1953 when it entered an A-grade team in the North Sydney competition. The driving force behind the formal establishment of the club and the developing years was the late and great "Grubber" Jordison. In the club's

inaugural season, the president was Mr Clive Dale, the coach was Ray Stenning and the captain was the much-loved Jack Lawton, whom the club sadly lost when he passed away in August this year. In 1959 the Magpies won its first A-grade premiership by defeating a strong Crows Nest team 16-13 in the grand final.

In 1964 the Magpies fielded its first schoolboy team and the following year it won its first junior premiership with the under-12 team. From the late 1960s to the 1980s the Magpies went from strength to strength, registering over 600 players in 1969. The club often fielded multiple teams in each age division. Throughout its 70-year history, the Magpies club had considerable success at the junior league level and through its senior grade teams. It has consistently produced talented players, with over 20 graduating to play NRL or represent their country of origin. During the 1970s and 1980s local juniors Glenn Boatswain, Gordon West, Kevin Wilson and Geoff Blinkhorn were selected to play first grade with the mighty North Sydney Bears. Kevin went on to captain the Bears' top team.

[A Government member interjected.]

I note the interjection from the member for North Shore. More recently Kieran Foran, Liam Foran and Mitchell Pearce came through the Magpies junior nursery. This year I was proud to watch Magpies junior footballer Kaeo Weekes debut for Manly in the NRL. He is an up-and-coming player to watch. His father, Chris, has coached many Asquith juniors over the years, and his sisters Krystal and Grace have been part of this year's inaugural Magpies women's team, which is under the management of the devoted Michelle Kelly. I give a shout-out to Michelle. She is an amazing member of our community. Among the mighty Asquith Magpies' 319 players who registered across all age groups this year, over 70 were female. Another junior Magpies graduate is the talented Billy Pollard, who was chased by several NRL clubs before signing with the Brumbies to play Super Rugby. Recently Billy made his debut for the Wallabies against Argentina. His brothers Jack and Luke also enjoyed wearing the Magpies black-and-white jersey. They are just like their dad, the mighty Paul Pollard, who has played for and coached the Magpies' top-grade teams.

Without a doubt the Magpies' greatest coach was Harold Blinkhorn, who coached a number of junior premiership-winning teams before coaching the club's A-grade team to three premierships in 1974, 1975 and 1981. The club's survival, longevity and success comes down to the efforts of an army of volunteers. Throughout the years the Asquith Magpies have been fortunate to have many active supporters who have taken up positions on the club's committee, in the canteen, behind the barbecue, setting up the fields, and coaching and managing teams. The club would not function without those committed volunteers. Under the inspiring leadership of current club president Mick Tickner, long-time volunteers include Jane Mimmo, Steve Geha, Bobby Bell and the mighty George Fretus. The Enasios are a very talented Asquith Magpies family. Dad Jake Enasio is the club's current coaching coordinator and an inspiration to many junior players. Oskar, Summer, Harper and Saia all played with the Asquith Magpies from a very young age and have gone on to play at a higher level of representative rugby league and union.

The youngest Enasio sibling, Rokko, has just started and will continue the family's long involvement with the Magpies. Storey Park is the Magpies' much-loved home ground and was established as a sports field at the same time as the club. In its milestone 2022 season, the Asquith club fielded 19 teams across 16 age groups. The club won premierships in the under-12s and under-18s. The A-grade, first grade women and under-18s had close losses in their grand finals. I have always been impressed with everything the Magpies club does and I have met many wonderful people involved with it. Players, parents, committee members, volunteers and supporters are always proud to be associated with that great club. As its patron, I am pleased to recognise the Asquith Magpies Rugby League Club's seventieth season. I know it will be as strong as ever for decades to come.

The Asquith Magpies is a terrific sporting club but it does much more for the broader community. The club's members volunteer and support those who need it. It is the heart and soul of the Hornsby district. I thank the volunteers for the work they do to support the players in realising their ambitions on the sporting field and for helping to build a stronger and better community. I commend the Asquith Magpies on its seventieth anniversary.

Bills

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (NO 2) 2022
CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (APPOINTMENT OF LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND
ADMINISTRATOR) BILL 2022

ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO 2) 2022

CONFISCATION OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendments.

ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING ENFORCEMENT BILL 2022

BUILDING AND OTHER FAIR TRADING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills with amendments. I order that consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments be set down as an order of the day for a future day.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (CARE AND PROTECTION) AMENDMENT (FAMILY IS
CULTURE) BILL 2022

First Reading

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

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for a future day.

Community Recognition Notices

REVESBY WORKERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to recognise one of our treasured local Football Clubs, Revesby Workers Football Club, on an outstanding football season this year. I commend all players, officials and supporters involved with Revesby Workers Football Club, and congratulate the Men's Over 35 Division 1 on winning their respective competition this season as part of the BDAFA Competition. This is a well-deserved result, and one the Club should be very proud of. I acknowledge Revesby Workers Football Club President Daniel Kurtz, Vice President Mitch Wise, Treasurer Helen Lansley, Secretary Liz Errington, as well as the coaches, players and volunteers, and congratulate the club on a successful season. I also commend Revesby Workers Football Club on their continued efforts in promoting football within our local community. I am proud to offer my support for Revesby Workers, and thank the club for their dedication towards supporting high participation rates in football across our region and in supporting local families.

YAGOONA LIONS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to recognise one of our treasured local Football Clubs, Yagoona Lions Football Club, on an outstanding football season this year. I commend all players, officials and supporters involved with Yagoona Lions Football Club, and congratulate all the teams that competed in the Grade 17/18 and Men's Over 45 Division 1 on winning their respective competitions this season as part of the BDAFA Competition. This is a well-deserved result, and one the Club should be very proud of. I acknowledge Yagoona Lions Football Club President Sash Bogeski, Vice President Nick Zdravevski, Treasurer Luke Lupeski, as well as the coaches, players and volunteers, and congratulate the club on a successful season. I also commend Yagoona Lions Football Club on their continued efforts in promoting football within our local community. I am proud to offer my support for Yagoona Lions, and thank the club for their dedication towards supporting high participation rates in football across our region and in supporting local families.

SPEARS SPORTS CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to recognise one of our treasured local Football Clubs, Spears Sports Club, on an outstanding football season this year. I commend all players, officials and supporters involved with Spears Sports Club and congratulate all the teams that competed in the Under 14 Boys Division 3 and All Age Men's Division 5A on winning their respective competitions this season as part

of the BDAFA Competition. This is a well-deserved result, and one the Club should be very proud of. I acknowledge Spears Sports Club President Omar Kabbout, Vice President and Secretary Mohamad Eldahab, as well as the coaches, players and volunteers, and congratulate the club on a successful season. I also commend Spears Sports Club on their continued efforts in promoting football within our local community. I am proud to offer my support for Spears Sports Club, and thank the club for their dedication towards supporting high participation rates in football across our region and in supporting local families.

MR SHANNON JUDGE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I congratulate Mr Shannon Judge who was a worthy recipient at the RFS Shoalhaven medals presentation ceremony which was held on Sunday 16th October 2022. Shannon Judge received the 10 year Long Service Medal for 10 years of service as a member of the Shoalhaven Heads and Heathcote – Headquarters Rural Fire Brigades. Congratulations and well done to Shannon Judge. Thank you very much for your 10 years of service, and for your ongoing hard work, dedication and commitment to our local Shoalhaven community.

MR KYLE SHADOW

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I congratulate Mr Kyle Shadlow who was a worthy recipient at the RFS Shoalhaven medals presentation ceremony which was held on Sunday 16th October 2022. Kyle Shadlow received the 10 year Long Service Medal for his 10 years of service as a member of the West Nowra Rural Fire Brigade. Congratulations and well done to Kyle Shadlow. Thank you very much for your 10 years of service to the West Nowra Rural Fire Brigade, and also for your ongoing hard work, dedication and commitment to our local Shoalhaven community.

MR GREG ATKINSON FROM FALLS CREEK

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I congratulate Mr Greg Atkinson who was a worthy recipient of the 30 years Long Service Medal 2nd Clasp at the RFS Shoalhaven medals presentation ceremony which was held on Sunday 16th October 2022. Greg has been a member of Falls Creek Rural Fire Brigade since 1990. Greg has been a Brigade Equipment Officer, Permit Officer and he is currently a Deputy Captain of the Brigade and has been since 2006. Greg is an extremely active and well-known permit issuing officer in the Falls Creek area and has attended a numerous local calls and out of area commitments. Greg is an extremely devoted member and appreciated member of the Service. Congratulations and well done to Greg Atkinson. Thank you very much for your 32 years of service, and for your ongoing hard work, dedication and commitment to our local Shoalhaven community.

WALKER BROTHERS TIMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)—I acknowledge and congratulate Walker Brothers Timber & Building Supplies on becoming a Central Coast Regional Finalist in the category "Excellence in Small Business" at the 2022 Central Coast Business Awards. This award is presented to a business that drives growth in a manner which illustrates specific strategies to achieve business success. Walker Brothers Timber and Building Supplies prides itself on a value for money experience, providing quality timber, building products and builders hardware. A local owned family business, which has been operating since 1933, it sets itself apart by being the only wood machining mill between Sydney & Newcastle, providing a speciality service. On behalf on the Entrance community, I would like to congratulate Walker Brothers Timber & Building Supplies on this achievement and thank you for your continued service to the Central Coast region.

HEALTH ON THE STREETS CCPC

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)—I acknowledge and congratulate Health on the Streets on becoming a Central Coast Regional Finalists in the 2022 Excellence in Innovation Award. This award is presented to a business that applies innovative solutions for new and existing business necessities. This is done through the implementation of improved ideas, products, methods, technologies, processes, or applications. This is an incredible result and demonstrates their outstanding community awareness and engagement when providing healthcare to the homeless population. Health on the Streets recognises the varying barriers that people experiencing homelessness face when trying to access healthcare and are a great asset to the Central Coast. On behalf of the Entrance community, I would like to congratulate Joel Smeaton and the staff of Health on the Streets for achieving such an impressive result and I thank you for your continued service to the Central Coast region.

TUMBI TYRES & MORE

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)—I acknowledge and congratulate Tumbi Tyres & More on becoming a Central Coast Regional Finalists in the 2022 Excellence in Small Business Award. This award is presented to a business that recognises and implements specific strategies that are necessary to achieve success

and/or resilience, as well as effectively driving growth within their field. This is an incredible result and demonstrates their attention to detail when servicing and changing tyres all over the Central Coast. Tumbi Tyres & More offers more than just a tyre change and that is what makes them a fantastic innovative business. You can visit them for log book servicing, registration inspections, fitting child restraints and car battery replacements. On behalf of the Entrance community, I would like to congratulate Tumbi Tyres & More for achieving such an impressive result and I thank you for your continued service to the Central Coast region.

DANA NELSE OAM

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I take this time today to congratulate Dana Nelse for her continuing service to the Illawarra community. Dana is a passionate community service worker and has led the team at the Albion Park Rail Community Centre for 33 years. Dana has also worked tirelessly on behalf of numerous other Illawarra based community groups including Warilla Women's Health Centre, Community Health for Adolescents in Need (CHAIN) and the Illawarra Youth Housing Board. In 2019 Dana was recognised for her service and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her tireless work assisting disadvantaged residents of the Illawarra and lobbying on their behalf. Dana, on behalf of all residents of the Shellharbour Electorate, I say thank you.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS VOCAL ACADEMY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I congratulate Southern Lights Vocal Academy for their support of music teaching and development of choirs and voice training for all ages and abilities in and around Dapto. The Academy not only coaches voice, but also provides tutoring in guitar, piano, drama, and various performance genres for performers of all abilities, with a strong focus on growing confidence and fostering individuals' abilities to be active contributors to their communities. Southern Lights has several small performance groups as well as larger community choirs, which allow individuals of all ages, abilities and from all walks of life to build their group performance skills and socialise with like-minded individuals. Performing at local community events and representing the area in singing events and competitions near and afar are as important to the Southern Lights community as the singing lessons, with these opportunities utilised to represent the Dapto area, and build confidence and performance skills in all those involved. I congratulate Danny Benn, the Founder, Director, and Principal Teacher of Southern Lights Vocal Academy, and all their incredible staff on the fantastic community they have created in the Dapto area. I look forward to seeing what you all continue to achieve.

TACKLING LIFE "THE ONLY WAY"

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Mrs Pauline Vera Kermode who has reached her 100th Birthday this October. Mrs Kermode is the first resident of Estia Health Albury to reach this centenarian milestone, and is known well at the residence for her wonderful sense of humour and wisdom. Originally from England, Pauline joined the army at seventeen and quite enjoyed it. At 52 she moved to Australia with her then late husband and two daughters. When her husband passed, Pauline decided to travel the world and has also had many career paths. For the last ten decades she has enjoyed meeting people and has experienced many new places. Mrs Kermode may every minute of your 100th Birthday be filled with immense joy as you share this special time with your loved ones. Here's to 100 years of memories and life!

CONGRATULATIONS HUME DANCE SCHOOL LAVINGTON

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate all the students from Hume Dance School in Lavington, for their successful completion of their 2022 competition. A special mention to Georgina Robertson and Nate Polkinghorne who came first in their three events of couple rendition. Also to Sandy Kupa and Steve for their debut, as well as Ally McInnes and Lachlan Booth who came second in their progressive teams, and who will now be training even harder as they progress to the Australian Championships. It is wonderful to see our regional students who are of the highest calibre in dance technique, highly motivated and determined in performance skill with the ability to adapt to each genre. A special mention, to the dedicated team of teachers, parents and the volunteers behind the scenes who make these events successful, your time is priceless!!

CWA 'NOT JUST TEA AND SCONES' AFTER CENTURY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Jindera's branch of the Country Women's Association who are putting in place a series of celebrations to mark the centenary of this esteemed organisation in NSW last month. The Country Women's Association was first established to improve conditions for those women and children living in rural areas, especially isolated areas, and to create a health support facility as well as a hub for women to get together away from the farm. Beverly Blair is the president of CWA Jindera and has been advocating alongside Elaine Maling from Jindera Pioneer Museum for more women's health centres, for improvement in maternity services as well as to create opportunities for socialising, for education and for accessing community services within our regional towns. To celebrate this milestone and their many achievements

over this long period of service and friendship there was a number of activities taking place at the Jindera Pioneer Museum and I very much enjoyed the invitation to attend. Thank you to all at Jindera CWA.

MOOREBANK SPORTS CLUB

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to recognise Moorebank Sports Club for their recent support of Miracle Babies Foundation. The Club supports the foundation with a Club Grant of \$25,175 to sponsor the program Nurture Time at Liverpool Hospitals for families of babies in the NICU. This program is facilitated by caring parents who themselves have gone through and experienced the birth of premature or sick newborns. Miracle Babies' NurtureTime volunteers are completely qualified and give up their time to visit the hospital to offer guidance, support and hope to these parents and families. This is a fantastic program initiated by Miracle Babies – it really does help to bring parents and families some much needed support and care during what can be such an overwhelming time. I would like to commend Moorebank Sports Club for their generous support which will go a long way in supporting local families and parents and their babies.

LIVERPOOL TIME CAPSULE CIVIC CEREMONY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to thank Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The City of Liverpool and District Historical Society for putting on a fantastic event where we got to see the objects inside 50-year-old time capsule. It was great to see what was inside from so many years ago. Mr Ned Mannoun, Mayor of Liverpool City Council, read out a letter from the then Mayor and we all acknowledged the work of our local cable makers and the Liverpool TAFE for building the capsule – they were able to keep lots of letters and special memories safe inside for five decades. There was also a letter from "enthusiastic women of 1972" to "interested women of 2022" in Liverpool - I am very excited for it to be opened and read! Safe-keeping letters and objects from the past are especially important so the community can understand the history of our local area and I look forward to participating in a future capsule. I would like to thank Liverpool City Council for hosting this momentous occasion.

LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL CAR PARK OPENING

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Last month I was proud to officially open new multi-storey car park at Liverpool Hospital alongside the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health. This is something that I advocated for and was added as part of the \$790 million upgrade to the hospital. The car park will provide an additional 500 car spaces to the precinct which will alleviate parking pressure for staff, patients, and their families. The car park has a beautiful artwork on either side of the building, and it was lovely to have Indigenous artist Bibi Barba at the official opening to explain the meaning behind the artwork. It has cultural and personal significance but also ties into the meaning of new life and optimism for the patients. I would also like to thank the South West Sydney Local Health District and the Project Team for their hard work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, to deliver this project on time. The car park opened to the public on 15 September, and I know it will make a huge difference to the community.

HAYDEN HOOKER

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—Referees and umpires are not often the most popular people. But the greatest sports people are not always the most talented individuals, but the ones that can operate within the rules. And it is people like Hayden Hooker that ensure those rules are followed. And if his recent accolades are anything to go by, it won't be long before Hayden is refereeing at the elite level. The Ruse resident and Western Suburbs District Rugby League referee was recently awarded the prestigious West Group Senior Person of the Year. On top of that accolade, Hayden was also awarded the NSW Referees Association's Rookie of the Year in the junior representative pathways. It is in an incredible achievements and caps of what was truly an wonderful 2022 for Hayden. I often talk about the talented players in Campbelltown and the Macarthur region, but it's great to see officials also getting recognised for their efforts. Congratulations again on a both awards Hayden. They were clearly deserved and I can't wait to see you rise through the umpiring ranks in the future.

APPIN RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—We all know how important our emergency services workers and volunteers are. I often say it takes a special type of person to be an emergency services worker or volunteer - someone that runs towards and emergency, instead of running from it. Well, since 1944, the people in the township of Appin, south of Campbelltown, have been lucky to have the Appin Rural Fire Brigade looking out for them. The station is run by volunteers and unmanned but that doesn't mean they aren't busy. In fact, they are one of the busiest brigades in the Wollondilly Shire – attending close to 50 calls for assistance every year. The devastating 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires were a reminder of just how brave, selfless and dedicated members of rural fire service brigades truly are. We are fortunate in the Macarthur region to have a host of rural service brigades, and importantly, a plethora of local residents who want to be part of those brigades. Thank you to

everyone who has been a member of ARFB, or is currently still a member of ARFB, for looking out for your community during their greatest time of need.

JESSICA KANN

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—I would like to congratulate and acknowledge Ulladulla High School student Jessica Kann for her impressive athletic career and particularly for her outstanding success at the Australian National Cross-Country Championships. Jessica performed extremely well at the National event held in Adelaide winning a bronze medal and a place on the podium for which she should be very proud. She competed in the under 14 women's section and her time in the three-kilometre race was 11 minutes 14 which is impressive considering the conditions of the grounds after recent poor weather. Jessica plans to come back stronger than ever next year but this time chasing silver or gold and I have complete faith that she will do just that, she is a committed athlete.

PENRITH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith)—My congratulations to the newly elected Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce board members who will lead the team for the next 12 months. The new board includes: Richard Fox – President, Suzanne Walker – Vice President, Barclay Judge – Treasurer, Gavin King – Secretary and additional board members Lorenzo Tassone, Chantal Bronkhorst, Mary Donnelly, Ashlea Grimley and Lisa Finn-Powell. I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing board members for their commitment and service, Kate Rafton, Debbie O'Connor, Anil Puri and Phil Willey.

GROWING UP WIRADJURI

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—It was fantastic to be at the recent launch of Growing up Wiradjuri, a new junior non-fiction anthology featuring the stories of well-known Wiradjuri elders. The book includes stories by Auntie Isabel Reid, Uncle Stan Grant Snr, Auntie Lorraine Tye, Auntie Elaine Lomas, Auntie Cheryl Penrith, Uncle James Ingram, Auntie Mary Atkinson, and Uncle Norman Little, edited by Anita Heiss. These elders came of age in NSW in the 1950s and 1960s share so many memories and detail their fond memories of their own Elders; the Aunts and Uncles who cared for them and taught them culture. They talk about the values imparted on them by parents and grandparents, about what it means to come from a family where everyone takes care of each other during hard times, and what they have done to build stronger communities. Published by Magabala Books, the book features cover artwork by Luke Penrith and illustrations by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis. Congratulations to Leanne Sanders and Shanae Pope from Visual Dreaming and Bernard Higgins, the Wagga Wagga City Council Aboriginal Community Development Officer, on organising a great launch. Thank you to Luke Carroll, the much-loved Playschool presenter, for officially launching this great book.

WAGGA WAGGA'S RELAY FOR LIFE 2022

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—A last-minute venue change, made necessary by wet weather, failed to dampen the enthusiasm of people taking part in Wagga Wagga's Relay for Life 2022. Congratulations to the Relay for Life committee for getting ready to stage the event at a new venue, in just four days, after the decision was made to move. There was a wonderful atmosphere at the Relay and it was just great to have a live, in-person event happening again. Hundreds of people took part this year, and it raised more than \$70,000 to support cancer victims and fund research and prevention programs. I understand family members travelled to Wagga Wagga from as far as Jindabyne, Canberra and the NSW South Coast. Congratulations to the many people, led by chair Alan Pottie, who worked hard to make the 2022 event a success. Thank you to committee members, Michael Gordon, Connie Gordon, Greg Johnson, Leonie McCallum, Dallas Tout, Ang Roberts, Pat O'Donoghue, Leigh Ryan, Belinda Barker, Bron Worrell and Trevor Argus. Thank you to community organisations for helping to cater to the hungry crowds and to the Wagga Wagga businesses whose donations also helped to make the event successful.

VICKI JOHNSTON

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing work of Vicki Johnston. Not only was Vicki the manager of the Deli Women and Children's Centre she is a Domestic Violence specialist, advocate, and educator. Her work has been so pivotal in assisting women who have, and are experiencing, the horrible and heartbreaking realities of domestic violence and through her work she has amplified their voices and changed community perceptions around domestic violence. I was honoured to co-host the launch of the We're Better Than That domestic violence video campaign here in parliament which was co-created by Vicki. This campaign changed the discussion around male responsibility and bystander responsibility and breakdown the damaging tropes of toxic masculinity. Through the Deli and her advocacy and education here in Australia and internationally, Vicki has created safe spaces for women and

children and been pivotal in many lives being saved from domestic violence. On behalf of our community and everyone here in this room, thank you so much Vicki for your amazing work.

PATRICK DALE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise the accomplishments of 11 year old Patrick Dale from Lake Cathie who was recently named a finalist in the Teens in Business of the Year Awards. Young Entrepreneur Patrick Dale is a rarity for his age, as he sets his goals to become a successful businessman. Driven, motivated, passionate and enthusiastic are appropriate adjectives to describe Patrick's dedication to succeed in the business world. It therefore comes as no surprise that he was named one of five finalists in Australia to be nominated for Tweenpreneur of the Year. Patrick's delicious food range was launched in November 2021, through the baking and distribution of his chocolate flavoured marshmallows. It wasn't long before Patrick's sales skyrocketed, with demand for the marshmallows growing which were virtually unheard of in major retail outlets. Following his success, Patrick launched 'Sweet Tooth Marshmallows' at the Laurieton Night Markets in January 2022 and from there his five-year business plan was born. Today, you can purchase 'Sweet Tooth Marshmallows' from the Foreshore Markets in Port Macquarie and the Riverside Markets in Laurieton. I wish Patrick good luck in the Teens and Business Awards to be held on 25th October 2022.

LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIRE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise some of the finest and highly decorated NSW police officers in my electorate who recently retired from active service, completing a combined 323 years in the Force, protecting and serving our communities. Our community is indebted to these outstanding men and women in the many and varied roles they played across District serving on average 30 plus years. It was an honour to attend the farewell celebration on 30th September at The Westport Club to acknowledge the retirement of former Superintendent Mid North Coast Local Area Command, Paul Fehon APM. Paul's service and remarkable career spanned 43 years. His retirement on 15 September 2022 concludes decades worth of achievements and advancements in roles including criminal investigation, internal investigative unit experience, senior management positions, a National Crime Authority secondment and years overseeing local area commands. On behalf of our community I extend our thanks and best wishes to each of the nine officers on their retirement: Superintendent Paul Fehon APM, Detective Chief Inspector Kim Fehon, Chief Inspector Peter Neville, Sergeant Paul Dilley APM, Detective Sergeant David Shaw, Sergeant Ron Mudford, Sergeant Richard Hall, Senior Constable Neville Styles and Senior Constable Steven Cherry.

TRENT ALLEY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I congratulate 12-year-old Trent Alley from St Columba Anglican School for competing in his maiden Beach to Brother Trail Running Festival held on 2 October. All eyes were on our local young gun Trent Alley as he powered through the 10-kilometre Beach to Brother Trail to cross the finish line to claim the title and make history as the youngest ever competitor to secure a first placing in the event. Dominant in his performance, Trent cleared the tape five minutes ahead of his closest competitor, demonstrating the level of fitness and training he has invested to finish first running from the shores of North Haven Beach to the summit of North Brother Mountain.

The Beach to Brother Trail Running Festival is coordinated by local Camden Haven man Mick Maher and raises valuable funds for the Cancer Council. Now in its sixth year, this popular event attracts competitors from near and far and of course adds valuable tourism dollars to our region. Trent is no novice, winning two bronze medals at the Australian Little Athletics Championships as well as numerous cross-country accolades and even an Australian hurdling record. Congratulations Trent on a history making win.

KRISTIAN MILLER

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kristian Miller from Cootamundra High School after his recent achievements at the NSW All Schools Athletics Carnival held in Sydney. Kristian competed in the multi-class group aged 12-15 years and for his outstanding efforts across the event won five medals, three silver and two gold. Subsequently, Kristian has now qualified for the NSW team and will compete in the National Championships which will be held at Adelaide in December 2022. This is an incredible achievement from a young athlete. I have no doubt that Kristian will make his family, friends and his school proud at the National Championships. Congratulations again Kristian and I wish you every success in Adelaide.

WILY AT THE 2021 FLYBALL NATIONALS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to congratulate Wiley from team Maximum Velocity who travelled with his

humans from Illabo to Hawkesbury Showground to compete in the 2021 Australian Flyball Nationals against teams from all across Australia. Flyball is relay race between two teams, four dogs race in each team. The dogs relay one at a time, jumping over four jumps, and at the end they do an impressive turn on a spring-loaded flyball box, which shoots out a tennis ball that they must catch while running back to their owner. Not an easy feat. Wiley's team did a wonderful job at the national, where they placed fourth in division two, with a time of 17.781 seconds. Mel Tovey and Nick Barker, who are Wiley's owners deserve a thank you for their efforts over the weekend. They not only competed but assisted with everything from taking photos, recording statistics, and making handler and dog gift packs that matched their team's colours. A lot of work goes on behind the scene for dog sports and disciplines to hold their shows. Congratulations Wiley on competing, and well done to Mel and Nick for your efforts.

TERRIGAL SLSC PATROL MAKES LIFESAVING RESCUE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Today I would like to recognise the commitment of some true lifesavers. Members of Terrigal SLSC's Patrol Team 4 utilised their skills and training to save an older gentleman's life, who has now made a full recovery. A 70-year-old male collapsed while seated on a sandstone wall. Once alerted to the situation, the team acted swiftly. They commenced a primary assessment of the victim to find that he was non-breathing and non-responsive. Using their knowledge of first aid, the quick thinking and well-practiced team commenced CPR with oxygen support. The AED was used to deliver 4 shocks while awaiting the arrival of the ambulance. The immediate response of the team ensured that while the patient was experiencing cardiac arrest, the ambulance team successfully brought him back to life with 2 additional shocks with their AED. During the incident, the professional actions of the team ensured crowd management, where they continued to work on the patient despite interruption and pressure from onlookers. The success of this rescue is a true reflection of the proactive action of Patrol Team 4. Congratulations to all involved for such a fantastic rescue effort.

ERINA HIGH SCHOOL TARGETS SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Allow me to recognise the admirable effort of some local school students. Year 9 Science students at Erina High School took up the challenge of sorting through a day's worth of garbage. It was part of their school community's preparation for the NSW Government's upcoming ban on single use plastics. With the support of Rumbalara NSW Environmental and Zoo Education Centres, students conducted this monumental waste audit, categorising the materials, to gain a better understanding of waste at Erina High School. Understanding the "waste footprint" in an important first step in research. The work of these young scientists will go on to inform the design of new waste systems and how the school community will approach waste in the near future, hoping to reduce their contribution to single-use plastics. Currently, this pesky material makes up 60% of all litter in NSW, clogging waterways and harming land and marine ecosystems alike. The students and staff at Erina High School who jumped on board with vibrant initiative are to be highly commended for their contribution to research. Such grassroots, community-led action is essential to make real change. Thank you.

COOPER DART

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—I would like to recognise talented Tomingley teen, Cooper Dart. Cooper was part of the NSW Combined High Schools lawn bowls squad that won the inaugural School Sport Australia Lawn Bowls Championships last month in Melbourne. Travelling with his Mum and Dad to compete fourteen-year-old Cooper said he really enjoyed playing in the championships. With members ranging in age from thirteen to eighteen years, the fifteen member, five-a-side, mixed squad dominated the competition. The team played five rounds, losing the first and winning the next four to take out the Gold Medal. This level of competition is currently the highest that Combined High School students can participate in within Australia and while there is no international competition at this level ten players were selected as the best in the country. Apparently, Cooper was just outside that top ten. Cooper has been a member of the West Dubbo Bowling Club since he first took up the sport locally at age ten and heads straight into the club bowls championships now that competitive school bowls has finished for the teen sensation. Congratulations Cooper on your achievement, I wish you well for future bowling.

JORJA FULLER

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—I want to congratulate Dubbo College 2020 Alumnus Jorja Fuller who has won Best Short Film at the Out From the Mist Australia-Asia Awards for Sincerely, Anxiety. Sincerely, Anxiety is a short film exploring the thoughts and feelings that a person with anxiety may feel. In a time where we are all connected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via emails, text messages and social media, Jorja used phone messages as a metaphor for the ongoing, overwhelming variety of thoughts that can bombard you when you live with anxiety. In doing so, Jorja has created an opportunity for those of us who don't live with anxiety to get a sense of what it's like for those who do. Fittingly,

the award was announced on Monday, on World Mental Health Day. Now Speaker, finishing a short film is an astonishing achievement. But even more incredible, Jorja's film beat submissions from 23 countries around the world to claim the top prize. Congratulations Jorja and thank you for the work you're doing to start important conversations around mental health.

MADDY COLLIER

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Nowra's local star Maddy Collier for her outstanding achievement, Maddy was announced co-captain for her upcoming season with the Sydney Swans. What a huge honour, this will mark her fourth professional season, suiting up for both the Greater Western Sydney Giants and West Coast Eagles across 34 games since the AFLW season in 2017. What an achievement to be presented a leadership role, Maddy should be very proud of her accomplishments and her success. Her love and passion to the sport and fitness makes her very deserving of this leadership role. Keep up the great work, I wish you all the success in the future, keep up the performance you are an outstanding player, and you'll make a great Co-Captain sharing all your positive influence and skills out on the field.

ST PIUS NSWCCC RESULTS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—The NSWCCC Athletics Championships were held on 12 September 2022 at the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre in Homebush, bringing together the best young athletes from Catholic high schools around the state. The delegation from St Pius X in Kotara had an excellent showing in a range of events. Alex Brown came first in the 100 metre multi-class event, and first in the Shot Put with a distance of 5.12m. Alex also competed in the 200 metre MC event, and placed fifth. Phoebe Doran placed second in her events, the 15 years 1500 metres, the 800 metres and the 400 metres. Dylan Molly placed third in the Discus event, and competed in 100 metre and 200 metre MC events, placing fifth and seventh respectively. mEthan Zander placed second in the 16 years long jump, with a jump of 6.1 metres. My congratulations to these athletes, and to the St Pius students who attended, including Poppy Doran, Amelie Hingston, Jomaree Munro, Samuel Woods and Billie Young. Great work!

YWCA 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) first opened in Newcastle in March of 1922. The YWCA quickly became a symbol of learning, equality, and refuge in the region. A century on, YWCA Hunter is a women-led organisation that achieves positive change by providing advocacy, programs, and services to support, empower and connect women and families for a stronger community. I went along to the first of the celebratory events which the YWCA will be using to mark this important milestone: the YWCA Hunter Centenary Gala Event at the Merewether Surfhouse on Saturday 1 October. The event included the launch of the YWCA's new "Strategic Plan 2026", which setting the organisation up for future success. I'm sure they'll be celebrating many more milestones to come. I was inspired by my conversations with the board, which includes President Nina Aubin, and directors Andrea Fernandes, Stephanie Hope, Alicia Kent-Rooney, Alexandra Potter, and Shannon Whyte. Since their selection in May, this group of exceptional women have been working hard to finalise the Strategic Plan. I expect we'll be seeing and hearing quite a bit from YWCA Hunter under this new leadership team.

MAXWELL AND ANNE ANDERSON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—On Tuesday 4 October, Maxwell and Anne Anderson of Kotara celebrated an incredible milestone—the seventieth anniversary of their wedding. I was honoured to help them ring in this special day by arranging congratulatory messages, and was thrilled to receive two pictures in return. One was from their wedding day at Scots Kirk Hamilton on 4 October 1952 and one from their seventieth anniversary celebrations. Together they raised four children, David, Suzanne, John and Brian, and for many years they owned and ran a corner store on Braye Street in Mayfield, and then another in Orchardtown Road, New Lambton—over this time, they became fixtures in the community. They have lived in Kotara South since 1960, becoming involved in a number of community groups including the local school, Kotara Soccer Club and Kotara Scouts, and more recently the Kotara Bowling Club. Anne is now living in a nursing home. Their daughter Suzanne tells me that Max brings her home regularly and misses her terribly when they're apart. The love and devotion these two have shown one another for seventy years is so inspiring. Congratulations once again on your anniversary.

MICHAEL PONTEFRAC

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—On behalf of the House I extend congratulations to Michael Pontefract on being recognized as the 2022 Adult Volunteer of the year for the Northern Rivers. Michael has been an active patrolling lifesaver for more than 40 years and continues to be a leading volunteer training officer and captain of the Evans Head Casino Surf Lifesaving Club. Michael drives an hour from his home to the

surf at Evans Head to ensure beach goers are safe in the water and his fellow lifesavers are properly trained in the use of power crafts, rescue operations and water safety. Michael has been recognized over the past 3 years as the Far North Coast Lifesaver of the Year, as NSW Patrol Captain of the Year and the 2022 Richmond Valley Australia Day Citizen of the Year. He is also the carnival and competition coordinator for Casino Swimming Club, a technical officer for Swimming North Coast and the coordinator and treasurer of the Charcoal Inn Charity Club. Congratulations Michael on your long and dedicated service to your community. We're very proud of you.

WINGECARRIBEE ADULT DAY CARE CENTRE

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Wingecarribee Adult Day Care Centre (WADCC) is a non-profit organisation that provides social groups for seniors and their carers, who still live in their homes within the Wollondilly LGA. The organisation aims to foster social connections and prevent premature institutionalisation. The WADCC holds ten social groups per week, with five held in Bowral. The WADCC's motto, 'For Fun and Friendship', is demonstrated through the fun activities for seniors to enjoy. These include guest speakers, musical performances, bingo, art, and garden strolls. The WADCC is well deserving of recognition for its work in enriching the lives of seniors within the community, who are often overlooked. Social connectivity is vitally important at any age, but especially for the elderly, who can have limited socialisation opportunities within their age group. Thank you to the team at WADCC for providing an invaluable service to our community.

BOWRAL BOWLING CLUB AWARDED

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—A big congratulations to Bowral Bowling Club for its local entertainment program that won the recent 2022 Clubs and Community Awards Arts and Culture Prize. The Bowral Bowling Club has moved from strength to strength after its opening by the new owners, Tony and Kate Dunn. I commend the Club's General Manager, Tony Dunn, for his resilience in responding to the pandemic and its effect on entertainment venues. The entire operation of the Bowling Club pivoted to accommodate the changing nature of entertainment and service delivery over the past few years. Impressively, in a move that also helped local wineries, Dunn co-operated with local wineries to stock their products in the Club's bottle shop and began to offer takeaway food. The Bowral Bowling Club is part of the fabric of our local community, providing an inclusive spot for locals and tourists alike to congregate and enjoy live music and other entertainment. It has also provided local music artists with an invaluable opportunity to perform and have their art heard.

RUSSELL CHRISTISON

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Russell Christison is a member of my electorate that deserves recognition for his volunteer work with the Cancer Council. Russell has volunteered as a driver for the Cancer Council's Transport to Treat Program for the past two and a half years. The program offers great relief to cancer patients and their loved ones by providing transport to medical appointments. Russell's decision to volunteer was made after he retired from the railways five years ago and after his subsequent personal journey with cancer in 2019. Russell has provided significant support to members of our community by offering practical aid and companionship to people in their most challenging times. It is clear that Russell exudes the Wollondilly spirit, and it is residents like him that make my electorate so great. I offer my deepest gratitude and thanks to Russell, in addition to the Cancer Council, for the fantastic work they do.

MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE HSC 2022

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students Class of 2022 from Mary MacKillop College, Wakeley. For HSC students, the two years or so in preparation for the HSC is always a challenging time, fraught with anxiety, on the brink of the future and with change on the horizon. I commend these students for their determination which has led to the completion of their academic requirements. On behalf of the Fairfield Electorate, I express my pride in their efforts that have led them to this day. I also thank Principal Gilda Pussich for her leadership and I commend the teachers at Mary MacKillop College for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content. Well done and best wishes, Class of 2022.

PAL BUDDHIST SCHOOL HSC 2022

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students Class of 2022 from PAL Buddhist School. For HSC students, the two years or so in preparation for the HSC is always a challenging time, fraught with anxiety, on the brink of the future and with change on the horizon. I commend these students for their determination which has led to the completion of their academic requirements. On behalf of the Fairfield Electorate, I express my pride in their efforts that have led them to this day. I also thank Principal Panha Pal for his leadership and I commend the teachers at PAL Buddhist School for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content. Well done and best wishes, Class of 2022.

ROSIE BRENNAN

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—Today I recognise Rosie Brennan a winner of the Education Ministers award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Rosie Brennan a student at NBSC Mackellar Girls has distinguished herself and a demonstrated a commitment to excellence in every aspect of school life. Rosie proudly serves as School Captain, a role in which she displays strong leadership and integrity. Further she is known as proactive advocate for the welfare of her fellow students. Further Rosie has distinguished her both academically and athletically achieving high levels of achievement at National Canoeing, State Soccer and Surf Life Saving. I extended my congratulations to Rosie her commitment to her school and community. This is an incredibly significant achievement that Rosie and her family should be very proud of.

SAVELIO TAMALE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—Today I congratulate local Rugby Player and High School student Savelio Tamale. Savelio is a student at St Pauls Catholic College Manly he is known as kind and hardworking student and a talented rugby player. Recently Savelio's talent and hard work was recognised as he was selected to 2022 Australian Schools and Under 18s Rugby side. This is the highest honour a schoolboy rugby player can achieve. Saviello, his parents and his school. I wish him the best of luck with his Rugby and career and the HSC.

YOUNG CREATIVES AWARDS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I warmly congratulate all the winners of the 2022 Young Creatives Awards. The Young Creative Awards is a yearly competition run by Inner West Libraries. Every year, it celebrates and recognises the talent of our young, aspiring writers and artists. The competition is divided into three different age categories, and invites young people from ages twelve to twenty-four to submit their work. This year, entrants were asked to either submit a piece of writing or a photo of an artwork or digital piece inspired by or responding to an item from the Inner West Libraries' collection. The 2022 winners were recently announced and their fantastic artworks are set to be displayed in a dedicated public exhibition. This year's exhibition will run from 9 to 13 November and will be hosted in Camperdown's Chrissie Cotter Gallery. It will also feature a public reading of some of the winners' written work. I congratulate the winning writers Victoria Pantelis, Khanh Ngo, and Jaya Kortegast. I also congratulate the winning artists Rohan Willard, Valentina Guarna, and Augustine Flett. I look forward to seeing all your brilliant work on display. Well done!

GREEN THUMBS DULWICH HILL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—With spring in full bloom this month, Sunnyfield Disability Services have launched their weekly Green Thumbs program. Sunnyfield is an organisation that supports children, youth and adults with disabilities to connect with their local community, as well as build independence and useful skills. Recently, Sunnyfield's Dulwich Hill Hub has begun hosting gardening activities free for the community. The program is at 3 to 6pm every Wednesday and is intended to run every week into December 2023! During these sessions, participants will be able to get outdoors and soak up the sunshine with mates while they get their hands dirty growing their own produce. The garden at the Dulwich Hill Hub is also home to a flock of chickens that participants can tend to throughout the afternoon. The Green Thumbs program is a wonderful opportunity to breathe in some fresh air, learn a new skill, work in a team, and make some friends along the way. I thank Stella Nicodemou at Sunnyfield for organising such a valuable program for the Dulwich Hill community.

COME YOU SPIRITS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—On Friday night 23 September, I had the joy of seeing The Haven Amphitheatre in Castlecrag once again roar back to life. This much-loved iconic local institution played host to Shakespeare's Macbeth, acted superbly by the talented cast of Come you Spirits Theatre Company. Come You Spirits is a collective of actors based on Sydney's Lower North Shore and currently touring NSW giving a fresh voice to the greatest stories of our time. I know how honoured and delighted Come You Spirits were to be the first professional theatre company in years to re-ignite The Haven with their performances of Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet. Their moonlight performance of MacBeth on the Friday night was just magic! The costuming and acting were brilliant and the acoustics in The Haven were extraordinary. The audience were clearly impressed and the local community in Willoughby can be very grateful to have such stunning cultural experiences.

MINIFIT

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I recently caught up with rugby league great Anthony Minichiello to hear about his new initiative, Minifit. Since his retirement from his stellar career with the Sydney Roosters, Anthony has continued to promote the importance health and fitness by founding Minifit as new physical education program for children and youth. Operating within schools and aligned with the PDHPE curriculum,

Minifit is aimed at decreasing obesity through physical activity, nutrition, and wellbeing. Outside of the school term, Minifit also runs free school holiday clinics to give children a chance to build both physical skills and lasting friendships. As a long-time supporter and former director of Life Education, the physical fitness and wellbeing of our children is close to my heart. With the rise in childhood obesity and screentime, it is now more vital than ever that children are active, not just for their physical health but also their mental and emotional wellbeing. I heartily commend Anthony for creating this valuable initiative to educate children on the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle.

FRANKLIN WOMEN

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I recognise the invaluable work of Franklin Women and its founder Willoughby local Dr Melina Georgousakis in providing support to women pursuing health and medical research careers. Founded by Dr Georgousakis in September 2014 after her own experiences as a woman navigating the challenges of a career in the health industry, Franklin Women has now grown to over a thousand members. In partnership with many health organisations, government agencies and academic institutions, Franklin Women now hold regular networking events that bring together women to share their experiences, and provide a scholarship program, professional development and training as well as mentoring opportunities. Another excellent initiative is the raising of the profiles of notable female scientists to highlight the contribution and role of women in the industry. I was pleased to have recently met with Dr Georgousakis and I commend her and Franklin women for striving to create stronger opportunities for women to flourish in the health industry and ensure they are well supported.

SUNNYHAVEN DISABILITY SERVICES

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)—I recognise and congratulate Sunnyhaven Disability Services and consider myself privileged to have attended their 71st anniversary celebration last week. Sunnyhaven has a rich and motivating history. Starting out as a group of families that came together in 1951 to best meet the needs of their children, it now has a total of 12 centres in Sydney, 9 of them in the St George area, providing a range of services and programs for people with a disability, and their carers. It was a joy to watch the affectionate and caring staff looking after their treasured clients at the anniversary celebration. I was heartened to witness the love and affection on display, where the focus was clearly on enriching and enhancing lives. I commend Sunnyhaven Disability Services and wish them well in their future endeavours.

FARRELLY HOUSE LISMORE REOPENING

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It was very uplifting to join many Lismore locals at the reopening of Farrelly House in the Lismore CBD. The rebuild and it is built back better to resist flood is a great vote of confidence in Lismore's future. It also importantly brings jobs and people back into town. Farrelly House is home to two vital local organisations REDinc - Realising Every Dream and the Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW - Northern Region (RFCSNR). We were treated to a moving and beautiful performance to celebrate the occasion from the REDinc Choir followed by addresses from REDinc CEO Marie Gale and RFCSNR CEO Gary Goldberg. A big thank you to building owner John Barnes for his investment and backing to give these vital organisations a home and to Jimmy Barnes for leading the construction team to get the building habitable for REDinc and the RFCSNR back home where they belong; right in the Heart. It was also great to be joined by my colleagues local Councillor Steve Krieg - Mayor of Lismore and Kevin Hogan Federal Member for Page, as we celebrated this special event.

THE TEAM SAVING LISMORE'S ART GALLERY COLLECTION

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It was wonderful to meet and thank the expert team conserving and restoring valuable artworks salvaged from the Lismore Regional Gallery's collection in the wake of the catastrophic February 28 flood. I was delighted to see firsthand the great work being done by International Conservation Services (ICS) Chief Executive Officer Mr Julian Bickersteth and his staff in Sydney last week. The safekeeping of Lismore's arts sector and cultural heritage can become a key part of how Lismore and the Northern Rivers region rebuilds from the floods of February and March this year. I want to thank the team led by ICS CEO Julian Bickersteth, Conservator Maria Vicente, Onsite Manager and Paintings Conservator Suati Rojas, International Conservation Services Head of Conservation Adam Godijn and Conservator Francesca Elia. Prior to me visiting the expert team I had met with Gallery Director Ashleigh Ralph, Curator Kezia Geddes, and Friends of the Gallery representatives – President Ron Dowell, Vice-President Deepak Khuller, Secretary Susan Conroy and Treasurer Kevin Bell who briefed me on the conservation and restoration work. I gave my commitment to back them in all efforts to get our beloved Lismore Regional Gallery up and running.

TABULAM CWA AGM 2022

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the mighty women of the Tabulam branch of the Country Women's Association for holding their annual general meeting this week. I am honoured to be a patron of the Tabulam CWA branch and know closely the immense impact these women have on the Tabulam community. I give special mention to the elected executive that includes the President: Courtney Thomas, Secretary: Janice Stekhoven, Treasurer: Vicki Atkinson, Vice President (1st): Vicki Stebbins and Vice President (2nd) Kitty van Vuuren. I particularly want to acknowledge Courtney for taking on the role of President as a young woman. It is good to know that young country women are getting involved and taking leadership of the CWA. The future is bright. As Courtney said in the Richmond River Independent the CWA are much more than scones and crafts. They are a force to be reckoned with; advocates, carers and organisers. They are the backbone of our country communities. I also express appreciation here to my women parliamentary colleagues who formed the Parliamentary Friends of CWA, to ensure that the voices of the CWA are heard and importantly heeded, directly in the halls of the NSW Parliament.

JUNIOR CRICKET IN NORTH SHORE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recently had the pleasure of joining the Minister for Sport, Alister Henskens, at North Sydney Oval to announce the next round of Active Kids Vouchers. Some of our young female cricketers from the North Sydney District Junior Cricket Club invited the Minister and me to join in a friendly game of cricket. It is truly inspiring to see our young local female cricketers' passion. Watching them stand out on the pitch smashing the ball for what would clearly be sixes in any given game was fantastic. I want to acknowledge the North Sydney District Junior Cricket Club President Karl Riseborough and Director of Women's Cricket Michelle Goszko for their incredible work and the passion they invest in the club and our young cricketers. My electorate of North Shore has a vibrant cricket community reaching across all levels of the sport. In the Sydney North region, of which my community is a part, we have 9,344 junior male cricketers and 1636 junior female cricketers. There is clearly a great love for cricket in my community, and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow and flourish.

NETBALL EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recently joined other members of this place and competed in a friendly game of netball against our cousins across the water in New Zealand. It was a thrilling match, with our NSW Parliament team ultimately taking out the honours and winning 30-27. I thank Lynda Voltz in this place for organising the game against New Zealand. I want to acknowledge Netball Australia and Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ryan for providing our NSW Parliament team with some Australian Diamonds scarfs for us to wear. Netball is the cornerstone of powering women's sport in Australia and is also a community-focused game. One of my local netball clubs is Mosman Netball Club, a community-run sporting club that provides both kids and adults with the opportunity to play netball locally. I worked closely with club members to help them secure NSW Government funding for new outdoor lighting installed in 2020 at the Drill Hall. I acknowledge club president Nicole Castellan and the rest of the committee, Claire Kelsey, Sam Foley, Tamara Martin, Kate West, and Shaun Mitchell, for their hard work and support to ensure the ongoing success of this essential local sporting club.

MAITLAND MUSICAL SOCIETY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—I would like to recognise the dedicated members of the Maitland Musical Society who this year celebrate their 58th anniversary. The Society has a proud history as Maitland's only musical society and is made up of a dedicated group of musicians who volunteer their time and talents. These musicians make up the orchestra, who for the past five decades have volunteered to play at two musicals per year and multiple other performances throughout the year, bringing rich musical experiences to the Maitland community. The past few years have been especially hard for the society, with covid lockdowns putting a stop to live performances. The society has worked hard to come back post covid stronger than ever, having recently performed their first live performance since October 2019. I had the opportunity to attend this performance and I was in awe of the gifted musicians. It was a fantastic afternoon full of wonderful music and great company. The Maitland Musical Society is hoping to get back into putting on full musical theatres by early 2023 and I wish them all the best for their future.

2022 STUDENT OF THE YEAR FOR THE HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST REGIONS, JAKE SMITH

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Today I acknowledge a determined young man from my electorate of Maitland, Jake Smith. At the 2022 Vocational Education and Training Awards, Jake was awarded Student of the Year for the Hunter and Central Coast regions. Having now completed his Higher School Certificate while gaining significant work experience and a Certificate II in Automotive, with the Hunter Trade College, Jake

has the world at his feet. From a young age Jake knew he wanted to be an automotive mechanic, he says he has always enjoyed pulling things apart, seeing how they work and putting them back together. And with the help of his teachers at the Hunter Trade College, his mentors and work experience placements Jake is now in the ideal position to pursue this. Jake's determination and hard work over the past two years, has seen him in good stead to start the next chapter in his life, working towards a career in his chosen industry and trade. Congratulations Jake on your great achievements this year, I am sure they are just the beginning of many more to come in your life.

MR JOHN WRIGHT - FROM THE OLD BAILEY LONDON 1774 TO BROOM MAKING IN MORPETH 2022 MY STORY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—It was my pleasure to attend the launch of Mr John Wright's latest book titled *From The Old Bailey London 1774 To Broom Making In Morpeth 2022 My Story*. With the generations of the Wright family having farmed in Morpeth since the 1830's, John brings to life stories of local events, characters, and his personal history in a spectacular book full of wonderful memories and stories that shine a spotlight on Morpeth, the Hunter River and his family history. John has lived and farmed on his property for all of his 80 years and is renowned for his vegetables and the brooms he creates from millet grown on his property. He is commonly known as the 'Broom Man' is believed to be the only person in Australia to undertake the entire process of broom making from growing the millet to hand-sewing the head in a rustic shack he constructed, including using cast-off timber from earlier incarnations of the Morpeth Bridge. I would like to congratulate John on his book and thank him for the wonderful contribution he continues to make in our community.

PARKES VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Vietnam Veterans Day and acknowledge the Parkes RSL Sub Branch for their efforts in refurbishing and opening the Vietnam Memorial at Memorial Hill in Parkes. On the commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day, Thursday 18th August 2022, the Parkes RSL Sub Branch officially opened the refurbished Vietnam Memorial. It was an honour to join with current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force, members of the Parkes RSL Sub Branch and the community to commemorate Vietnam Veteran's Day, and remember those who sacrificed their lives and those who returned home physically and psychologically injured. I want to congratulate the efforts of Paul Thomas, George Pratt, Keith Woodlands and other members of the Parkes RSL Sub Branch in the refurbishing the Vietnam Memorial. Well done.

STANMORE PUBLIC SCHOOL 2022 STUDENT LEADERS

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate and acknowledge Stanmore Public School's elected student leaders for 2022. The 2022 Student Executive Leaders at Stanmore Public School are Kiri Scott, Micah Whaley, Sam Eysers, Aubie Cohen, Emma Gormly, Beatrix Nagy, Giselle Nelson, Locke Isaacs, Angus Ditton and Phineas McMahon. Becoming a representative for your school is a highly rewarding way of contributing to the strength and connection of our community. These leaders have done exactly this through their various initiatives for the year. I thank them for the great work they have done this year, for the work they will continue to do, and for the difference they have made to their school's community and to our electorate of Newtown.

SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE BLACKWATTLE BAY - SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the house the efforts of students at Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay, whose Year 12 graduation I had the pleasure of attending in September. I want to acknowledge all the Year 12 students for their hard work and the school leaders, Captains Anna Finance and Cassidy Newman and Vice Captains Patrick Hubbard and Mia Williams, for their service to the school. The dedication of these school leaders to the school is so impressive and highlights the importance of encouraging young people to take up leadership positions within our schools and wider communities.

SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE BLACKWATTLE BAY - YEAR 12 AWARD WINNERS

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the house the efforts of students at Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay, whose Year 12 graduation I had the pleasure of attending in September. I want to acknowledge the hard work of all the award winners - Sahara Hunt, Joleen Lie, Jazmine Philalack, Sophie Wakeling, Lucy Tang, Tommie Tan, Brandon Peter, Eleanor Jones, Benjamin Tresno-Turner, Hieu Phan, Yaeli Hyams, Alex King, Campbell Kerr, Mac Gallen, Ned Graham, Scarlett Finn, Ashleigh James, Kai Sersansie, Chelsea Simply, Kristen Ross, Lou Ardon, Millie van Akrel, William Garside, Odette Cranwell, Fergus Ryan, Elissa Tennant, Milena Pavlovic, Thomas Aspinall, Tom Vercoc, Campbell Kerr, Bianca Chen, Elsa Wright, Thomas Aspinall, Eric Mills, Alex King, Ilay Hyams, Nikolaos Kabouris-Horner, Makayla Holmes, Oliver Thorp, Logan Mack, Nicholas Montagnese, Patrick Mirabelli, Melissa Kopjar, Michelle Chen, Aasha

Spirathy Cody, Denna Kelly, Adam Fragiacomio, Tommie Tan, Aiden Gardner, Javier Ugarte Campus, Aliko Xanthakos, Rose Clay and Elina de Rosnay.

JACOB RAPHAEL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to congratulate Orchard Hills resident and student at Penrith Anglican College, Jacob Raphael, for his enthusiastic approach of chasing his judo dreams and one day following in his father's footsteps of competing in Olympic and Commonwealth Games. The 11-year-old took up the popular Japanese martial art at the age of three years old, with his highly accomplished Mauritian father, Jean-Claude, guiding him every step of the way. Both parents, including mum Marlene, run the very successful Kokoro Judo in Penrith's busy High Street, so it comes as no surprise that Jacob has just come off the best few months of his sporting career so far. Earlier this year in March, Jacob travelled to and attended the Melbourne International Judo Open in the Junior Boy U38kg division, where he won a Gold medal. Then in April, he was crowned Junior Boy U38kg State Champion after finishing first at the NSW State Championships. In June, Jacob went to compete at the Australian National Championships on the Gold Coast where he secured Bronze. A very big congratulations Jacob, I wish you good luck and look forward to hearing of your future success!

JOSH ANDERSON

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Josh Anderson, Mulgoa local who has been crowned the 2022 Aussie Racing Cars Series Champion. The final round of the season took place at Sandown in Victoria in late August with Josh needing a top four finish to secure his place in his maiden Aussie Racing Cars Championship. Unlike a lot of other drivers who have started out in Go-karts or something similar, Josh went down a very different path. Josh's background is in simulated racing and that stems from Josh's obsession with online racing games which a lot of kids these days can relate to. Once again, a big congratulations Josh on the win and I look forward to your very successful racing career.

ANTHONY BOROS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Glenmore Park local Anthony Boros who has received the Public School Parent of the Year Award at the 2022 Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. The award is presented to parents, guardians and caregivers who have made a significant contribution to their local NSW public school community. Anthony is the P&C President of Regentville Public School and was nominated for the award earlier this year. Parents, guardians and caregivers are an integral part of school communities. They work hard to ensure that our children are supported to get the best education possible. Their commitment to fundraising and organising events enables children in many schools to have the best environment possible for learning and development. I want to congratulate once more, Anthony on receiving this special award.

TOM HANCOCK

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I wish to congratulate Tom Hancock who at the age of 86 has recently broken 4 Australian Records and was named the male athlete of the Australian Masters Athletics Winter Throws Championships. Throwing further than some of the younger competitors Tom broke four Australian records in the 85 to 90 age division throws pentathlon (hammer, shot put, discus, javelin and weight throw). Tom is an inspiration to us all and shows that age is no barrier to determination and skill. Congratulations Tom and I hope to read of more of results in the future.

NEON PLAYGROUND

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate, I congratulate the organisers and supporters of Neon Playground, a vibrant street festival of art, lights, music and food that is activating the Chinatown precinct and celebrating community and culture. I was pleased to join the successful opening and experience this fresh burst of creativity. This event will contribute to the revitalisation of Chinatown and the southern Sydney CBD, especially after the hit of COVID19 restrictions. It showcases local Asian Australian artists Chris Yee, Jason Wing, Joy Li, James Jirat Patradoon and Steffie Yee; and Sydney based music talents DJ Arisse, Nightjarr, Destructive Dance Steps, JYLPO, xTRILLIAMS, Dylan Goh, Chuey and others. Neon Playground will attract significant visits and bring new blood to the precinct. I thank the organisers Haymarket HQ, Soul of Chinatown, Basalt Studio, The Haymarket Chamber of Commerce and Bepok3. The event is well supported by the City of Sydney, small businesses and local community members. Business reactivation, especially cultural precinct activation is vital to revive and support local businesses and community. I encourage everyone to join the celebrations and visit our historic Chinatown for this modern experience.

DAVE WALKER

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I join with Lilli Pilli Football Club in paying tribute to Dave Walker who passed away earlier this month. The Lilli Pilli Club has been saddened by Dave's loss

at just 63 years of age. He was a 38 year playing veteran and provided endless service to the club and also as a Sutherland Shire referee. Lilli Pilli FC says Dave was a big character and a great friend to many around the club for such a long time. I recognise the valued volunteer service and commitment to the Lilli Pilli club and football by Dave Walker and pass on my condolences to wife Carole and sons Aaron and Brad, and other family and friends.

CRONULLA ELECTORATE JPS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I was delighted today to meet two of my constituents, Colleen Dombkins of Lilli Pilli and Reinhart Putral of Caringbah South, as they were recognised for 50 years of service to the community as Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are volunteers appointed by the Governor and play an important role in the community by witnessing statutory declarations or affidavits and certifying copies of original documents. We all appreciate their assistance when we need documents witnessed for things such as passport applications, starting a new job, for banking or superannuation or personal legal affairs. Volunteer service is fundamental to making our community what it is, and I commend Colleen, Reinhart and their other colleagues from around the state for their dedication to serving New South Wales over 50 years.

FLETCHER VETERINARY PRACTICE

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The Local Business Awards, run by Precedent Productions, were established in 1985 and currently see around 38,000 businesses across NSW & ACT nominated for an award annually. The awards are well respected and recognise successful and outstanding businesses in their local region. Fletcher Veterinary Practice, located in Fletcher and Wallsend, were selected as the winner in their category of Outstanding Pet Care in the 2022 Hunter Local Business Awards. This win acknowledges the quality care and dedication Fletcher Veterinary Practice provides to their patients, and shows the team how valued they are by the community. Dr Paul Robin started the practice's journey in 1998 with The Vet Maryland, which later transitioned to Fletcher Veterinary Practice in 2009. The experienced team not only offer outstanding veterinary services, but also pride themselves on delivering a relaxed and comforting experience for the whole family. Fletcher Veterinary Practice offer health and wellbeing services for beloved family members, including microchipping, vaccinations, desexing, dental, grooming, behavioural advice, as well as puppy training. Congratulations to Fletcher Veterinary Practice on your win!

THE NEW LAW

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The Local Business Awards, run by Precedent Productions, were established in 1985 and currently see around 38,000 businesses across NSW & ACT nominated for an award annually. The awards are well respected and recognise successful and outstanding businesses in their local region. The New Law, located in Wallsend, were selected as the winner in their category of Outstanding Beauty Services in the 2022 Hunter Local Business Awards. This win acknowledges The New Law's quality, experience and dedication to their clients, and shows the team that they are appreciated for their hard work. Taleah, Ella and Mikaela opened The New Law in 2020 and have already grown their team to include Julia, Talisa, Jacky, Monique, Nicole and Georgia. The fun and fabulous team not only offer outstanding beauty services, but also excel in creating a welcoming environment for their clients. The salon provides a wide range of services such as cosmetic tattoos, eyelash extensions, nail art, teeth whitening, hair extensions and styling, cosmetic injectables, waxing, facials and other beauty therapies. Congratulations to The New Law on your win!

JECS CLEANING SERVICES

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The Local Business Awards, run by Precedent Productions, were established in 1985 and currently see around 38,000 businesses across NSW & ACT nominated for an award annually. The awards are well respected and recognise successful and outstanding businesses in their local region. JECS Cleaning Services, a family run small business based in Maryland, were selected as the winner in their category of Outstanding Property Services in the 2022 Hunter Local Business Awards. This win acknowledges the exceptional domestic cleaning services and real estate property services JECS Cleaning Services provides to their clients, and shows the team how valued they are by the community. Nic Honnery, owner operator of JECS Cleaning and her experienced team not only pride themselves on delivering an exceptional service, but also maintain privacy, confidentiality and trust with their clients. JECS Cleaning Services offer various cleaning services such as domestic and commercial cleaning, pre-sale and post-sale cleaning, end of lease cleaning, spring cleaning and high pressure cleaning. Congratulations to JECS Cleaning Services on your win!

CASSIE WILLIAMS - JOCKEY'S FIRST WIN

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Armidale apprentice, Cassey Williams on her first triumph win at Tamworth's Showcase meet on Sunday, 4 September in the \$30,000 1200m Maiden race. Crossing the finish line with nearly two lengths in front of second place abroad the Ian Cook trained Thunder

Fox was a magnificent win. Cassey, only 23 years of age is apprenticed to Stirling Osland with having experience with Cook's gelding, having ridden him for three previous starts including a second placing. Cassey confesses she always wanted to become a Jockey and was obsessed about racing growing up although never thought she would have the chance of becoming one. She even went down the path of studying vet nursing which was encouraged by her Nan which she disliked tremendously. Cassey began riding trackwork for Stafford Wain before taking up an opportunity to apprentice under Armidale's biggest trainer in Osland where she rode her first trial in November 2021 and has never looked back. I commend Cassey on her first win and her passion she has for racing. I look forward in following her career with many wins and triumphs to come!

DARYL AND LYN MEEHAN - LIVESTOCK CARRIERS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the 54 years of service by Daryl and Lyn Meehan Livestock Carriers, popular stock carriers who have devoted a good part of their lives to providing a dependable and safe delivery of livestock across the region. As a young man Mr Meehan discovered a business opportunity when neighbours asked him to take their lambs to the saleyards with his parents' cattle. As a truck driver he had security knowing that in case of a break-down his cattle would be delivered. You see, there was a mutual understanding that drivers would support each other. And there were friendships to be made, such as that with Kevin Fisher who not only helped with the cattle runs but also introduced Daryl to the bagpipes. Being a livestock carrier has had its challenges and its rewards. Mr and Mrs Meehan are retiring, but Daryl intends to visit the saleyards from time to time. I congratulate the Meehans on their contribution to the livestock industry. I commend Daryl and Lyn on their integrity, the long, hard hours working with livestock, and the reputation their business earned from reliable service.

ARMIDALE PCYC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I congratulate Armidale's PCYC who will celebrate their 70th Anniversary this year. Since 1952, PCYC has been empowering young people to survive, and thrive, in partnership with the Police and community. PCYC Armidale is a multi-functional sporting and activity centre and one of the most diverse PCYC's in NSW, with over 100 refugee members. PCYC Armidale offers a range of exciting sports and recreational activities that cater to all ages and fitness levels and programs. Some programs include: The NSW Safer Drivers Course, Rise Up Programs – a range of youth programs to reduce reoffending and the OOSH Program (out of school hours). The club also offers I want to acknowledge Brian Flint, who joined the PCYC when he was just seven years of age, back in 1954 and since the 1960's he has provided tireless volunteer support with managing the weights section in the gym. Brian continues to maintain the facility and provide training support to many users. He is also the current Armidale Citizen of the Year. I commend PCYC Manager, Keith Robinson for his commitment to the youth in Armidale and upholding the high standards and values of the PCYC.

HSU NSW - MEETING - PARLIAMENT OF NSW

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 19 October 2022, it was great to join my NSW Labor Parliamentary colleagues in welcoming Health Services Union (HSU) NSW members and delegates working in the NSW healthcare system to a reception at the Parliament of NSW. Healthcare workers in the Electorate of Prospect and across NSW are struggling with serious staff shortages. It was insightful to listen to their experiences and concerns, to gain greater knowledge on how we can assist them. NSW Labor is committed to the long task of repair and structural reform of the delivery of healthcare services across NSW. Change is necessary in the healthcare sector, and in our hospitals, so that our healthcare workers feel respected, have workplace stress reduced and can deliver better results for their patients. Thank you to the Health Services Union for organising this event. This was a great opportunity for NSW Labor Member of Parliament to meet with healthcare workers and listen to their concerns. The Health Services Union does a fantastic job representing healthcare workers by advocating for their concerns. We will never forget the important contribution that healthcare workers make to our community.

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF ASSYRIA - CULTURAL EVENT

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 19 October 2022, I was honoured, as the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Assyria, to host members of the Assyrian community at the Parliament of NSW, for a Parliamentary Friends of Assyria cultural event organised by the Assyrian National Council of Australia. Parliamentary Speakers included NSW Labor Leader Chris Minns MP, Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Steve Kamper MP, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism. Speakers from the Assyrian community included Hermiz Shahan, President, Assyrian National Council of Australia, Stella Kina, Assyrian Cultural and Social Youth Association, and Aaron Boyd, CEO, Assyrian Christian Schools. This was a fantastic event celebrating the history of the Assyrian people, discussing their right to self-determination, and paying respects to Assyrians who were victims of persecution and genocide. The event also showcased fantastic Assyrian

style paintings of all former Australia Prime Ministers since Gough Whitlam. The Ashur Dancing Group also performed amazing traditional Assyrian dances, accompanied by extraordinary singing in the Assyrian language. Thank you to my Parliamentary colleagues for attending this event. Congratulations to Hermiz Shahen, President, and David David, Vice President of the Assyrian National Council of Australia on a very successful event.

NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF EGYPT - MEETING

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Thursday 13 October 2022, I was honoured to meet with the new Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency, Mohammed Khalil, at the Parliament of NSW with my NSW Labor Parliamentary colleagues Ron Hoenig MP and Edmond Atalla MP. I look forward to working with Consul General Khalil in my capacity as Co-Chair of the NSW Parliamentary friends of Egypt. The Australian Egyptian community make a fantastic contribution to our Western Sydney community and I have every confidence that the new Consul General will be an amazing representative for them. Egypt is an important ally of Australia and the continuation of this strong relationship between our two nations is an important feature of Australian foreign policy. Australian Parliamentarians must always work to continue to consolidate this strong friendship. Thank you to Amir Salem, President, The Australian Egyptian Forum Council (AEFC), for organising this meeting. Your advice and support is always greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the new Consul General for your posting in Sydney. I look forward to having a positive, productive and strong relationship with the new Consul General. Welcome Consul General Khalil.

NATIONAL MEDAL AWARDED TO LOCAL SURF LIFESAVERS

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—I am delighted three Surf Lifesavers in Heathcote have been awarded the National Medal for their 15 years of service with Surf Life Saving NSW. 120 other Surf Lifesavers across the state were recognised in these awards, as well as with First Clasps, Second Clasps and Third Clasps, for their sustained service and commitment to Surf Lifesaving. I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank these lifesavers for their outstanding and dedicated service, they are extremely deserving of this honour. Heathcote has some of the most beautiful and popular beaches and these lifesavers play an important role in keeping our community safe while at the beach, we are extremely grateful for their service. Mr Peter Pearce – Burning Palms SLSC; Mr Robert Ford – Garie SLSC; and Mr Robert Glasson – Garie SLSC. The National Medal was established in 1975 and is Australia's most awarded civilian medal. It recognises long and diligent service of members in government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

GOULBURN BULLDOGS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise the Goulburn City Bulldogs Rugby League football club. Despite being absent from the 2020 competition and with a season ending prematurely in 2021 due to Covid-19, the Bulldogs have accomplished a great deal in the recent years. After a significant reform, with new sponsors, new committee, new coaches, new colours 2021 was a very bright year for the club. First Grade sat in the top four of teams until the last round, Reserve Grade managed significant wins throughout the season. The Under 19s team was a dominating force, finishing on top of their ladder. The women's League Tag team completed their season in third position, with a strong foundation to have made finals if they were played. Finally, 2021 saw Goulburn City Bulldogs the club also nominated their inaugural women's First Grade team for the Katrina Fanning shield, who also finished first in their competition. I would like to recognise the efforts of the club, the committee and volunteers who have done a fantastic job revitalising the football club. I congratulate each volunteer and player for their terrific season.

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY - JALSA SALANA

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established in 1995 to serve the Muslim community with educational and training material about Islam by providing content in different digital formats and through live events. It is a dynamic, fast-growing international revival movement within Islam. Their motto is 'Love for all - hatred for none'. I recently had the opportunity to attend and participate in the 34th Jalsa Salana, an annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This event spans over three days beginning on the Friday after prayers. Jalsa Salana has developed into a major international community event. The primary purpose of this Convention is to enable individuals to experience a spiritual and moral connection and most importantly to increase their personal relationship with God. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community played a pivotal role in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They opened their mosque as a vaccination and testing facility to increase community access. They participate in many community events including Clean Up Australia Day, Celebrate Australia Day, community tree planting, and many other charitable services. Religious education and building and supporting local communities form the cornerstone of this organisation.

GREENACRE AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—I am happy to acknowledge Greenacre Area Community Centre (GACC), an important service provider for the community. GACC is a non-profit community based organisation providing a range of generalist services to the local communities of Greenacre, Chullora, Mt Lewis and the broader Canterbury Bankstown LGA. Based on Waterloo Road, GACC has played an important role in stepping up when the community has needed them. During the COVID lockdowns, they functioned as a vaccine hub. On a day-to-day basis they assist with counselling, supported playgroup, parenting classes and peer support groups, school holidays activities, English classes, yoga, gentle exercise, line dance and help with tax. GACC functions as an important social hub. Just recently they advertised a Men's Group – weekly get togethers for social interaction, fun and activities such as table tennis, excursions and BBQs. Organisations like GACC are important to social integration and community building, which is why I highly value their role. On previous occasions I have had the pleasure of attending their site, which they have called home for five years and look forward to an ongoing relationship for many years to come.

PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION NSW

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—I am pleased to acknowledge the work of the Public Service Association of NSW (PSA). This Parliament is familiar with the work of the PSA. It is a union, which covers employees in the NSW government, university and public sector. Many of our staff are members of the PSA and as a supporter of the broad labour movement I support employees being unionised. They have been an important support for staff who have contributed to the Broderick Independent Review into bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct at the Parliament of NSW – the end result of which was hopefully a turning point in political culture. The PSA also represents employees across a number of emergency services agencies including the SES and have been a key contact for me, providing insights into how policies affect our agencies and personnel. I am particularly grateful to Stewart Little, the General Secretary and PSA staff for their assistance to me in this regard. Shortly after the PSA was established the Chairman wrote in 1900 "though we have a loyal and faithful service, we must have a fearless service." I am grateful the PSA continues to honour this mission.

DEXTERITY PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incredible team at Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services on winning the Plumbing Services of the Year category at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services was established in 2017 by Tom Trewin and Jack Moran, who have over 25 years of experience in the mechanical plumbing industry. Given Tom and Jack's extensive knowledge in the mechanical plumbing industry, it is unsurprising that Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services has built trust and assurance on safety and quality in all aspects of their work no matter the size of the project. Across Sydney, the team from Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services have worked on projects including the Campbelltown Catholic Club, St Johns Park Bowling Club, Salvation Army Parramatta and Virgin Active at Bondi Junction. Small businesses like Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services are an important part of our local community as a key provider of goods, services and jobs. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Tom Trewin, Jack Moran and the entire team at Dexterity Plumbing and Mechanical Services on their success at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards and extend my best wishes for the future.

THE JANNALI HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of The Jannali High School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge the student leadership team for 2023, namely School Captains Clare McGuire and Max McKimm, Vice Captains Bella Carr and Dylan Sharp and the Prefects Ella Albani, Anika Edwards, Ioana Kontogiorgis, Benjamin Anderson, Theo Fluckiger and Declan Vickery. I have every confidence that these dedicated young adults will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify The Jannali High School's motto of being 'the place to succeed'.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVE GRAD PREMIERS

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the winners of the inaugural Sutherland Shire Premier League Reserve Grade competition, Bonnet Bay Football Club. The Premiership winning team was newly formed this year and included many Bombers juniors who had not played together in previous seasons. Despite this, the team came together to form a cohesive unit and take out the Premiership in part due to their resilience,

exemplifying Bonnet Bay Football Club's culture of 'belonging, engaging and growing'. I acknowledge the incredible players whose skill, growth and love of the game culminated in taking out the Premiership under the stewardship of their coach, Manny Rios. I recognise Caleb Ball, Jesse Bass, Joe Barber, Justin Brady, Michael Cincotta, Dean Coates, Jason Cuevas, Timothy Griffiths, Andrew Hartman, Andrew Hill, Michael Hill, Jaymie Holden, Patrick Ikutegebe, Mitchell Lee, Glen Macalister, Ian Mitchell, Nathan Parnell, Leigh Pattison, Nathan Pollock, Jei Strolin, Joshua Trevenar, Hayden Watson, Max White and Hayden Willett. I commend the Bonnet Bay Football Club's Sutherland Shire Premier League Reserve Grade team on their win of this inaugural competition in the Bomber's 40th anniversary year. Go The Bay!

GOULBURN LILAC FESTIVAL

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Goulburn's 71st Lilac City Festival. Held annually over the October long weekend since 1951, being interrupted only by COVID in 2020 and going virtual in 2021. Such a thrill to have the parade return this year to delight and draw crowds locally and more broadly. What a beautiful way to explode into the excitement of Spring and celebrate. Felicity Apps was crowned the Lilac Queen, raising over \$6500.00 for the festival and her chosen charity, Convoy for Kids. Jordan Alex, aged four, was crowned Lilac Princess and Ethan Dahl aged six was declared the Lilac Prince. The Lilac Baby was Louie Webster. The Lilac City Festival is such an encompassing and enchanting event that engages all generations, embracing the likes, talents, and passion of so many. I convey my utmost and sincere praise to the Committee, Volunteers and Carol James, Lilac Festival President who all work in collaboration to deliver such a spectacular event. The overwhelming support of participating community members, businesses, and organisations is not to be forgotten. The 71st year was another proud and history making Goulburn event that has withstood the test of time.

MS LEANNE MANNING

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to recognise on behalf of the Bega Electorate, Ms Leanne Manning of Moruya who was recently nominated for Black Pepper's Australia's kindest person. Leanne has been a beloved RSPCA volunteer for years and has spent the better part of a decade spending time with people doing it tough, and helping them with basic needs for themselves and their pets. She spent most of the Black Summer period either out rescuing both native and domestic animals and getting them to safety or working at the evacuation centre at the Moruya Showground. Now, when she is not working with the RSPCA, she visits homeless families in our local camping grounds to provide food and blankets for them, and food and medication for their pets. Leanne was nominated by Ms Roman Kalnins, store manager of Black Pepper in Batemans Bay, for their national World Kindness Day campaign on November 13. I wish Leanne the best of luck with her nomination, and I sincerely thank her for her work in servicing the families and pets of the Bega Electorate.

THE DROMEDARY HOTEL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—On behalf of the Bega Electorate, I would like to offer my congratulations to Tilba's Dromedary Hotel for their recent Travellers Choice Award. This is the second consecutive year that owners Jeremy Corfield and Susan Gray have taken out the award which is given to the top 10 per cent of venues around the world based on user reviews through the popular travel website Trip Advisor. Situated in the main street of Central Tilba at the foot of Mount Gulaga, the Dromedary Hotel – otherwise known as The Drom – was built in 1895 for Jim and Emma Livingstone and has continued to be a main stay in the village for 126 years. Hard to miss with its grand stature and bright orange façade, it is said that The Drom was built from wood recycled from the ships that docked at Bermagui harbour. Originally built not as a pub at all but rather a coffee palace, the hospitality provided and has never wavered. Since taking over the business 4 years ago, Susan and Jeremy have well and truly put the Drom on the map - becoming a must-visit destination for anyone touring the Far South Coast.

ETERNITY FESTIVAL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—Last Sunday over 500 people gathered at Tathra's Lawrence Park for the return of the Eternity Music Festival. Featuring a nine-band line-up across two stages, the festival was a major fundraiser for host organisation Clean Energy for Eternity (CEFE), with funds from ticket sales going directly towards the purchase and installation of solar panels and battery storage on four Bega Valley Rural Fire Brigade sheds - Tanja, Towamba, Angeldale/Stoney Creek, and Numbugga. Clean Energy for Eternity has been committed to bringing climate solutions to the South Coast since 2006 and has previously funded solar power projects at 16 RFS sheds around the electorate. Organiser of the event and Founder of CEFE, Mr Matt Knott hopes the organisation will one day have all 24 sheds in the Bega Valley set up with solar and battery storage. It was reported a great day was had by all, with the headliner act Neil Murray closing out the show. Another star in attendance included local musician, Sam Stevenson from Tura Beach, who recently graced the stage of Australia's

Got Talent garnering praise from all four judges. I look forward to attending one of the upcoming smaller events in the near future.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:45 until
Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 12:00.**