



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Wednesday 16 November 2022

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 16 November 2022

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a staff member from the Department of the Legislative Assembly has been authorised to take still photographs during the take-note debate today. Photographs will be used in the members' commemorative booklet.

SPEAKER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The SPEAKER: I remind members that I am hosting a Christmas function in the Speaker's Garden at 4.30 p.m. today to celebrate the end of the parliamentary sitting and to thank members for their support and cooperation during the year.

RUM HOSPITAL TO PARLIAMENT BOOK LAUNCH

The SPEAKER: I note that at my Christmas function today I will deliver a short speech at 5.15 p.m. to officially launch the book entitled *Rum Hospital to Parliament*. The book is a replacement for the old *Australia's First Parliament: Parliament House, New South Wales* book. Each member of the Legislative Assembly and all their permanent electorate officers will receive a copy of the book as a gift from my office. My amazing and incredibly dedicated staff in the Speaker's office will deliver copies to members' offices in Parliament today along with Christmas cards. I hope to see members at the event this afternoon.

Bills

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COERCIVE CONTROL) BILL 2022

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill with amendments. I order that consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments be set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

[*Notices of motions given.*]

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge guests of the member for Lakemba in the public gallery from the River Choir in Riverwood. I welcome them to the Chamber.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: BILLS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended this sitting day to provide that general business orders of the day (for bills) No. 7 [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibitions for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022] be called on for consideration forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (PROHIBITIONS FOR CONVICTED PERSONS) BILL 2022

Second Reading Speech

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (09:48): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am proud to introduce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibitions for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022 on behalf of the Animal Justice Party. The bill will protect animals from known animal abusers. Owning or working with animals is not a universal right. Animals are vulnerable to human treatment and are at risk in the care of the wrong person. We have all heard horrible animal cruelty stories, and we expect our laws to prevent the perpetrators involved from having animals in their care again. But there are holes in existing laws that allow known abusers to continue to run or work in animal businesses or to keep animals. In introducing the bill, the Hon. Emma Hurst in the Legislative Council informed the House of real-life cases where people committed horrific acts of cruelty but continued to be permitted to have animals—and sometimes large numbers of animals—in their care in this State.

She told the story of a petting zoo owner who stabbed a dog with a pitchfork six times, left her for some time with the pitchfork inside her, then later hung her from a tree and bashed her head with a mallet. The man was charged with serious animal cruelty but continues to be involved in at least four zoos and petting zoos and is involved with animal acquisitions and the care of animals retired from the Stardust Circus. A man and his daughter ran a puppy farm where over 400 dogs were kept on wet concrete floors covered in faecal matter. Following their conviction of 18 animal cruelty offences, they continued to run a puppy farm with over 100 dogs. A man who was convicted of animal cruelty in Victoria was banned from running a breeding business for 10 years, but now lawfully runs a puppy farm in New South Wales. A woman convicted of cruelty for violently swinging a cat around to attack a dog can lawfully keep cats. The current situation is failing to protect animals and is not meeting community expectations and standards.

This bill will stop known abusers from having animals in their care through a number of measures. It will create a presumption that a court will make a disqualification order—that is, a ban on having animals in one's care—if a person is convicted of a serious or aggravated animal cruelty offence, unless there are special circumstances. Currently, the court would have to be satisfied that the convicted person would likely commit another animal cruelty offence in the future. Prohibition orders against keeping an animal that have been issued in other States or Territories would have automatic effect in New South Wales, removing the need for existing laborious processes where the Minister has to approve the ban and serve the individual with a new order. Similarly, convictions for serious animal cruelty or bestiality offences in other States or Territories would be subject to lifetime bans on owning or working with animals in this State, as they are for convictions made here.

The bill will create a new offence if someone convicted of an animal cruelty offence breeds animals or becomes involved in a breeding business, with animal welfare enforcement officers having the power to seize animals kept in contravention to orders. Lastly, the bill will make it an offence for a person who runs a zoo, petting zoo or circus to knowingly hire someone who has been charged or convicted of an animal cruelty offence. I again congratulate the Hon. Emma Hurst and the Animal Justice Party on delivering legislative reform that will reduce animal suffering. The bill does not fix every problem with our animal cruelty laws but it will go a long way to protecting animals from known abusers, helping us to become a more humane society. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (09:53): I contribute to debate on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibition for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022 and I thank the member for Sydney for his contribution. I will make my position very clear from the outset. I, along with all members on this side of the House, am an extremely strong supporter of robust animal welfare legislation in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government has remained focused and committed to work towards delivering a modern, streamlined, fit-for-purpose animal welfare legislation framework. We are all aware of the community's high expectations regarding animal welfare legislation and the importance that community members place on the treatment of animals in this State. That is why the New South Wales Government has been working to develop new animal welfare legislation to protect all animals right across New South Wales.

Earlier I mentioned that I had some concerns with the bill in its original form, despite its admirable intentions and its absolutely clear headline message. Nobody has been opposed to the key point that animal cruelty is not to be tolerated and that offenders that commit heinous acts against animals should lose privileges relating to the care of animals. But concerns have been expressed about the execution of parts of the bill. I do not say that to point fingers, but it is the simple reality that making big changes—although they may be fundamental to a piece of legislation that has been in place since 1979 and has been patched up with amendments many times since—is extremely difficult. The bill is complex. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act [POCTAA] itself is complex. As was noted in the Legislative Council, the making of amendments necessary to refine this bill were also really complex.

I think we have got there in the end and the bill in its current form delivers on the objective of the legislation around animal cruelty and does so without creating unacceptable risks of unintended consequences, which were in the original bill. In its current form, the bill is reasonable. The Legislative Council has worked through the worst of the unintended consequences and its amendments have significantly improved the bill. I still hold reservations about some aspects of the bill and its incorporation into what I think we can all agree is a piece of legislation that needs a full update. I note the good work that has been done in the other place to mitigate the issues that were apparent in this bill in its original form, and I thank everyone who has been a part of that process. The version before us today is a significant improvement on the original iteration. The amendments made in the other place are sensible and considered. They mitigate the risks of disproportionate and unintended outcomes arising as a result of the bill. Once again, I commend all of those involved in the development of the bill and the cooperative approach that we have taken to pass it. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (09:56): On behalf of the Labor Opposition, I contribute to debate on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibition for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022. The bill amends the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Exhibited Animals Protection Act to prohibit persons convicted of certain offences in relation to animals from caring for or working with animals. At the outset, I refer to the speech of the shadow Minister for Agriculture in the Legislative Council. I thank the Hon. Mick Veitch for his long, continued and consistent advocacy on the prevention of cruelty to animals and in upgrading the Act. I have to say it was a display of breathtaking arrogance when in this place the Minister talked about patched-up and piecemeal approaches to the amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act over the past 12 years because, through a succession of agriculture Ministers, nothing has been done by this Government. The Government has had the power to make these changes well before now but has failed to do so over years, despite its promises to do so.

It is the truth, universally acknowledged in this Parliament and across the community, that the current legislative framework in New South Wales does not address community expectations around the care and protection of animals. Labor had concerns with the bill, and the upper House provided its capacity to look at those amendments to ensure the bill is workable. The intention of the bill is definitely in line with current community standards. I thank the Hon. Emma Hurst for bringing the bill to the upper House. It makes sense that those who have been convicted of serious animal cruelty should be prohibited from owning, breeding or working with animals, but there have been concerns about how that works. Like so many amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act [POCTAA], this bill has arisen from joint select committees, the puppy farm bill and inquiries of this Parliament over many years, where people have said time after time if a person has been convicted of serious animal cruelty, they should not be allowed to have animals. As the member for Sydney said, it is a privilege, not a right, to own animals.

The Opposition supports the bill on the basis of the important amendments that were passed through the upper House during debate on the legislation to make it more workable, particularly the provisions relating to farmers. We have seen time and again in natural disasters that have beset our State where farmers have made every reasonable attempt to obtain food and water for their livestock during droughts or to keep them safe during floods but could not do so. If they are charged and found guilty, they would have been captured by the bill in its original form. I do not believe that was the intention. There are also issues around working dogs and their training. These issues have been addressed by the upper House amendments. I am pleased to say that with those amendments, Labor will support the bill. Community expectation is that if someone commits aggravated animal cruelty, they lose their right to work with, breed or care for animals, and this bill addresses those concerns. Animal cruelty is not acceptable. I call on the Government as a priority to review the POCTAA as one of its first issues if it is lucky enough to form government next year. After 12 long years of this Government, with all its promises to change the Act and its failure to do so, it does not deserve another chance.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (10:00): I contribute to debate on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibitions for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022. At the outset I acknowledge how wonderful it is to enact legislative changes to protect animals in this State, particularly to prevent cruelty to animals. We have heard that genuine commitment from the member for Maitland, my Greens colleague in the other place Ms Abigail Boyd, the Hon. Emma Hurst and the member for Sydney. We have also spoken about the rights and privileges of those who own animals. I put The Greens commitment on record. As many in this place have said, we do not have the right to own an animal, it is a privilege, and with that comes a lot of responsibility. We expect people to behave in good ways, but we also require governments to legislate to ensure that those who do inflict cruelty and harm to animals are held to account.

The object of the bill is to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 to prohibit persons convicted of certain offences in relation to animals from caring for or working with animals. The bill increases prohibitions on owning, breeding and working with animals for people convicted of animal cruelty offences. It requires, rather than allows, a court to make a disqualification order to

disqualify persons from owning animals if they have been convicted of an animal cruelty offence unless special circumstances justify not making that order. It ensures that interstate prohibition orders operate automatically in New South Wales so that people who have been banned from having an animal in another State are subject to the same restrictions here. It also prohibits a person convicted of a serious interstate animal offence from owning or working with animals, in line with the existing ban for people convicted of offences in New South Wales. It also prohibits a person convicted of an animal cruelty offence from breeding animals or being involved in a business relating to breeding animals.

The horrific stories we have heard articulated in debate on the bill in the other place show how confronting the reality is. I turn to one example raised by my Greens colleague Ms Abigail Boyd in her second reading speech. Under our current legislation, someone who was convicted of 18 animal cruelty offences was allowed to run a puppy farm with 100 dogs as part of a mass breeding program in New South Wales. It is clear to all of us that someone who is convicted of animal cruelty offences and banned in one State could simply drive across the border and start a new puppy farm operation in New South Wales and inflict that same cruelty until they are found and proven to have inflicted that cruelty. That is cause for serious concern.

People who inflict cruelty on animals, whether it be in puppy farms or other operations, do so with complete disregard for the concept that animals are sentient beings, for the concept of animal welfare and for the need to care for other living things in society. That goes to the heart of our values. The issue we are debating is that certain people put profit motives and their own vested interests over and above the interests and welfare of animals. They are happy to inflict cruelty on animals to increase their profits and their standing or connections in certain communities. That really is cause for concern, and the legislation before us will seek to overturn that. It is very important for members to recognise that in a number of instances we have made genuinely good and sensible improvements to legislation in New South Wales as a result of the collaborative, engaging policy work and thinking of members of the crossbench in this Chamber and in the other place.

Last night the member for Balmain, my Greens colleague, secured an amendment to an important piece of Government legislation. Today we are debating a bill that is a result of the work of crossbench member the Hon. Emma Hurst in the other place. The kingmaker, the member for Sydney, has been successful—I say that with a level of sarcasm and I cringe at the use of the term, though I have much respect for the member for Sydney—because there is genuine recognition of the growing crossbench and its power to make changes that reflect the will and interests of the community. I hope we see more of that in the Chamber, not less. I hope this is the start of something big, so that the interests of the community, the people we represent and the animals we are responsible for are put front and centre and at the heart of what we do in these Chambers. We saw that recently, as the power of the crossbench has grown. I look forward to many more opportunities to continue to do that in the interests of animals, people, the community and, ultimately, our State.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (10:06): I speak in support of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibitions for Convicted Persons) Bill 2022. I state from the outset my support for the individuals involved in bringing the bill before the House today, particularly the member for Sydney, who has carriage of the bill in this place, and the Hon. Emma Hurst in the other place, who has worked at length to ensure we protect the rights of animals and to reassure communities across the State that we overwhelmingly support the rights of animals. We must ensure that our love and respect for animals is enshrined and protected in our legislation. I thank Minister Dugald Saunders and his team for their work in this space. As he mentioned in his contribution to debate on the bill, this incredibly complex piece of legislation has been amended over time. Work has been done to ensure that we get the best legislation. It has been lengthy and challenging. I recognise the work of the Minister and his team across party lines to ensure the best outcomes.

There are challenges to achieving the best animal welfare provisions for the different sectors of animals in this State. I know that members in this place, including the member for Oxley—who mentioned her dog, Jasper, in her valedictory speech—consider animals to be part of the family in many circumstances, yet still we see horrifying acts and mistreatment committed against those entities. Those living beings deserve rights, wellbeing and safety. A lot of work has been done across party lines to ensure a good outcome on this legislation. I thank all of those who were involved in drafting the legislation. I am very happy to support the bill.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (10:08): In reply: I thank the Minister for Agriculture, the member for Maitland, the member for North Shore and the member for Newtown for their contributions in support of the bill. Again I pay tribute to and thank the Hon. Emma Hurst and her staff for the successful passage of the legislation. It is the third Animal Justice Party bill that I have had the honour and privilege of sponsoring in the Legislative Assembly. It will be the third Animal Justice Party bill to pass the Parliament. New South Wales is a safer place for animals as a result of the work of the Animal Justice Party, particularly with the passage of this bill. I thank all members for their cooperation in getting the legislation through the Legislative Council and the

Legislative Assembly. I thank the Animal Justice Party for the great work it has done in this Parliament. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COERCIVE CONTROL) BILL 2022

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of Legislative Council amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 15 November 2022.

No. 1 GRNS No. 24 [c2022-191C]

Page 7, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 54J(2), line 9. Omit "In particular". Insert "Without limiting subsection (1)".

No. 2 OPP No. 1 [c2022-230]

Page 7, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 54J(2)(c), line 13. Insert "culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTQI+ people," after "Aboriginal people,".

No. 3 OPP No. 1 [c2022-217E]

Page 7, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 54J. Insert after line 17—

- (f) the types of behaviour in relation to which prosecutions for an offence under section 54D(1) are proceeding, including whether charges are being laid in relation to non-physical forms of abusive behaviour,
- (g) the extent to which the offence under section 54D(1) is being charged on its own or in combination with other charges,
- (h) the use of the defence under section 54E, including how often and the circumstances in which the defence is being used,
- (i) whether there are variations in the use of the offence under section 54D(1) in different police regions, commands and districts,
- (j) the operation of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence Act 2007*, section 6A to assess whether the definition of domestic abuse in that section—
 - (i) has had an impact on the education of the community about domestic abuse, and
 - (ii) has improved police practice in responding to domestic and family abuse,
- (k) in relation to particular areas in the State and types of courts—
 - (i) the number of cases for which proceedings for an offence under section 54D(1) have been commenced, and
 - (ii) the number of convictions for an offence under section 54D(1), and
 - (iii) the average period between service of a complaint or an indictment for an offence under section 54D(1) and a finding or verdict as to guilt, including a plea guilty.

No. 4 OPP No. 2 [c2022-217E]

Page 7, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 54J. Insert before line 18—

- (2A) In conducting a review under this section, the Minister must have regard to—
 - (a) the transcripts of criminal trials, conducted during the period to which the review relates (the *review period*), that relate to an offence under section 54D(1), and
 - (b) the training that has occurred during the review period in relation to the offence under section 54(1), including—
 - (i) the type of training, and
 - (ii) the number and kinds of persons to whom the training has been provided, including police officers, judicial officers and legal practitioners, and

(iii) the effectiveness of the training.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (10:10): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

The Government welcomes the four amendments passed in the Legislative Council last night with bipartisan support. The amendments strengthen even further the robust review provisions of this important legislation and will ensure that it remains the best it can be going forward. I acknowledge again the support of my colleague the Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Hon. Natalie Ward, and the Minister for Women, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor. I also acknowledge the Opposition's support of the Government's reforms in this crucial space. In particular, I thank the member for Maroubra, the member for Charlestown and the Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, in the other place for their detailed and constructive engagement.

I thank all members in this House and in the Legislative Council for what were, in the most part, respectful and thoughtful contributions throughout debate on the bill. However, one misconception emerged in parts of the Legislative Council debate that I will briefly address to put things squarely on the record. A suggestion emerged from one speaker in the Legislative Council debate that there is no evidence base for these reforms. That suggestion is simply wrong. The overwhelming weight of the evidence, qualitative and quantitative, cannot be ignored. There is a suggestion that we have put all our eggs in the Domestic Violence Death Review Team [DVDRT] basket and that its work is somehow flawed. I have a number of responses to that.

There is also a suggestion that domestic violence and domestic abuse is a problem that can be found in public housing estates and among remote Indigenous communities but apparently nowhere else in society. Those suggestions are simply wrong. We know, of course, that Indigenous communities suffer domestic abuse at a far greater rate than the non-Indigenous population and we know that areas of socio-economic disadvantage comparatively have higher rates of domestic abuse than other areas. But this problem is prevalent throughout society. It does not matter what one's gender is, although we know it is mostly gendered violence. It does not matter what one's ethnic or socio-economic background is, where one works, how old one is or what one's sexuality is. Anyone in our society can be a victim of domestic abuse.

It is not just anecdotal; the statistics make it out. If we look at the crime reports that the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research [BOCSAR] produces every quarter, we will see that, although rates vary, there are significant degrees and significant levels of domestic abuse in all parts of New South Wales, including in relevantly affluent areas. For example, the BOCSAR statistics for the June quarter show 495 domestic violence-related assaults in Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury; 660 in the eastern suburbs; 580 in North Sydney and Hornsby; 328 on the Northern Beaches; 417 in Ryde; and 674 in Sutherland shire. It is clear that the problem is not somehow limited to public housing estates and remote Indigenous communities; it is a problem that is pervasive throughout society.

The personal safety surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistic [ABS] also show that one in six women report that since the age of 15 they have been the subject of physical violence at the hands of a current or former intimate partner. There is no incentive for an anonymous reporter to lie in those statistics. There is no family law dispute that is weaponising complaints. There is no revenge by way of some report to a police officer. There is no financial incentive. These are anonymous reports in a survey—the most reliable statistics we have—that show one in six women in Australia since the age of 15 have been the subject of physical violence at the hands of a current or former intimate partner. That is the first furphy I address.

Secondly, I address the criticism of the DVDRT report that it is reverse-engineering, that it is ideology in search of a problem, and that all the statistics are somehow made up. The DVDRT report identified that out of 112 intimate partner homicides it had looked at over an eight-year period, 111 of those were preceded by coercive control. It has been suggested in the Legislative Council that this is desktop retrofitting. I do not accept that. I do not dismiss the expertise of this group in the way it has been dismissed in the other place. It is quite an extraordinary proposition to suggest that somehow there is a conspiracy among all the experts in this group to produce a contrived result. Even if we allowed for a margin of error—let us suppose there was a 30 per cent or 40 per cent margin of error and it was not 111 out of 112; that somehow the DVDRT misinterpreted some stories and it was more like 60 or 70—it is still an overwhelming red flag for domestic violence intimate partner homicide.

The third point is that we do not have to just rely on the DVDRT report to know that coercive control is a typical ingredient that precedes domestic violence homicide. All the stakeholders and all the frontline services will tell us that generally across New South Wales and across Australia it is a common ingredient. The suggestion that there is no evidence base and that this has all been made up by a woke, left feminist cabal is simply absurd. It is shameful. Ultimately, spreading spurious nonsense undermines the safety of not only women but all of us in our society. I put that on the record. The strongest evidence before us today is from those who work on the front line, particularly in the domestic and family violence sector. We have had the privilege of hearing from them in

successive rounds of consultation over a number of years. They told us that coercive control does not discriminate based on economic or social grounds. They told us that this reform is urgent.

The Government has listened, and we have acted. We did not embark upon these reforms because they were easy; we embarked on them because it was the right thing to do. It is complex, it is controversial to some extent, but it is substantial. Today is the day that Parliament draws a line in the sand. Today is the day that we stand shoulder to shoulder with victim-survivors and their families and the families of those whose lives have been tragically taken. Today is the day we say, "Enough is enough." Today is the day that the New South Wales Government and the New South Wales Parliament recognise and outlaw coercive control in intimate partner settings. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Speech

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (10:19): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced in the other place on 8 November 2022 and is in the same form. The second reading speech was given on 15 November 2022 and appears in the *Hansard* for that day. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (10:19): On behalf of the Opposition, I join the debate on the Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2022 and acknowledge the presence of the Minister in the Chamber. I also acknowledge that, wherever possible, we work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we get the best outcome possible for First Nations people. I know that is a passion of many members of this House. On some issues there are a variety of views and bringing everyone to the same conclusion sometimes can be difficult. That is why a wider bipartisan approach to these issues is so important.

I acknowledge that this is stage one of broader amendments to be considered and that this bill follows the 2021 statutory review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983—an Act that has been operating for 38 years. The Act is compensatory in nature, recognising that land is of spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal people. Particularly in the last few years, we have seen this social and economic importance increasingly being recognised. We understand that if we are to close the gap, one of the most important strategies is to improve economic outcomes and provide greater economic independence for Aboriginal people, which in turn will address education, health, housing and other issues.

The former Labor Government passed the original Act in 1983 to recognise the traditional ownership and occupation of land by Aboriginal people and the importance of their connection to land. The Act recognises the spiritual, social and economic importance of land to the State's Aboriginal peoples and acknowledges that past government decisions have progressively reduced the land set aside for Aboriginal people without compensation. The purposes of the Act are set out in section 3, which states:

- (a) to provide land rights for Aboriginal persons in New South Wales,
- (b) to provide for representative Aboriginal Land Councils in New South Wales,
- (c) to vest land in those Councils,
- (d) to provide for the acquisition of land, and the management of land and other assets and investments, by or for those Councils and the allocation of funds to and by those Councils,
- (e) to provide for the provision of community benefit schemes by or on behalf of those Councils.

Many people do not understand the role and functions of Aboriginal land councils. It is often said to me that they are development corporations or similar. That is very far from the truth. Land councils were set up as cooperatives for Aboriginal people so that land could be vested in their interest and to address other social and economic issues. Land councils are now involved heavily in providing housing, offering funeral services and looking after Elders, and some are branching into other areas. That is appropriate because it recognises that Aboriginal people should have self-determination on matters that affect them.

The Act has undergone a number of reviews to improve the performance of local Aboriginal land councils and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council [NSWALC]. I acknowledge that the New South Wales

Aboriginal Land Council was heavily consulted in relation to this bill. Submissions were received also from the Audit Office of New South Wales, the NSW Ombudsman, the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Aboriginal Housing Office, the Registrar of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Association, ICAC, the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council and the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Association, and individual submissions from Mr Ash Walker and Mr Chris Ingrey.

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council also undertook network consultation. The council indicated its support for the changes to the Act in its submission to the review and flagged the importance of continuing with stages two and three of the reforms. In my view, stage two would be the most difficult because it examines interaction between the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and native title—a challenge of vast proportions. Stage three examines some very important big-picture items, some of which are being addressed, such as the culture and heritage Act. Whichever political party wins government next year will be progressing that, which will be welcome.

I note that the Hon. John Graham has examined this legislation in detail in the other place, so I will not repeat his analysis in great detail except to say that the bill includes various administrative and operational amendments and better reflects how the network engages. The bill will reduce the burden on local Aboriginal land councils by clarifying administrative provisions relating to land dealings and community benefits. It will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conduct and disciplinary provisions by clarifying various sections and adding new elements, such as procedural fairness, and by allowing the registrar to suspend officers while undertaking investigations in certain circumstances.

The bill will also maintain and promote good governance by adding new grounds for disqualification of local Aboriginal land council board members and NSW Aboriginal Land Council councillors if there have been findings by the Independent Commission Against Corruption of serious corruption or failures in the management of a corporation established under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006. In that respect, the bill provides greater self-determination and eases administrative requirements by reducing requirements for ministerial approval, such as for NSW Aboriginal Land Council policies. In that respect, the bill acknowledges the move towards greater self-determination by Aboriginal people. They should not have to go to the Minister for approval of policies that they have developed. They should be able to develop those policies and argue them in the real world without having to get permission from the government of the day.

As I mentioned, the bill is focused on stage one, which is outlined in the statutory review. The NSWALC said to me it is eager for the other two stages to be addressed as a matter of priority by whoever takes office after the 2023 election. In conclusion, I make the point that it is important to continue to review and adjust the original Aboriginal Land Rights Act to reflect current situations affecting Aboriginal people and their access to compensatory provisions. It is now more important than ever that the Act enables access to improved social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people, particularly in the context of Closing the Gap. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (10:28): On behalf of The Greens, I indicate support for the Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2022 and note it has been developed in consultation with the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. I recognise that that is a matter of critical importance. I also believe that when discussing a bill that deals with Aboriginal land rights, it is important to acknowledge that this very Parliament sits on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. I pay respect to Elders past and present and acknowledge that every time we meet on this land and pass laws we do so on land that is First Nations land. When we do that, we must ensure that the actions we take in this place are done with the consent, respect and support of the custodians of the land on which we gather in the New South Wales Parliament. Sadly, that is not always the case. I put on the record that often the disregard for First Nations custodians of this land demonstrates the ongoing colonisation injustices that have occurred in this State and country. I recognise that we sit here in a colonial institution, that sovereignty has never been ceded and that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

The Greens support the amendment to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. In doing so, we make it clear that we believe this is a missed opportunity to make genuine progress on self-determination and treaty. The bill in many ways tinkers around the edges of self-determination and does not substantively move us towards what we need as a State, which is truth-telling and treaty. The Aboriginal Land Rights Act was introduced in 1983. It was a progressive piece of legislation that aimed to recognise and compensate the dispossession of First Nations people of their land. Over time it has been demonstrated not to deliver on that promise. That is partly because successive State governments have spoiled what land councils have tried to do. They have tinkered around the edges to make small improvements to the functions of the New South Wales and local Aboriginal land councils, but it is still ultimately an instrument of colonisation and invasion.

There is also a bigger issue about why that promise of recognition and compensation has not been delivered on in this State. One only needs to look at the backlog of claims that have not been processed. Since the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 was introduced, 53,830 claims have been lodged. About 38,200 of those claims are still

waiting for Department of Planning and Environment [DPE] assessment and determination. That is 70 per cent of all claims lodged. Based on the current rates and targets, it will take 22 years to process those. It is a backlog of 38,200 unprocessed land claims that total 1.12 million hectares of land in this State. They are enormous numbers and a demonstration of what was introduced to be a massive game changer of progressive legislation not being used in the way that it was intended—to return the land back to the owners of the land.

Neither the Department of Premier and Cabinet nor the NSW Department of Planning and Environment have established the resources required for the New South Wales Government to deliver Aboriginal land claim processes in a coordinated way and which transparently commits to the requirements and intent of the Act. Today we are not debating how we can sort that problem out under the bill. That is a massive, missed opportunity for genuinely empowering local land councils to ensure self-determination and to guarantee the protection of culturally and historically significant sites. Today we are debating one small part of a process with many steps that needs to be addressed. What we should be focused on is how we are moving to make changes to address the significant backlog in existing land claims, to encourage and support future land claims, and to recognise the injustices of colonisation, the injustices of the stolen wealth when it comes to invasion in this country.

The bill is the first stage of reforms outlined in the 2021 Statutory Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The Government has brought it on at the eleventh hour—too late to progress stages two and three in this term of Parliament. They are key reforms that the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council wants to see happen. I hope very much that when we succeed in kicking this Liberal-Nationals Government out that the future New South Wales Labor government—

[Government members interjected.]

One always gets a rise with that one. It is a predictable moment that just happens. We joke about that, but this is a serious point. I particularly look to the shadow Minister in relation to this. It is incumbent on all of us to recognise that successive governments have failed to deliver on what was needed and intended under the progressive legislation in 1983 when the Aboriginal Land Rights Act was passed. It is now time for us to recognise what can be done in that space. It is a shameful reality that the Perrottet Liberal-Nationals Government has simply attempted to tinker around the edges and move on stage one of what are a series of recommendations. Instead, it is too late in the piece to deliver on stages two or three. I put on the record and hope to see that in kicking out the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government in March that we see a commitment from a future New South Wales Labor government to make this front and centre of its agenda when it comes to delivering on stages two and three.

The Greens are committed to always standing on the side of First Nations people and we will offer our support to address the massive backlog of land rights claims in the State. I urge all sides of the Parliament to recognise that unless we have truth-telling and genuinely practice self-determination, we will get nowhere when it comes to the injustices, dispossession and intergenerational trauma that First Nations communities have faced in this State and country. We address those injustices by recognising that country, land rights and people's access to what was stolen from them is returned. We do that not by having a backlog of tens of thousands of land rights claims, but by prioritising the processing of those claims so that people get back their rights to country, land, culture and community. As a priority, that is how we solve the injustices that First Nations people face in our State.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (10:36): In reply: It is appropriate that I commence my contribution by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Gadigal people. I pay my respects to Elders past and present. I also pay my respects to all Aboriginal Elders of New South Wales for their enduring custodianship and care of and respect for the lands and waters of our wonderful State. I acknowledge any Aboriginal people in the Chamber today and any who are with us in the parliamentary precinct, of which I know there are a number. I acknowledge that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was present to hear the earlier debate on the bill. I also acknowledge the member for Oxley—who is leaving us—who has done a tremendous amount of work for her Aboriginal communities. I thank all members for their important contributions to the debate today, particularly the member for Wyong and the member for Newtown.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2022 begins the process of implementing the recommendations of the five-yearly statutory review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2022 is another step towards closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the State. While this is only stage one of a three-stage process and involves uncontroversial but important administrative and regulatory amendments, it is still a significant step in the right direction. I reassure the Chamber that my colleague the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Government are committed to ensuring stages two and three of the legislation are enacted as quickly as possible for the benefit of Aboriginal people and land councils across the State.

This is important legislation. It will enable consistency. It will ensure that the regulatory requirements of the Act and all local Aboriginal land councils around the State are comparable with the statutory frameworks and that they align with the expectations of similar corporate entities in New South Wales. It is also about efficiency and alleviating unnecessary, duplicative and onerous regulatory requirements for both local Aboriginal land councils and oversight bodies. Most importantly, the bill is about empowerment. It will strengthen the self-determination of local Aboriginal land councils and allow them to gain appropriate control over their affairs as independent corporate entities in the twenty-first century. New South Wales is leading the way nationally when it comes to driving better outcomes for Aboriginal communities—from powerful symbolism such as flying the Aboriginal flag atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge to practical empowerment such as this bill. The Minister in the other place, supported by all of us, is building a brighter future alongside Aboriginal people, wherever they may be across New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER JESS BOWMAN

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (10:40): I congratulate and commend Jess Bowman for receiving the Sportsperson of the Year award from the Benkennie Netball Club. Jess has been volunteering for the club for more than 15 years. She plays an integral role as a player, coach, umpire and mentor. People like Jess, who serve with such passion and commitment, are an invaluable asset to the community. Jess and others like her make our community a great place to live. Jess' track record is a feat of its own. For example, her senior team came away as premiers, she led her under-12A team to the grand final, and she has also earned her national B badge. Well done to Jess and the Benkennie Netball Club for fostering such a great environment for the community.

CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CEO IAN HOLMES

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (10:41): I acknowledge Ian Holmes, whom the community farewells as chief executive officer of the Canterbury & District Soccer Football Association. That follows nearly 50 years of involvement at all levels of the game—community, State and national. At the age of seven, Ian joined Belmore Police Citizen's Youth Club. Such was his prowess and dedication that he was elected as secretary of the youth club at age 17. He quickly moved into administrative roles and was elected as the youngest president in the history of the club at the age of 19. Many accolades and awards followed over a career that has spanned 50 years. Ian's expertise was not limited to the game. He worked closely with local councils to improve infrastructure and the wellbeing of his players. His greatest accomplishment is the increased participation of girls in the sport and his efforts to combat racism, poor sportsmanship and exclusion in the game. I know that the Canterbury & District Soccer Football Association will be on the hunt to replace Ian; however, he leaves big shoes to fill. On behalf of the community, I wish Ian all the best, and I again thank him for the incredible leadership to our local community. He is an example of decency and integrity. Go well.

BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER OLIVIA ROWLANDS

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (10:42): I acknowledge a very special little girl in the electorate of Monaro doing big things for others. Olivia Rowlands is five, nearly six, and is already thinking of others in need of support and care. I was touched to hear about Olivia's plan to donate her lovely long blonde curls to support those affected by breast cancer. Olivia was inspired to raise money after losing her beloved grandmother, Janet, to breast cancer at the age of 55. Olivia is now donating her hair for a wig to be made to help those going through chemotherapy, allowing someone to have that part of their life back while they fight a vicious disease. All money raised will go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation and is, as Olivia said, "for medicine for people who are very sick so that they don't have to go to heaven". Olivia's remarkable gesture is to be admired and is also testament to her parents, Gabby and Jake, who have raised a thoughtful, empathetic and caring young woman. I look forward to spending time with Olivia in the coming weeks and congratulate her on this most heartfelt and meaningful project.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (10:43): The recent Illawarra Premier League grand final resulted in two three-decade long achievements. The first was when Wollongong Olympic ended a 37-year premiership drought with its 2-1 victory over Wollongong United. An impressive season paid off, with the first trophy being added to the Olympic trophy cabinet in many years. The second of the three-decade long achievements was the conclusion of the 36-year long refereeing career of Bobby Mazeveski. In a fitting end to a career that has earned him the respect of players, coaches, officials and fans alike, Bobby refereed his eighth Illawarra Premier League grand final, which is also a record. He refereed his first grand final at age 25, becoming the youngest referee to do so. I thank Bobby for his contribution to football in the Illawarra over his 36-year refereeing career. It is a level of dedication to refereeing and to football in the region that will not be matched any time soon.

VOLUNTEER RESCUE ASSOCIATION COMMISSIONER MARK GIBSON

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (10:44): I pay tribute to Mark Gibson, who is set to retire later this year after 10 years as the Commissioner of the Volunteer Rescue Association NSW [VRA]. Mark first joined the VRA in 1972 and is a life member of both the Dubbo and Narromine squads. Mark has received the emergency services medal, and the 50-year clasp and certificate for the VRA NSW service medal. In his time, Mark has overseen some unbelievable changes, notably a partnership with the NSW Rural Fire Service which has seen VRA benefit from RFS training capabilities. The Government has also delivered an additional \$6 million a year, something Mark described as game changing. While he is retiring as commissioner, Mark will continue to volunteer with the Dubbo squad, although he is keen to spend more time with his family. He says being commissioner "hasn't been a job, it's been a love". He has loved working with different volunteers, all committed to the same thing: relieving the agony of families involved in motor vehicle accidents or search and rescue operations. I thank Mark for his incredible service to the community. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

DO IT FOR CANCER SUNRISE WALK

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (10:45): It is always inspiring to watch the sunrise over Redhead Beach, but it was particularly beautiful as part of an event to help fund support services for people in our region living with cancer. The Do It For Cancer Sunrise Walk helps raise funds for programs run by Cancer Council NSW Newcastle and Hunter branch and is supported by volunteers for transport to treatment, which helps ease the stress of travelling to treatment and medical procedures for cancer patients who do not have easy access to transport. A few hundred early birds and I met at Redhead Beach at 5.20 a.m. on 6 November to watch the sun rise against the spectacular backdrop of the eagle's head cliff face and the east coast's only remaining wooden shark tower, before heading off on a five-kilometre walk. There is no doubt that many people's lives are touched by cancer, and I commend Cancer Council NSW for finding a way to bring people together to talk, share their experiences and support each other in a such a relaxing and uplifting way. It was the first event of its kind for Redhead Beach, and I hope it is the start of a lovely annual tradition.

NORTH SHORE MEDAL WINNERS SEBASTION TAN AND TASMA PATTERSON

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (10:46): I acknowledge year 12 students Sebastion Tan from Cammeraygal High School and Tasma Patterson from Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College who were both recently awarded the North Shore Medal for 2022. Each year I award the North Shore Medal to one student at each participating school to encourage students to study with diligence while supporting their peers and community. It is a difficult task for schools, which select one student who demonstrates excellence in attitude, exhibits in their behaviour a commitment to the ethos of the school and an awareness of others, and is a strong and consistent participant in school and community activities. I look forward to visiting my local schools in the coming weeks for their graduation ceremonies and presenting my North Shore Medal. I also commend all the students who have applied themselves diligently and always show enthusiasm and dedication to learning. I wish them all the best as they continue their schooling journey, or in some circumstances conclude it. My heartfelt congratulations go to all the students reflected and nominated this year. I thank all the teachers, staff and parents for their hard work and commitment to supporting our students to learn and grow.

STORY WRITER MARY COX

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (10:47): I acknowledge a vibrant member of my Blue Mountains community, Mary Cox. Mary has quite a talent for penning a story. Her work has appeared on four occasions in *Seniors' Stories*, an annual compilation of 100 stories chosen and published by NSW Seniors' Card and distributed to the authors and libraries across our State. *Seniors' Stories* share incredible and diverse anecdotes from our elders. Woven into the tales are memories, knowledge, adventure and wisdom. They are rich in history and colour. Mary was born in Massachusetts and emigrated to Australia in 1976, and eventually, luckily for the Blue

Mountains, she settled in our neighbourhood. We had the good fortune to work alongside one another as teachers at Lawson Public School many moons ago. In Mary's latest contribution to *Seniors' Stories*, she told me that she hoped to show that we are all worth celebrating. The final words of her story are:

We are different people from different places who have come together to form a unique and cherished whole. We - and our adopted country - are all the richer for it.

I could not agree more with Mary.

NSW PREMIER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER JUDY LOWY

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (10:48): I acknowledge a recipient of my 2022 NSW Premier's Community Service Award, Judy Lowy. Judy was nominated for her lifelong service to education, philanthropy and women as a role model and mentor. She is a well-known and admired figure in my community and has made a significant contribution to the local and international Jewish community. She has served on the board of Moriah College, having established the foundation in 2019 and served as its president since that time. She has been a member of the United Israel Appeal [UIA] Women's Executive and co-chair of the UIA Women's Division for the past 21 years. She is also chair of the Jewish Communal Appeal's Gold Women's Division. She is a dedicated philanthropic supporter of many health, research and cultural institutions, including the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, the Art Gallery of NSW, the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, and the Lowy Institute. I congratulate Judy. She is deserving of the award.

CANCER COUNCIL NSW VOLUNTEER SINILIA RADIVOJEVIC

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (10:49): In one of my last community recognition statements as the member for Fairfield, I pay tribute to Mrs Sinilia Radivojevic. I thank her for her unwavering support in the 12 years I have been a member of Parliament. Sinilia is one of those rare human beings—endearingly compassionate and committed to the quest to make this world a better place. As a volunteer for Cancer Council NSW, she has been tireless in her mission to raise awareness about cancer and to encourage us all to strive for a world with zero cancer. Since her arrival from Spain in 1984, Sinilia has been involved in many community-based advocacy campaigns as well as her work for Cancer Council NSW, and she shows no signs of stopping. I thank Sinilia for everything she does for the people of Fairfield. We are extremely fortunate to have her in the service of our community and championing its cause. I consider Sinilia not just a community advocate but also a true friend. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her many years of support and friendship.

WAKEHURST GOLF CLUB FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (10:50): On 15 October Wakehurst Golf Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Two hundred members packed into the clubhouse for a night of storytelling, food, drinks and dancing. Opening in 1972, Wakehurst Golf Club has been a community institution providing great food and drinks and, of course, fantastic golf. I congratulate the club and its members on what has been a fantastic 50 years and join them in hoping the next 50 will be just as good.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER ADELAIDE STOCKMANN

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (10:51): Preschools put our littlest learners on solid foundations for a lifetime. Preschool teachers and educators are special people who are devoted to making a difference to their students and our society. I pay tribute to one of Port Stephens' very special local preschool teachers, who has spent the past 28 years dedicated to making a difference. Adelaide Stockmann is the longest serving staff member at Karingal Preschool. After 28 years, Adelaide will retire at the end of the year. As a sure sign that it is a wonderful place to work, several other staff have been there almost as long. Adelaide has led the team at Karingal Preschool, setting a high standard and seeing it rated as exceeding the national quality standards. When I have visited beautiful Karingal Preschool, the calm, creative and caring atmosphere envelops me. It always fills me with joy and hope for our future. On behalf of the many students and families who have been touched by the magic of Karingal Preschool, I recognise and thank Adelaide for her 28 years of service and dedication to children and our community.

ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL PORT MACQUARIE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (10:52): I acknowledge the amazingly talented and gifted St Columba Anglican School Port Macquarie dancers, who have performed exceptionally well in their high school examinations to be nominated in the HSC Major Works for Callback. A high calibre of dance and composition was on display by the students during their High School Certificate exams, which has not gone unnoticed by the selectors at Callback. Year 12 students Lana Ostrowskyj, Amy Clarke and Genevieve Styles were recently presented with a nomination from Callback for their core performances. On 9 and 10 February 2023 they will perform at the Everest Theatre in Sydney. Lana received multiple nominations for her commendable achievements

in core performance, major study performance and composition. Callback is an annual showcase presented by the NSW Education Standards Authority that recognises exemplary performances and compositions by HSC students in dance. Nominated students will partake in school matinees and workshops over two days, which aims to inspire a career path in the arts sector. It is a wonderful accomplishment by three extraordinary students who clearly have a bright future ahead of them. I congratulate each of them and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

TUGGERAH LAKES PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (10:53): Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital created a sea of pink this month in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This aligned with the introduction of leading SAVI SCOUT technology to its suite of services to improve the experience for patients who require surgery for removal of a breast tumour. Using SCOUT technology, surgeons can precisely target the affected tissue to pinpoint its location within one millimetre. That can mean more successful surgeries, optimised breast conservation strategies and enhanced outcomes for women. Some of the Central Coast's best breast cancer surgeons began consulting out of the ICON consulting rooms and operating out of the hospital during the month. They include Dr Paul Chen, Dr Mary Ling and Dr Rita Poon. Medical oncologist Dr Mamta Bagia and radiation oncologist Professor John Boyages are also joining the team. Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital is committed to supporting patients through their cancer journey. To ensure that it provides an holistic approach, it is increasing the services available at the hospital, from diagnosis through to treatment and surgery, if required.

GUNNEDAH EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (10:54): I pay tribute to our emergency services in and around the great township of Gunnedah for their hard work and commitment to looking after and keeping our community safe during the ongoing flood crisis—from Mitch Parker and his dedicated and committed band of volunteers from the SES to Sally Anne and Peter Hall from the Salvation Army, who carried out welfare checks to ensure that those affected by the floods had someone to turn to in their hour of need. They also made sure that the evacuation centre was manned and that those who needed a bed for the night were taken care of. I also thank community advocate Julie Shields, who is doing an outstanding job when it comes to communication in and around Gunnedah. I recognise those who are again suffering through a flood crisis in the region and thank our emergency services personnel and the Salvation Army.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (10:55): On behalf of the Newtown electorate I acknowledge that this week is Transgender Awareness Week, which is a chance to celebrate trans pride, engage in education about gender diversity and learn how to elevate the voices of trans communities. I acknowledge the work of organisations, activists and community groups, which do invaluable work in our communities—on the street and in schools and workplaces—supporting and advocating for trans and gender diverse folks in New South Wales. Transgender Awareness Week ends on 20 November with Transgender Day of Awareness, which is a chance to remember those who have tragically lost their lives due to transphobia and violence. Vilification and discrimination are damaging and dangerous, have real-world impacts and are a matter of life and death. On behalf of The Greens and the Newtown electorate, I say that this week and always we are proud to stand with trans and gender diverse communities.

PRINCIPAL MARK GRADY RETIREMENT

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (10:56): I speak on the retirement of Model Farms High School principal Mark Grady. I thank Mark for his exceptional service to Model Farms High School students and students across western and north-west Sydney. Mark began his career as a mathematics teacher at Arthur Phillip High School before teaching at Blacktown Boys High School, Cumberland High School and Lachlan Macquarie College. Across his extensive tenure as a dedicated educator in the NSW Department of Education, Mark started at Model Farms High School as deputy principal in 2013. In 2018 he was promoted to principal and served faithfully in this role until retiring from teaching this year. Although the Model Farms community is sad to see Mark retire, he has left the school in the capable hands of deputy principals Kerrie Kennon, Kellie Lumley and Rebecca Smith. I thank Mark for his service to the local Winston Hills and Baulkham Hills communities and wish him all the best in the future.

CARINGKIDS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (10:57): Currently there are over 235,000 children and teenagers in Australia caring for a disabled or chronically ill family member. On average, they spend over six hours a week on caring responsibilities. CaringKids is a local charity that recognises young carers and works to diminish feelings of solitude and social isolation by distributing joy boxes filled with toys, games, books, school stationery

and sports equipment. To support these junior carers, my office is once again hosting an annual toy drive and encouraging our local community to leave a gift for a young carer under the tree at the Coogee electorate office. Last Christmas our local men's shed kindly donated an array of beautifully handcrafted toys to CaringKids, and I look forward to this year's donations. I encourage people, if they can, to support these junior carers and donate what they can so that we can make their Christmas a little brighter.

THE SHEPHERD CENTRE CEO JIM HUNGERFORD

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (10:58): I acknowledge Jim Hungerford, who has been CEO of The Shepherd Centre for the past 12 years. Jim has decided to hand over the baton to a new CEO. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Jim over the years and have seen The Shepherd Centre grow into a world-leading service specialising in helping children with hearing loss and their families. The centre is passionate about transforming those children's lives. The charity leads the way with its quality of management, its early education work and its range of clinical and professional activities. Jim has been at the forefront of the charity and I commend him for all the hard work and dedication that he has put into ensuring that the children have access to the charity's life-changing services and programs, particularly in Casula in my electorate. I extend my congratulations to Jim on his 12 years of service as CEO of The Shepherd Centre and thank him for his continued support of our local community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours.

COMMBANK MATILDAS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (10:59): I am thrilled that the CommBank Matildas beat Thailand last night at the beautiful Central Coast Stadium in the second match of the Seven Consulting international series. It was the last match of the year before the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023. They finished on an absolute high, with four wins in a row after a tough season. That sets the team in a good space for 2023. The star-studded team was on full display last night, with Sam Kerr and Hayley Raso scoring goals in an absolute banger of a win. I look forward to the co-hosted Australia and New Zealand world cup here on our soil in 2023. It is fantastic to see women's sport getting the attention it deserves.

WARIALDA HONEY FESTIVAL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (11:00): I recognise the event coordinator of the Warialda Honey Festival, Courtney Loosemore, and her team who were buzzing to get back to delivering the festival to the Warialda community. I was honoured to declare the festival open in September this year, which was the first year since 2019 that the committee was able to put on the festival. Event goers were treated to a variety of activities, including the amazing array of market and food stalls, children's rides, a gumbboot throwing competition, a visit from Beiber the Bee, and performances by Warialda Preschool, Warialda Public School and Warialda High School.

A festival favourite was the bee sculptures created by Shelly Way, the principal of Warialda High School, who developed the Bee Creative project. I congratulate the 2021 Fay Honour Busy Bee Award recipient, Marilyn Stubbins, and the 2022 recipients, the Carinda House volunteers. In 2023 the award will be known as the Fay Honour and Debbie Ford Busy Bee Award, to honour an incredible mother-daughter duo. I commend Courtney and the hardworking committee for putting together such an enjoyable event, and I thank Gwydir Shire Council and Regional Australia Bank as major sponsors.

THE ENTRANCE PARKRUN VOLUNTEERS

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (11:01): I acknowledge The Entrance parkrun, one of four parkruns held on the Central Coast, and the volunteers who make it happen. Parkrun is a free five-kilometre timed event held every Saturday morning across the globe. Walkers, dogs and prams are as welcome as runners. The event would not happen without its volunteers. I acknowledge by name the regular volunteers for The Entrance parkrun, including John Gately, Dianne Greening, Helen Watson, Cindy Martin, Cynthia Pilgrim, Kaitlyn Crouch, Chris Williams, Stephen Buchanan, John McDonald, Helen Yates, Trizzia Zuluaga, Scout Tall, Carolyn Buchanan, Deborah Dickson, Gerard Martin, Brenda Joyce Hockman, Karen Desmond, Eric Taylor, Tammy Wiseman, Adam Stone, Edmund Pye, Matt Adams, Anne McDonald, Michael Gaffey, Michelle Clunes, Barbara Blakeney, Joel Fitzgerald and Dianne Thomson. I give a special mention to regular run directors, Megan Pye and Stephanie Tall. I thank all parkrun volunteers.

MULWAREE HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (11:02): Many young people in our communities are unable to make purchases for everyday needs like clothes, shoes and homewares. All it took was a fabulous idea from the principal of Mulwaree High School, Sally Curry, to establish the Mulwaree Opportunity Shop. Attending to a spring clean at home, Mrs Curry thought that many young people may not be

able to afford to purchase from the charity organisations where many similar spring clean donations end up. The idea was sprouted and, after tremendous support, it became reality.

Donations came from many staff members and the shop was soon filled with a wide array of goods leading up to Christmas last year. Many young people need not only to provide for their own needs but also struggle to celebrate special occasions, such as Christmas or birthdays, with a small and thought-felt gift for loved ones. It would have undoubtedly been a heartwarming time to see the smiles and joy of those young people. I commend Mrs Curry and the Mulwaree High School community for their thoughtfulness.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE WYONG UNIT

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (11:03): It was a good opportunity to catch up with the SES Wyong Unit recently with the member for The Entrance and shadow Minister Jihad Dib to be updated on post-flood organisation and preparation for future events, with current weather patterns continuing to cause concern. Community action teams are being established across different areas to improve communication, provide training and enable better responses for residents. The Wyong unit will hold an information evening to show the community how to fill and lay sandbags to minimise floodwater entering houses or divert floodwater across properties. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with the volunteers to acknowledge their amazing efforts and hear stories of incredible rescues. I thank Wyong Unit Commander Matt Le Clerq for keeping the community and the local members up to date in preparation for future floods. I thank all the fantastic volunteers who make up Wyong SES.

SCHOOL LEADER LISSHA STEEL

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (11:04): I share with the House a great story about a year 6 student from Panania North Public School named Lissha Steel, who was nominated as one of the school leaders for 2021. The leaders were given the goal of showing initiative not only in the school but also outside of it. Lissha took it upon herself to walk down to the local Woolworths and speak to the store manager. Her intention was to find out what they did with the fruit that does not make it to the shelves or is changed over. The manager was so impressed with her drive that she made a promise to Lissha that if she was willing to come down to the store every Tuesday morning, she would provide her and the school with a large box of mixed fresh fruit. That box has been passed around the school by her and the leaders every week and given to the students who do not bring fruit or would like another pick-me-up in their fruit break. On top of that great community service, Lissha is a star debater, State cross-country runner and regional swimming representative. I congratulate Lissha on all of her achievements and on being selected for a selective high school next year.

PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE OFFICE STAFF

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (11:05): I recognise a small team of people who serve our community quietly and compassionately. My electorate office staff have been with me for a long time, and we have been through a lot. With the challenges of COVID and an office move, there has been more pressure placed on them this year than ever before. I put on record my thanks to Blake Mooney, Steven Moore, Ruby Porter and Rachel Vaughan, together with our awesome backup team of Rachel Smoothy, Kelly Hammond and Caitlin Macinante. Of course, I cannot forget our office boss, Toby the wonder dog. My team are dedicated to our community, often turning up to assist on weekends and in the evenings, and every day doing their best to support our community on an array of issues. I thank my amazing, hardworking and caring team for always backing up me and the community. I look forward to doing it all again next year.

MENAI MUSIC

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (11:06): I commend the incredible team at Menai Music on winning Performing Arts Business of the Year category at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Founded by Craig Woodward in 2008, Menai Music has developed a reputation as a family friendly music school, with staff who actively take on board each student's individual requirements. Menai Music offers piano, singing, guitar, ukulele, drums, song writing and performance lessons as well as holding an annual Menai Music showcase to highlight the students' talents.

I acknowledge the team at Menai Music for providing quality music tuition to residents of the Sutherland shire. I recognise Craig Woodward, Jacob Wilkes, Olivia McAuliffe, Daniel Mather, Lisa Tookarchi, Lauren White, James Smithers, Max Jacobson and Noah McBride on the achievement. This NSW Small Business Month is a fantastic opportunity to highlight local businesses, like Menai Music, which are an important part of our community as a key provider of goods, services and jobs. I congratulate the team at Menai Music on their success at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards and extend my best wishes for the future.

CLEAN4SHORE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (11:07): It is my pleasure to recognise the fantastic work of Clean4shore, which works to preserve the pristine waterways of the Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes. Clean4shore provides hands-on education and action, leading volunteer groups and excursions to remove garbage from waterways and foreshores, while also teaching valuable lessons to locals on the impact of waste on our ecosystems. Clean4shore, led by coordinator Graham Johnston, recently oversaw a team to remove a large marquee that had been tangled and wedged beneath rocks in the Hawkesbury River. Working together, the team removed the debris from our waterway, which weighed over 200 kilograms. In addition to its wonderful work protecting our natural environment, Clean4shore leads excursions for local school students, educating the next generation on the protection of our region. I encourage Central Coast Council to be more lenient to Clean4shore when dumping its waste in the local landfill facilities. I thank the wonderful team at Clean4shore for working to keeping our waterways clean and looking after the Central Coast.

TRIPLE H COMMUNITY RADIO

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) (11:08): Community broadcasting is a key pillar of grassroots media, and perhaps the most accurate representation of our local communities compared with any other media. The Ku-ring-gai electorate is home to Triple H, made up of volunteers with skills and knowledge across a range of areas, from multicultural engagement to sport. The sports-calling team at Triple H recently received the Troy Garner Excellence in Sports Programming Award as part of the 2022 Community Radio Awards. The team won for their coverage of Cricket New South Wales Women's Premier Cricket and are notably the only radio station in Australia covering Women's Premier Cricket. I congratulate the team, some of whom I met on Friday night, including Shane Evans, Anthony Caruso, Mat Meers, Georgia Lomis-Futeran, Aaryan Shah, Dom Rizzuto, Zoe Benjamin, Mary Konstantopoulos, Sarah Marschke, Angelene Marsh Ctercteko and Andrew Russell. I also acknowledge the Chairman of Triple H, Stephen Holland, and all the volunteers who ensure that local radio continues to flourish in Ku-ring-gai.

CENTRAL COAST SPORT AWARDS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (11:09): I congratulate all the major award winners at the Central Coast Academy of Sport Awards evening held on 2 November. I offer my congratulations to Georgie Clune, who received the Chair's Award. I also congratulate Allie Reid and Charlotte Rousell for winning the Dedication to Sporting Excellence Award. They are both dedicated and enthusiastic netball players. Robyn Low Hart, who has had significant success with her coaching of junior triathlon athletes, won the RASi Coaches Award. Finally, I offer huge congratulations to AFL player Kaiden McNamara, who was awarded Athlete of the Year. Kaiden was selected in the CHS State side and had an opportunity to trial for the Sydney Swans Academy. He has also had strong performances in the Challenge Cup and Northern New South Wales representative carnivals. Every sporting program's Athlete of the Year and Rising Star winner was in the running to be announced as the overall Central Coast Academy of Sport Athlete of the Year, so it is safe to say that it was a competitive selection process to say the least. I congratulate all the winners.

VIRTUS OCEANIA ASIA GAMES COMPETITOR KATRINA COFFEY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (11:10): I congratulate Dubbo's Katrina Coffey, who last week joined the Australian team to compete at the Virtus Oceania Asia Games in Brisbane. The games are an international multi-sport competition held in the Oceania region for elite athletes with an intellectual impairment. Delivered by Sport Inclusion Australia, this is the first time the games have been held in the region, with hundreds of athletes and officials from Asia, the Pacific and New Zealand competing. Katrina competed in the swimming events and trains hard five days a week, morning and afternoon, with Dubbo's Orana Aquatic Swimming Club. Her hard work really paid off, with her achieving personal bests in every event and winning a bronze medal in the 200-metre individual medley and silver medals in the 800-metre freestyle, 400-metre freestyle and 200-metre backstroke. In recognition of her remarkable effort and achievements, Katrina was recognised with the Australian Sports Medal. I again congratulate Katrina and say well done. Katrina is a truly inspirational young lady.

MOOREBANK HERITAGE GROUP

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (11:11): Moorebank Heritage Group continues to be a strong advocate for retaining the rich history of our local area. In October the group hosted a German concentration camp and military museums tour, giving residents the opportunity to understand this important aspect of Australian military history and the history of World War I on the home front. The Holsworthy German concentration camp was the largest internment camp in Australia during World War I. The camp held between 4,000 and

5,000 internees, mainly of Austro-Hungarian, German and Turkish nationalities. These prisoners were interned without a trial and often without knowing their crime, with the aim of helping to keep Australia safe. The camp remained open until the last internees were deported to Germany in 1920. Thanks to the Moorebank Heritage Group, people of the local area can learn and understand more about this significant part of our history. The group was also responsible for ensuring the Harris Creek Bridge was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register, as parts of it were constructed by internees of the camp. I thank the group for its commitment to ensuring this vital part of history is preserved and look forward to more of its tours.

Private Members' Statements

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (11:12): Recently at the New South Wales Parliament I hosted captains and vice-captains from primary schools in the Davidson electorate, as I have done annually for the past 15 years. This year's visits were undertaken on 31 October and 4 November. It was my privilege to welcome 73 primary school leaders from 19 local public and non-government schools to experience both this Chamber and the Legislative Council. Those experiences were followed by afternoon tea and a presentation of leadership certificates. I have always enjoyed meeting our young school leaders and thanking them for demonstrating leadership within their local school communities. I also encouraged them to continue contributing valuably to their school and the broader community as they transition into high school.

The names of the schools and students are as follows: from Roseville Public School, Mavis Rhydderch, Marley Davidson, Matilda Davidson and Toby Wong; from St Ives North Public School, Claudia Monahan, Max Walters, Raveen Attanayake and Cyan Hu; from Lindfield East Public School, Max Moore, Lucy Poon, Josh Nguyen and Madison Cole; from St Ives Park Public School, Eloise Stephens, Darren Shek, Daisy Ewins and Jo Zhang; from Castle Cove Public School, Grace Godfrey, Angus Girvan, Zoe Telfer and Hunter Huckerby; from Kambora Public School, Lachie Gardner, Emma Wakely, Summer Broekman and Harry Stock; from Wakehurst Public School, Emily Zauner, Alex Neal, Talisha Bigwood and Louis Burge; from Belrose Public School, Isla Scott, Daniel Chen, Emma Creagh and Matthew Chisholm; and from Mimosa Public School, Noah Dryden, Ruby Hall, Harry Loneragan and Isabelle Sutton.

Other students to visit the Parliament included: from Masada College, Ashira Bass, Jaida Walt, Ziv Danieli and Gaby Toynton; from St Martin's Catholic Primary School, Gabrielle Gallo, Annabelle Doyle, Luke Vlatko and Isla Grennan; from Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Stella Minarovicova, Erin Williams, Paige Sweeney and Josephine Itzcovitz; from Corpus Christi Primary School, Carter Barnes, Jessie Dale and Molly Joyce; from Roseville College, Heidi Wenck and Sophie Benn; from Gordon East Primary School, Ronan Jaffrey, Sophie Heap, Michael Matthews and Marisa Lim; from Lindfield Public School, Ady Lee, Kristian Nutter, Annie Hardy and Nicholas Uth; from Forestville Montessori School, Neste Szarka-Kovacs, Abigail Warburton, Kayla Casey, Aleana Anderson and Phoenix Parisi; from Frenchs Forest Public School, Elodie Spray, Roman Hinks, Kiva Adams and Joseph Farrar; and from St Ives Public School, Gemma Batchelor, Max Chen, Luna Noda and Ariyan Khan.

I apologise to Hansard for some of my pronunciations, but I have a list of all the names with correct spellings. It is indicative of an increasingly multicultural New South Wales and Australia in my electorate and elsewhere. What is common among all those students is they have so much potential for the future. They are energetic, intelligent leaders within their school environment. I encouraged them to encourage others to reach their own potential, not just in a personal sense but also in a community one. These visits are a very rewarding and valuable exercise from my perspective—an investment in our community's future as well as the futures of wonderful young people.

Unfortunately, this year John Colet School and Newington College Preparatory School were unable to attend, but they have attended in the past. I also acknowledge that I have two schools in my electorate with primary-age students who have various disabilities: Cromehurst School and Sir Eric Woodward School. Although unable to attend, those students are also valued within the context of a diverse and inclusive community. I am confident that all students named have bright futures ahead. I hope that my successor in the Davidson electorate continues the tradition of inviting those leaders into this place on an annual basis.

LAKEMBA ELECTORATE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (11:17): There is a crazy rush during the final sitting weeks of a parliamentary term. Ministers rush through bills, governments make last-ditch attempts to wedge their political opponents, election battlelines are drawn, and not enough time is given to reflection. Too often we save reflections for valedictories, but we cannot look forward if do not have an appreciation for how far we have come. All reflection begins with thanks. I give thanks to the people of Lakemba, who entrusted me to be their representative

for the past four years. I thank my family, my friends and my colleagues on all sides of the political divide for this important camaraderie, including the transport Minister, whom I note is in the Chamber.

Parliament can be a place of lofty ideals, even if we do not show our constituents often enough what is possible. The past eight years have been some of the most challenging, enriching and surreal years of my life. I am asking for another term in this place. I retain the exact same hunger to make a difference that I felt so keenly back in March 2015, when I first walked into the bearpit. But I also feel a tremendous sense of pride in what has been accomplished. In my inaugural speech, I spoke of our area as a potential tourist hub. I was glad to secure \$1 million in funding for road and infrastructure upgrades, as well as funding to support the growth of Lakemba Nights, now a major attraction, and funds to fix Haldon Street, which will become a tourist destination.

Just in the past few months I have been happy to deliver accessible lifts at Punchbowl station and upgrades to green spaces like Parry Park. I have also secured \$2.2 million in grants to local community groups to deliver projects with social, environmental and recreational outcomes for our local community. These include new facilities for local sporting clubs and IT equipment for a local not-for-profit, which assists vulnerable families. I instigated a campaign to fix local roads, and petitioned the State Government to fix the neglect in road maintenance, which is damaging our cars and making roads less safe. People know that I fought cuts to Bankstown TAFE as well as to Chullora TAFE, and advocated for funding for a new hospital in Bankstown.

So much of this parliamentary term has been dominated by COVID-19 and natural disasters, which have tested us all. I pay tribute to the frontline responders—the nurses and doctors who put our health before their own. I thank the public servants, particularly Dr Kerry Chant, the Chief Health Officer. I thank our leaders at the time. We owe a debt to former Premier Gladys Berejiklian and to the outgoing Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, who has been a stalwart of this place and a constant during the health crisis. I also acknowledge the member for Baulkham Hills, who was the police Minister at the time. We had many conversations about the way we could improve things as a community, which I appreciated and have not forgotten. They were testing times, but we can work through them when we have good relationships. I wish him all the very best. I put on record that it has been nice working with him, and I am sure we will still be friends after he has left this place.

My community knows that in the darkest times I stood with them. During the 2021 lockdowns, I did not hold back in standing up against wrongful characterisations by both the media and the State Government. I was an outspoken critic of policies that created two different Sydneys and divided communities. I worked to create links between NSW Health and local community groups to drive up local vaccination rates and to ensure that families doing it tough were given all the support that we could muster, including organising thousands of food hampers for people in the local and wider community. My team and I, like others, worked under immense pressure and were often the first call for people in distress. We sat for hours deciphering the ever-changing public health orders. We cried with our constituents who had lost loved ones. We tried to assist people who lost their livelihoods and saw their hard-built small businesses collapse. Indeed, we became accidental counsellors, mentors and advocates.

On 4 November I had the tremendous honour of nominating as the Labor candidate for the Bankstown electorate. The process felt strange because, despite the name, my new electorate is largely 70 per cent of my current electorate of Lakemba. I will be sad to no longer represent the suburbs of Narwee and Lakemba, but I am confident that they will be ably represented by Sophie Cotsis in Canterbury and a Labor candidate for the electorate of Oatley. I am excited about the future and what a possible Labor government can deliver for our community. We can fix Canterbury Hospital, rebuild Bankstown hospital and fix our roads, which have been starved of State Government investment. The new Western Sydney University campus in Bankstown, combined with local innovation and the right policy settings, can turn our community into a major hub for investment.

It is time for our community to be given the opportunity to fulfil its potential by a government that believes and supports local aspiration. My job is, and always will be, about community. That is what I have delivered. That is what I want to continue to deliver. Formerly I was a local principal, and I retain my educative spirit and my passion for education. I take nothing for granted, and I thank the people who have given me the extraordinary honour of putting me in this place. I know that I have given it my all. I hope to represent them once again and I hope to see members again in this place in the not-too-distant future.

VOLUNTEER JIM AULD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (11:22): I congratulate Jim Auld, who has officially retired after a whopping 37 years as a volunteer and administrator in community soccer, most of which was served in in Dubbo. Jim started in 1985 managing one of his son's teams at Umina Beach, before the family moved to Narromine in 1987 when Jim became manager of the local Commonwealth Bank. Back in those days, the bank manager was expected to really embed themselves into the community, something Jim took very seriously. Before long he was involved in the Narromine Lions and

Rotary clubs. He helped organise fetes and fundraisers at Narromine Public School, and even helped establish the Narromine Little Athletics Club with Les Lambert way back in the summer of 1988-89. In 1994 the family moved to Dubbo, and by 1996 Jim was either managing or coaching at least three teams a year, something he did not just once, but for about 15 years. Jim is not just a stalwart but the stalwart of Dubbo soccer.

Since 1998, Jim has held almost every role in the Dubbo and District Football Association: treasurer, association manager, registrar, secretary, member protection officer, coaching coordinator, website manager and tribunal chairperson, as well as the association's delegate to the Dubbo City Sports Council for 23 years. Jim has also been the Dubbo delegate for the Western New South Wales branch, serving on the management committee from 2007—including as chair from 2012—and was the Western New South Wales branch delegate to the Football NSW junior standing committee, which later became the association's standing committee. Right up until this year, Jim compiled the draws for all junior and senior competitions, maintained the competition ladders and compiled draws for all small-sided teams in Dubbo and Narromine.

He was the coordinator of the Western Premier League from 2003 until 2011, also wearing the hats of treasurer, competition secretary, registrar and tribunal chair. Jim coordinated the Football NSW girls State titles in Dubbo for a decade, and just four years ago in 2018 he added another feather to his cap, becoming a referee. Jim's contribution to football has been recognised many times. He is a life member of the Dubbo & District Football Association. He has received a Dubbo sports council award for his individual contribution to soccer, and has received a Football NSW State award not once but twice for his commitment to the Dubbo & District Football Association, and development of the world game across western New South Wales.

Last year Jim received the Distinguished Long Service Award from Sport NSW, at the prestigious NSW Community Sports Awards. And just last month, Jim received Football NSW's highest honour, the George Churchward Medal, presented each year to an individual who has exemplified an outstanding commitment to the sport. Jim has received many awards for his work on the administrative side of things, but he has also done incredible work over the years to support players and families doing it tough. From a player who was diagnosed with terminal cancer to endless sick kids, Jim would get the entire community involved to raise money to help cover the bills. Most people do not know that Jim did all that while engaged in a health battle of his own for the past 20-odd years.

He has been spurred on by his love of the sport and the love of his life, his tireless wife Heather, who shares that passion and who is with him every step of the way—literally. She is down at the fields every weekend helping to get things done and putting up with the football administration, which has taken over part of their house for over a decade now. When accepting the George Churchward Medal, Jim said Heather was his role model. It was a wise decision to say that, and well done to Heather. For the Aulds, soccer has always been a family affair. Jim and Heather practically raised their kids—Raelene, Nat, Alan and Patrick, plus 10 grandsons and one granddaughter—on the sidelines. They have all been involved at some point.

During the most recent local summer competition, 75-year-old Jim was the oldest registered player in Dubbo as the Aulds made a bit of family history—three generations on the field at the same time with Alan and Patrick playing, Jim in goals and grandson Bailey refereeing. That is what it is all about for Jim—watching kids grow and develop, not just in the sport, but as people, and seeing the joy and the friendships the sport gives them. For Jim, there is still nothing better than watching the little under-5s and under-6s running around—some of them more interested in chasing a butterfly or in a blade of grass—and watching them grow up to one day coach their own kids' teams. Now he is mostly retired. He has promised to help clean up that home office—good luck, Heather—and both he and Heather are looking forward to travelling and spending more time with their ever-expanding family. They are a fantastic family. I congratulate Jim. He has been amazing in the sport but also in the way he has dealt with community and helped people throughout his long tenure. I am sure he will continue to do what he does so well.

KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE EVENTS

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) (11:27): As we approach the end of this parliamentary term, I draw attention to the progress that the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government has made in the Ku-ring-gai electorate over the past four years. Firstly, I acknowledge that 2022 has been a special year not only for local residents but also for the people of New South Wales. It is the first time in over two years that we saw the welcome return of many community events that were sorely missed. New South Wales has emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever, and the 2022-23 New South Wales budget is reflective of that.

Just recently, year 6 Ku-ring-gai school leavers, their families and teachers came to Parliament as my guests, something that we have not been able to do since 2019. Locally, we have seen the return of many

community fairs, including the Wahroonga Food and Wine Festival, the Loreto Normanhurst Spring Fair, Pymble Ladies' College and Barker College spring fairs, and the Ku-ring-gai Public School public speaking competition and music contests at Warringah Park. Families have come out in record numbers at each of these events, loving the chance to soak up the sun and enjoy the interesting activities and social interactions the community events facilitate.

The completion and opening of the redeveloped Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital was a remarkable milestone for my community. The health Minister, Treasurer and I attended the launch to celebrate the transformation of the hospital, including the expanded emergency department and the new clinical services building, which has made a dramatic improvement to the hospital at a cost of many hundreds of millions of dollars. Those upgrades have meant an increase of nearly 250 more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to our local hospital since 2011, strengthening our health services and ensuring our local community has access to high-quality health care close to home. The hospital was so run down under Labor that possums were falling through the ceiling and onto surgical wards. Now it is one of the most modern facilities in the world. There is still more to come for the hospital. New dental, breast screening, renal and mental health facilities and services will be delivered in the coming weeks and months.

In 2020 upgrades were completed at Warrawee station and this year upgrades were completed at Wahroonga station. Similar ongoing upgrades are being made to many of our heritage stations across the North Shore to improve accessibility through the installation of lifts. Many of those station upgrades are expected to be completed in 2023, including at Pymble station, Killara station, Normanhurst station, Thornleigh station and Waitara station. Those upgrades to health care and transport in Ku-ring-gai were made possible due to the way in which the Government has been able to manage its money. It has ensured sufficient funding for necessary infrastructure. Without that, we would not have seen such improvements.

Over the course of this parliamentary term, the Government has delivered for the people of Ku-ring-gai and surrounding areas with the completion of the NorthConnex tunnel in 2020. The NorthConnex tunnel has returned Pennant Hills Road to local residents. Traffic count data shows that both heavy and light vehicle volumes on the Pacific Highway have decreased. Furthermore, early in my parliamentary term new State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service facilities were constructed at North Wahroonga. Since 2019 many local community organisations have received grants, including 31 sporting clubs. An example of that funding is a multi-sport facility that will be delivered at Ku-ring-gai High School. The New South Wales Government has invested millions in funding for disability education in Ku-ring-gai as well as once-in-a-generation upgrades to Waitara Public School and Ku-ring-gai High School.

Many projects are underway, including improvements to the Pacific Highway between Turramurra and Wahroonga to ease bottlenecks, improve travel time and reduce congestion, and a \$9 million upgrade to Mark Taylor Oval at Waitara for the construction of the Cricket Centre of Excellence. The centre will ultimately give cricketers the best possible facilities. It may be of such a standard that women's international cricket will be played in our community. That is just the first stage in making Mark Taylor Oval the premier cricket facility for the whole of north Sydney.

The Liberal-Nationals Government has delivered unprecedented and once-in-a-generation upgrades for Ku-ring-gai, not only over the course of this parliamentary term but since 2011. It has been an honour and privilege to serve our community. I have worked to preserve what is special about our local area. I thank the community for its support over the past eight years. I believe the future is bright. I wish everyone in Ku-ring-gai and across New South Wales a very merry Christmas, an enjoyable and restful summer and a happy new year. I hope to be given the great privilege of representing the new electorate of Wahroonga, which will incorporate much of my current electorate.

GRANVILLE ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (11:32): I reflect on the past four years, particularly for the community of Granville, which I have represented for the past eight years. Before the election four years ago, there were corflute signs on fences saying that express trains had already been delivered to Granville station—after they were taken away by the Government back in 2013. Obviously that was not true. I am very disappointed that they still have not been returned, except for a brief period earlier this year when the weekend timetables were operating on weekdays. Another promise that we were told on election day had been delivered was the new public school in Westmead. Not long before the last election, Westmead Public School was the largest public primary school in New South Wales, with over 1,600 students.

Members on both sides of politics committed to building a new public primary school in Westmead, but still that has not happened. It is still in the planning stage and certainly no site has been confirmed. While there has been speculation on a few sites, none has been confirmed and there has been very limited progress. We have

achieved the opening of a new Service NSW centre in Merrylands, which replaces the old motor registry that the Government closed in 2016. Also, a number of safety improvements have been made to the M4 off ramp at Church Street, which became known as "crash alley" when the tolls were introduced and everyone tried to get off the M4 at that point to avoid the toll. There were a number of fatalities at the off ramp and there was plastic and other accident debris constantly strewn across the road. Upgrades to that off ramp have provided an improvement.

The most significant event of the past four years has been the challenge of COVID. That was particularly challenging for my electorate. The suburb of Guildford had the highest death rate from COVID in the first two years of the disease, and that lasted until the Omicron wave. We were a part of the area that suffered the more intense lockdown, when Sydney was divided in two. We faced crazy testing delays and were not told where we had been exposed to COVID. Further, the area has persistently high levels of unemployment. For those who do work, either they lost work or they worked in areas where they were highly exposed to the disease. With the assistance of my friend the member for Lakemba, I was very proud to secure an OzHarvest hub to support families in the area. Demand for food parcels was never expected to be greater in Granville than in Lakemba, but it was far greater. Up to 900 parcels a week were provided in the middle of COVID, and OzHarvest was not the only provider of such services in my area. It was a really challenging period and a very difficult time for everybody.

As we head towards the next election, our community still faces a lot of problems relating to the cost of living. That must be addressed by the Government. Energy prices have gone through the roof. For a number of years energy prices have gone up by more than 10 per cent or 15 per cent. Now they are up 20 per cent. That has not been driven solely by war in Ukraine; it has been driven in part by privatisation and in part by increases in global commodity prices prior to the war. However, the war has sent energy prices even higher, and governments must do something to address that. Tolls have also been a huge challenge, as has the wages cap, especially as inflation is at 7 per cent.

I will reflect briefly on an issue I raised in my inaugural speech, which is the importance of science. In that speech I highlighted the risks posed by anti-vaxxers and climate change deniers. I was referring to people on the North Coast, but I was not aware that I had so many anti-vaxxers in my electorate. Last year when the vaccine was delayed, many people believed the utter misinformation that was out there about the dangers of vaccines. Thanks to those who have thrown a spanner in the works every time we debate action on climate change, we are now reaping the costs. This week my hometown of Canowindra suffered the worst floods on record, and towns in the Central West are suffering even more. We must do something about climate change. We must do more than what we have done.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Tamworth, I welcome to the public gallery students from Belmore Boys High School, guests of the member for Canterbury. Currently the House is considering private members' statements. I call the member for Tamworth.

TAMWORTH ELECTORATE FUNDING

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (11:38): Regional growth and economic development is driven by innovation and great ideas in our communities. Those ideas bring the community together. They are the glue that helps to drive prosperity in our region. A number of those projects are being realised right now, including the Quirindi Silo Art Committee, which is dedicated to improving economic and social outcomes by bringing historic silos to life. Those silos are now coming to life, thanks to a \$199,981 grant from the New South Wales Government. Anyone who has not had the chance yet should follow its Facebook page or, better yet, take a trip to Quirindi. It is a truly special event.

Another regional location, the Barraba Rugby Club, has undergone a \$680,000 improvement to a clubhouse that is the heart of the community, ensuring that it caters for both the men's teams and growing women's teams and juniors who will come through and ultimately become the seniors of the Barraba Rugby Club. Country shows across our region, backed in with support of the New South Wales Government's Country Shows Support Package, are so important to regional communities, particularly after COVID, because they brought us together, and it was fantastic to get along to all our region's country shows to catch up with our friends. Upgrades to bowling clubs across the region are ensuring that they have a good surface to play on and a good clubhouse to sit back and relax in. Upgrades to lighting at Gunnedah Tennis Club are ensuring that players can get on for a game at night as well.

Those are just a few examples of great community projects, when great minds think alike. What combines those projects is that they have been funded by the Liberal-Nationals Government, and that will continue. Funding programs like the Stronger Country Communities Fund, the Country Shows Support Package, infrastructure grants and more are so important to regional communities because those funds turn great ideas into reality. I want our community groups to be at the front of the queue when that money is being handed out to increase the prospects of driving regional growth, economic development and the betterment of our communities. I have always said that the community have the great ideas, and I love getting behind them and backing them in. Let us keep those

great ideas coming so that we can continue to tap into those grants that are available across the Tamworth electorate.

VOLUNTEERS OLIVIA WALSH AND LYDIA MCKECHNIE

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (11:41): Earlier this year I was approached by two young women in my electorate, Olivia Walsh and Lydia McKechnie, who wanted to volunteer in my office as part of the Duke of Edinburgh program. We had the great pleasure of working with Lydia and Olivia a day a week for six months, in which time they became a much-valued part of our team. The girls took on tasks they had no experience with and impressed us with their abilities, eagerness, willingness to learn and always with a smile. Before they finished up, I asked them to write a piece for my private member's statement, reflecting on their experiences, and this is what they have shared:

At the beginning of this year, the two of us decided to take on the challenge of doing the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award together. After years with COVID-19 we wanted to expand our horizons, connections and contributions to the community. This award entails having to complete three months of a new skill, a new sport and community service plus an additional three months in your chosen category or major. As our major for this award, we chose community service. We considered many worthy options for volunteer work in the Blue Mountains but decided that we would like to help our community by volunteering for our local MP, Trish Doyle.

For the past six months we have been volunteering at Trish Doyle's Office every Thursday. During this time, we have honestly learnt so much from being with all of the dedicated and supportive staff at the office, but here are a few things that really stood out to us:

Since working here, the two of us have grown in confidence and expanded our critical thinking, and our writing, communication and office skills. As one of our main jobs at the office, we were given the task of writing Community Recognition Statements and congratulatory letters. It has been a real privilege to see the inspiring achievements and amazing contributions the members of the vibrant Blue Mountains community have made and continue to make. These contributions ranged from saving a species—

the Parma wallaby—

from extinction to campaigning to build new community spaces and facilities. It has been very humbling to be part of giving them all the recognition they deserve.

We also thought it was amazing to see how a political office is run and see the vital roles that staff play within it to support each other and the community. We loved learning about different issues and seeing how Trish Doyle campaigns with so much dedication to help our community environmentally, economically, culturally and socially.

Before coming to the office neither of us had any prior work experience in this style of work. This opportunity really helped us to grow our confidence. Being around the people that work at the office and their support and knowledge helped us to realise what we are capable of now and in the future. We found it really inspiring to be around such a strong female politician as Trish who embodies the views of our electorate and stands up for what the community wants and needs.

Being volunteers at the office has brought to our attention many issues that affect the community and our futures, such as the Great Western Highway, Katoomba Hospital, the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall and many more. We can both say that having had these issues brought to our attention has made us more considerate, and aware of local issues. Thanks to this experience we have learned much more about politics as a whole and, especially, our own local politics. We feel motivated and more confident to become active in playing our role in building a better future.

Working at Trish's has given us an experience that we know will be valuable for our future and we really appreciate that.

As part of our work experience, we recently went into State Parliament with Trish. We had the chance to meet some of her colleagues and friends as well as to observe various speeches and Question Time. This was a privilege and was a wonderful insight into how our parliament works. We were so grateful to meet other MPs and to be able to hear Trish speak on issues important to our electorate ... It was very interesting and insightful to see everyone talk about these issues and present their ideas.

We enjoyed being given the opportunity to speak to Trish's colleagues and learn their ... opinions. We have also enjoyed having the chance to meet all the brilliant, kind, and helpful people who work in the office and are responsible for helping us achieve our Duke of Edinburgh award. Overall, we want to thank Trish, Camille, Kal, Kate, Ilsa, Donna and Peta for their help and for giving us this chance to learn so much.

It is a real privilege for me to learn of Olivia's and Lydia's experience working in my electorate office. It is wonderful to know what they have gained as young 15-year-old women over the past few months, and I am thrilled to have supported them throughout that process. The girls will walk away with a broader perspective on the world, also having enriched the day-to-day working lives of me and my team. There is something about being surrounded by youthful exuberance that is infectious, and it is a reminder to us grown-ups to shake off the wariness we sometimes succumb to. From the bottom of our hearts, my team and I thank Lydia and Olivia for their contribution to our office, and we look forward to working with them again in the new year.

MONARO ELECTORATE AND AFRICAN LOVEGRASS CONTROL

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (11:46): Written in 1902, this is from a work by one of Australia's best-known poets, Banjo Paterson:

For the skies are blue above,
And the grass is green below,
In the old Monaro country
At the melting of the snow.

Those few lines do indeed encapsulate our beloved Monaro, with its vast natural landscapes, its rolling plains and its stunning waterways. The Monaro, however, has another environmental feature that is too often under-considered in terms of its importance and biodiversity. Naturally, tree-free native grasslands are widespread in the Monaro and are an important part of the region's resilience and agricultural productivity. The native grasslands contain a wide variety of species in a range of different compositions. They are nationally protected because they contain collections of plants and animals not found anywhere else in Australia. The grassland earless dragon is an example of the unique species that occur in the Monaro. It is a grassland specialist, with colouring and patterning that provides camouflage amongst the bare basalt soils and dry tussock grasses. It is listed as a threatened species.

For the past 70 years, landowners and governments alike have been fighting a very real war in the Monaro to preserve our native grasslands and agricultural pasture. Their common enemy is African lovegrass. This prevalent pest is now endemic to significant areas of the region, with the main infestation in the Murrumbidgee Valley, north from Cooma to Michelago. There are also significant areas of infestation to the south, south-west and south-east of Cooma. African lovegrass is a priority weed in the Monaro and can take over pastures and disturbed areas. It degrades pastures as it is not very nutritious for livestock. Infestations in our area have been gradually expanding over recent years, mainly due to the good seasonal conditions, and it is now one of the biggest challenges in our region environmentally, socially and economically. African lovegrass is a perennial grass that grows in clumps up to 1.2 metres tall. The seed head grows towards the end of the stem and presents during summer to autumn. Each seed head can produce between 300 to 1,000 seeds that have a high viability during the first year.

For many years, flupropanate herbicides have been the most common method of control, particularly in non-arable country. However, currently flupropanate is unavailable in Australia, and it seems unlikely that it will be available into the future. Consequently, control plans based on this herbicide are no longer valid and will force a change in both attitudes and methods for control. Current research focuses on arable land, evaluating the integration of competitive crops or pasture, such as grazing wheat, chicory and lucerne mix, which provide effective suppression. While latest technology and research offer hope, success needs total cooperation across the entire spectrum of government, council and landholders. Lovegrass has already decimated 100,000 hectares and is spreading into 100,000 hectares more. Our first aim must be to stop the spread of infestation across Monaro.

Over the past few years, this Government has taken action in the fight against this formidable pest, both statewide and in the Monaro. The New South Wales Government dedicates \$12.5 million annually to fighting weeds and the two councils in Monaro together invest around \$3.3 million. In 2018, a total of \$375,000 in funding was allocated to help create long-term strategies to improve productive agricultural land and the environmental landscape in the region. We have also delivered several smaller grants, such as the recent more than \$10,000 habitat action grant to Cooma Landcare to address the significant problem of weeds along the Cooma Creek and the Cooma Back Creek to plant native flora species.

The Snowy Monaro region Biosecurity Advisory Committee has developed an African lovegrass strategy, proposing the appointment of an officer within the Cooma Local Land Services office who is dedicated to halting the spread of the highly invasive weed. The African lovegrass coordinator would be primarily responsible for reinvigorating community groups around the perimeter of the infestation and leading a coordinated effort to stabilise and gradually curtail the African lovegrass situation—in much the same way as the current wild dog coordinator role. Technological advancements, such as drones, and strategies highlighted during the inquiry just completed by the Standing Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, which I chair, also need to be explored continually.

Such ideas can only work alongside a continued complementary program of lovegrass control on roadsides, high-risk pathways and high-risk sites, including modified roadside vegetation control practices to reduce grass weed spread. Without such a coordinated strategy, African lovegrass will continue to ravage the Snowy Monaro region. As I referred to in my inaugural address to this Parliament on 22 March 2022, invasive weeds and the damage they inflict on one of the most significant agricultural and grazing regions in the country are not necessarily headline-grabbing stuff. Nonetheless, this is a matter of critical importance.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY LEGEND DENNIS RIDDELL

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (11:51): I draw to the attention of the Parliament a local Labor legend in the electorate of Prospect whose name is Dennis Riddell. Dennis has had an incredible life and an incredible effect on politics in our part of western Sydney. Dennis was born in Homebush on 20 June 1948. He is the eldest of three sons born to his parents, Doug and Joan Riddell. Dennis started getting involved in politics in 1997 and on 5 June 1998 he joined the Labor Party and attended his first meeting, which was a Blacktown branch meeting. A year or so later, Dennis decided, with his good mate Paul Gibson—who we all know as a former member of this Parliament—and Bruce Davidson to set up a new branch, the Prospect branch. They got the charter

from the Australian Labor Party [ALP] head office that year, and Dennis became the secretary of the Prospect branch in 1999. Bruce Davidson was assistant secretary and Anne Marie Kestele was the first president.

Dennis continues to be the branch secretary of the Prospect branch even today. The branch meetings were held at the St John Ambulance Hall in Myrtle Street and started with roughly 12 new members. This continues today: They still meet at the same place. The branch meetings and debates were often spirited but fun, and branch attendance grew, with many new members joining the branch—and, of course, there were always a few beers afterwards. Dennis is most proud of the Prospect branch for changing how meetings were run, and many other branches followed its example. Dennis has not missed a single local, State or Federal election in 24 years. The list of campaigns and MPs include, in Blacktown, Paul Gibson and John Robertson. In the Prospect preselection, Dennis was very active and 100 per cent supportive of me—for which I thank him. In 2015 he worked on my campaign, in the by-election for the member for Blacktown in 2017 and of course for both that member and me in 2019.

At a Federal level, he worked for Roger Price in his campaigns from 1997 to 2010, when Ed Husic took over. Dennis has worked for Ed Husic at every election campaign since 2010, as well as for Michelle Rowland. Dennis tells me that the highlight of his time in the Labor Party was meeting Julia Gillard and having a long conversation when she came to western Sydney. Dennis was also a very active trade unionist and had many jobs during this time, but he flourished as an employee at the Blacktown Workers Club, where he worked for 18 years. At the Blacktown Workers Club he had many roles—as a doorman, a customer service attendant, a cellar person and a supervisor. But, as I have said, he was also a very active trade union delegate from 1994 for about seven or eight years. During his time at the Blacktown Workers Club, workers' rights were first and foremost on his radar—he would always fight for the underdog.

A highlight for Dennis was that he was the first Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union [LHMU] delegate to argue and win a fight against discrimination of women workers at the club. Through negotiations and grassroots campaigning—along with John Barry, who was the assistant secretary of the union—without going to court, he won the right for women to wear trousers in the workplace. Dennis and John made a very strong and convincing duo as local trade union leaders. The last thing the club wanted was for this matter to be in the public domain. The club was the last club to allow women to wear trousers in the workplace. Dennis went on to run every single year from 2011 to be on the board of the Blacktown Workers Club. He never got up, but he continued to fight.

However, Dennis' greatest achievement was yet to come. In 1996 Dennis met the love of his life, Traci Alley, at the club. They are both very active trade union members and Labor supporters. Dennis and Traci married in 2003. Dennis has also been very active in the local community, especially with the African community by encouraging them to join the club and by putting on sausage sizzles for them at the bowling club within the workers club, and in many other ways. Unfortunately, earlier this year Dennis was diagnosed with stage four lung and throat cancer. Dennis is used to a fight, and this is his greatest fight yet. Even through his illness, Dennis is still very active politically. Dennis attended his last branch meeting in June this year.

I wish Dennis the very best with his fight against cancer. I know that Traci; their daughters, Shilaine and Megan; their grandchildren, Declan and Lily; his brother, Ashley; and his cousin, Vicky, love him very much and are proud of him and his achievements. Dennis is a great mate and a local Labor legend. He has always been there to support and encourage me, and I look forward to being there for him throughout this fight and to celebrating with a beer over another NSW Labor victory in 2023.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (11:56): Daylight is getting longer, the weather has started to get warmer and the year is drawing to a close, so what better way to end the final week of Parliament in 2022 than by reflecting on some of the New South Wales Government's achievements over the past of four years. I take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the House for an extremely rewarding year. While we may have our differences, we all strive to achieve the same goal: to make our communities a better place in which to live, work and raise a family. I wish everyone in my electorate an enjoyable and restful Christmas and New Year period.

With the next State election fast approaching, there has never been a better time to remind ourselves and the people of New South Wales of some of the incredible achievements of this Government over the past four years. While certainly there have been challenges throughout that period, we have continued to foster a stronger economy and even stronger communities to ensure that New South Wales remains the best State in the country. Young families especially will be pleased about the First Home Buyer Choice scheme established by legislation that recently passed this Parliament. This fantastic initiative will offer first home buyers a choice between paying

a small annual property payment or up-front stamp duty on properties up to \$1.5 million, thereby bringing thousands of young families closer to realising their dream of owning their first home.

This year there has been a wealth of investment to secure our future as the strongest State in the country. The recent ban on single-use plastic items took effect on 1 November 2022 and is set to stop 2.6 billion single-use items from entering our natural environments and waterways. The New South Wales Government's \$356 million commitment over the next five years to tackle the problem of harmful plastics is a true game changer in protecting our environment. Recently we announced the newly slated pharmacy reforms, which will enable people within our communities to access medication and vaccines without having to first visit their GP, giving people more choice when it comes to their health.

With so many of our communities across the State relying on local pharmacies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to receive their vaccines and boosters, we know that pharmacies and our pharmacists play an incredible role in supporting our community. These reforms will not only ease the burden on our GPs but also make processes quicker and easier for those who require more specialised care. The COVID-19 pandemic was one of the most difficult challenges that our country has faced over the past four years. We owe a debt of gratitude to our frontline workers, who bravely supported us all throughout this difficult period. We have also continued to support our local communities across the State over the past four years. In the Oatley electorate, the New South Wales Government has backed a number of key infrastructure projects, making a real difference to our local community.

One of my favourite things to talk about is St George Hospital. If members follow my Facebook page or receive my newsletters, they will know that we recently announced stage three of the massive \$411 million allocation to St George Hospital. That announcement brings the total investment for St George Hospital to over \$740 million since we came to government in 2011. St George Hospital is the crowning jewel of southern Sydney, providing the very best care to local residents when they need it most. The Government has also ensured that every school in the electorate of Oatley has received an upgrade over the past four years. This includes a \$45 million upgrade to Peshurst Public School.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Wow!

Mr MARK COURE: Wow! That is exactly right. That is what they are saying. That funded the construction of 47 brand new classrooms, a new library, hall and playground. These upgrades complement our statewide investment to introduce universal prekindergarten for all children in New South Wales, set to be fully introduced before the end of the decade. I close the door on another parliamentary year by saying thank you to the people of Oatley for all their support. I thank my staff, my wife, Adlar, eight-year-old James and a new addition to our family, who has just turned three, Sammy. I truly believe our local area is the best place to live, work and raise a family. I wish everyone in my electorate a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (12:01): Tonight in Wollongong and in other parts of our six cities, and across the State, people—many with young children—will be sleeping in tents. They are doing so because it is the only option for shelter available to them. For far too many people, there is a lack of affordable housing. In 2022 working men and women and their children in New South Wales are sleeping in tents because of a series of policy failures. It is because social housing waiting lists are too long—more than 50,000 across the State and around 2,500 in Wollongong and Shellharbour allocation zones. It is also because of limited affordable rental housing stock and because rents have increased as there is limited private rental stock, further reducing the options available to people on low and middle incomes. That said, we should all find it unacceptable—I certainly do.

Over the next two decades, the population of New South Wales is expected to reach nearly 9.9 million people, around 1.7 million more than today. In part, that is because of the migration as we need to fill gaps in our labour market and fill skills shortages. In part it is because we are growing naturally through births and domestic migration—after all, it is a good place to live. But it is also an expensive place to live. Sydney ranks as the second most expensive city on the planet, by some measures. Those additional 1.7 million people that I mentioned are going to need places to live and work, to be educated, to be cared for and to recreate. At the same time, we must address the spatial inequality that is emerging across Sydney and beyond. As the independent flood inquiry found, housing a growing population cannot be addressed by pushing more people to the urban fringes, without exposing more people to the greater risk of the impact of natural hazards. Exposing more people to greater risk is an unacceptable approach.

Similarly, if we wish to take genuine action on climate change, we cannot continue to expand the six cities relentlessly into only greenfield locations. At the same time, we should not subject more people to unequal access to decent work, education, health care and transport by forcing them to our urban fringe. Each of the six cities—of which Wollongong in the Illawarra is one—have a role to play in accommodating our inevitable population

growth. A fair distribution of new housing supply across all areas is needed to help stem the growth of spatial inequality. It will help to avoid entrenching disadvantage that permanently lowers our potential, damages our environment, creates unnecessary congestion, reduces productivity and lowers our standard of living. Recent reports suggest that in Sydney—and this is reflected more broadly across New South Wales—the most advantaged areas of the city have up to four times the access to employment that the most disadvantaged areas do. In education, those advantaged households can access 10 times more education opportunities and almost eight times more social support. The most advantaged areas have access to around 18 doctors per 1,000 people, compared with just three per 1,000 people in the most disadvantaged areas.

Fifty years have passed since Gough Whitlam noted in his 1972 Blacktown campaign speech that the ability of a citizen to participate and to access the things that families need was dependent not on income, or hours worked, but by where they live. For many areas in the six cities, little has changed since. Today we find communities throughout the six cities being asked to share more of the load of population growth than others—often without the infrastructure and jobs to support it and create strong communities. Over the next two decades, around a third of New South Wales local government areas will be asked to house more than 90 per cent of our population growth. Areas like Blacktown will be asked to accommodate 38 times more than the growth areas the eastern suburbs will be asked to house. Cities like Wollongong will take on almost 20 times the growth.

Housing people close to jobs and close to infrastructure is going to not only help address the productivity loss of urban sprawl, but also help reduce congestion. It will help address and mitigate climate change in the built environment. We cannot endlessly expand westward relying on basic road infrastructure that locks in car use because there are no public transport options. Some people have said recently that their suburbs should not be "punished" with more housing. Well, I say that working men and women—and their young children in too many cases—should not be punished and forced to live in tents because there just are not suitable housing options for them. The teachers, nurses, police, firefighters, cleaners, hospitality and other frontline workers who provide services to our cities should not be punished by having to travel in private vehicles hours across the city just to get to work, often paying ever-escalating tolls because public transport is not available to them.

Households should not be punished by not having access to care when they need it. Children should not be punished over a lifetime because they do not have the same level of access to school and post-school education. Collectively, we should not be punished as our built environment continues to fail to mitigate and address the impacts of climate change. Part of the social contract in Australia is always striving to be genuinely fair. That goal should continue and be reflected in the context of housing a growing population and making sure that infrastructure to support local communities and economies is built with housing rather than trailing behind it, often decades later. A fair distribution of housing, jobs, social and economic infrastructure that shapes our cities through positive interventions, aimed at providing similar opportunities to all citizens is not punishing anyone; it is rewarding everyone. To think otherwise is ignorant and seeks to wreck our social contract, rather than build on it.

PORT MACQUARIE ELECTORATE STUDENT LEADERS 2023

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (12:06): I welcome the newly elected student leaders for 2023 across the Port Macquarie electorate, who will demonstrate by example and advocate for improved student outcomes in their final years of primary and secondary schooling. The NSW Department of Education defines student leaders as a student voice that actively participates in decision-making at school on things that shape their educational experiences. Student voice is more than just students "having a say" and "being heard". To be successful, schools must value the perspectives and opinions of students and act on them in a way that genuinely shapes learning and decision-making at the school. Furthermore, student leaders are positive and caring representatives who promote fairness, understanding and advocacy on behalf of the student body in the whole school community.

I congratulate the following student leaders on their election and appointment to this significant role. At Hasting Secondary College Westport Campus the school captains will be Ellen Nicholson and Jorja Schofield, and vice-captains will be Chi Nguyen and Kelsie Rayment. At Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus, the captains will be Kirra Morris and Samuel Reniers, and vice-captains will be Shaniya Doueihi and Logan Wilson. At Camden Haven High School, school captains will be Erin Kendell and Liam Bailey, and vice-captains will be James Lavender and Bailey Whitton. At St Joseph's Regional College, the school captains for 2023 will be Sarah Garrett and Findlay Marshall and the vice-captains will be Hannah Jennings and Luke Squire. At Mackillop College Port Macquarie, school captains will be Lennox Jensen and Fleur Sherlock, and vice-captains will be Tess McWilliams and Elliot Worner.

At St Columba Anglican School, the school captains for 2023 will be Chloe Schmidt and Ben McLean, and vice-captains will be Ban Rashdan and Meet Panchal. At Lansdowne Public School, the prime minister will be Dakota Witchard and the ministers will be Matilda Gaal, Kataya Potts and Blaise Chambers Browning. At

Hérons Creek Public School, the school leaders for 2023 will be Lexi Meager, Jaxon Meager, Max Formica, Harry Kelly and Jack Oswald. At Newman Senior Technical College, the school captains for 2023 will be Molly Partington and Jack Alchin, and the vice-captains will be Elijah Coles and Laicy Costigan. At Heritage Christian School, the school captains will be Zac Tucker and Tia Baldwin. At St Joseph's Primary School in Port Macquarie, the captains for 2023 will be Aislinn Suveesh, Lailah Watson, Lilliana Anderson, Evie Johnson, Ryder Monckton, Lucas Lynch, Cooper Bell and Thomas Butler.

As a government, one of our core focuses is delivering a quality education for our students which leads them to employment. I am really confident that through our \$25.9 billion commitment in the 2022-23 budget, which flows through primary, high school, vocational and tertiary education, our students have every opportunity for a successful and gratifying future in whichever profession they choose. Lastly, I thank our dedicated and committed teachers who go above and beyond, often in their own time, to ensure that their students have the tools necessary to succeed at primary and secondary schooling. It is clear that our leaders of today and tomorrow have excelled through excellent teaching methods and guidance, which is a legacy to every teacher. They should be proud they have delivered that. I wish all student leaders from all of the schools across the Port Macquarie electorate every success for 2023.

ALBURY-WODONGA HOSPITAL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (12:09): I welcome the announcement that there will be a new hospital for Albury-Wodonga funded by two States and built years ahead of earlier estimates. Importantly, the new hospital directly satisfies the core requirement of our healthcare community that, for patient safety, the new hospital must be a unified, single-campus, acute services facility for Albury-Wodonga. It will be one of the biggest spends on a regional inland hospital for our State. Gaining consensus and joint funding from the two governments has not been a simple task. There is a history of shifting sands as to the needs and requirements, with the message to government changing over the journey. That has not necessarily served the cause well. My priority has been to seek healthcare outcomes for my community rather than the address. On 14 May this year the board of Albury Wodonga Health wrote to the New South Wales health Minister. The letter reads:

The Master Plan identifies the feasible options to consolidate acute and subacute services on either an existing or new site, aligning with our Clinical Services Plan, to deliver high-quality health care to our communities over the coming decades.

Although I have not seen the master plan and would welcome its release, I have been assured that it is the same clinical services plan that has informed consideration in the master plan irrespective of whether it is greenfield or brownfield—that is, the clinical services plan that informs the number of beds, theatres and car parks is the same for both the brownfield and greenfield options. The State health departments have been emphatic that this is their decision to make based on their experience in delivering across our State, from Culcairn, Henty and Wagga Wagga to our major metropolitan hospitals of Royal Prince Alfred, Nepean, Liverpool and Royal North Shore. They are all redevelopments of an existing site.

I do not doubt that there are factors that support greenfield. Yes, with redevelopment of the existing campus, there will be disruption. Yes, we will need to ensure funding delivery for the remaining stages. However, we also need to acknowledge that the Albury campus has extremely valuable and critical existing infrastructure in the cancer centre, Hilltops accommodation and yet-to-be-completed emergency department. Proximity to the airport is key for regional health care, and the staging of construction has been critical to enable the project progressing now. Good design is critical and delivery must be faithful to the master plan, and I have sought that assurance. It cannot be overstated how important the ongoing dialogue and work by the Premier and his office, the health Minister and regional health Minister and their respective offices have been in partnering with the Victorian Government to deliver an outcome. That has not happened previously, and I believe that separation sowed the seeds for issues that have arisen over management, governance and capital funding of the hospital.

Today represents a new start. Many in our community have worked hard advocating for a new hospital. I am reminded that no single person has a complete vantage point. For my part, though, it goes back to 2019. It has been an ongoing campaign to bring the matter to the attention of Ministers, Treasurers and Premiers. I have genuinely strained every fibre to reach this outcome. There have been setbacks: The pandemic and a change in Premier have impacted on the project, as well as time frame. It has been my concern to drive for an outcome prior to the end of this term and the Victorian Government's term. I have based that on the goodwill shared between the two governments currently and the knowledge that such goodwill does not always exist. I have also believed that only a Liberal-Nationals Government could deliver. I have pushed for an accelerated timetable for construction and for the States to commit to a significant financial investment.

My community is concerned, as I am, with the pressures placed on doctors, nurses and staff who are working hard in a facility that has become stretched beyond capacity. The new hospital will be fit for the future. It will deliver not just top-quality health care but will be a regional site for research and education. It is a truly

massive healthcare project and commitment from the States. Two health departments agreed on a course of action. Two governments committed to that action. Two Premiers present that action together. My community tells me that this announcement has been long awaited and that now it is time get on with delivery.

TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (12:15): Christmas is coming and people are already making their way to Port Stephens to breathe in our fresh air, stroll on our beautiful beaches, dine out at our world-class restaurants and take in the wonders of our stunning Tomaree National Park. The population on the Tomaree Peninsula will double, and we welcome all our visitors. We know we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world and we are willing to share. But to those who are coming, I suggest they be careful. They do not want to hurt themselves on their trip because they do not want to end up at our hospital, not because the nurses and staff at Tomaree Community Hospital are not wonderful and hardworking but because they cannot cope with our community's health needs outside tourist season, let alone when our population doubles with visitors. It is not fair on them and it is not fair on patients.

Tomaree Community Hospital is not treated, resourced or managed as a proper hospital by Hunter New England Local Health District. Instead, it is managed by a different division called Community and Aged Care Services. In practice, that means our hospital is not really a hospital. It is a hospital in name only, and yet we have a fully-fledged emergency department where ambulances deliver patients in need of serious and urgent care. Apart from the emergency department, we have a general ward with 14 beds for people who are so unwell that they cannot go home. But I understand only six of those 14 beds are actually funded by the Government.

Worse still, I am regularly contacted by residents who turn up to the hospital only to be told that there is no doctor on site—not in the emergency department, not in the ward and not in the GP practice next door in the attached building. If we are lucky enough to have a doctor on site, they are often put in the impossible position of covering the GP practice as well as the general ward with 14 beds and the emergency department. When they are not at the hospital, it falls to nurses to hold it all together while trying to save people's lives. That is a recipe for disaster, which has already played out for far too many people in my community. I will put that into perspective.

Tomaree Community Hospital routinely sees 70 people a day, but it can be as many as 120 people, sometimes even more during tourist season. I understand the Mater Hospital in Newcastle can see 140 to 180 people a day. At the Mater, 12 to 14 doctors are on shift over 24 hours. At Tomaree Community Hospital, two, maybe three, doctors are on over the same period, if we are lucky. On some shifts there is none. If the system were fair, we would need at least double the number of doctors currently on shift, but often we would need more than double. At the height of the tourist season, for instance, Tomaree Hospital has a comparable number of presentations as the Mater Hospital, but we have maybe three or four doctors while the Mater has 14. That is not fair. Patients suffer, and our hardworking nurses and doctors suffer as well.

I have been speaking with local doctors and nurses and they are at breaking point. They are crying out for help, but this Government has been ignoring them. The current governance arrangements at the hospital may have been appropriate in the past, but in the past decade the area's population has grown and our demographics have changed dramatically. We have even more over-55 villages, and the number of tourists visiting Port Stephens continues to grow every year. Not only are people visiting the hospital much more often, but when they do, their health needs are more serious and more complex. Ambulances are now taking seriously ill people to the Tomaree emergency department instead of John Hunter Hospital.

The Government needs to make Tomaree Community Hospital a proper hospital because it is no longer appropriate to run the facility as a community and aged-care service. That view is supported by our local doctors and nurses, and the hardworking hospital auxiliary volunteers, who have spent years supporting the hospital by funding heart monitors, chairs, beds, mattresses and even privacy curtains. Without those generous volunteers, and without the generosity of our community, the situation at the hospital would be even worse. As the local member, I will continue fighting for Tomaree Community Hospital and pushing the Government to act. However, I fear that the only way the community will get a hospital that it deserves, and which is capable of meeting its healthcare needs, is under a Minns Labor government following the next election in March. Labor cares about access to health care and our hospitals, and Labor especially cares about the workers within them. Staff are telling me that the hospital is not coping, that it is a ticking time bomb and that it is critical for safe patient care that the hospital is classified as a hospital. I will back them every day, and I wish the Liberal Government would too.

HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (12:21): Recently, I enjoyed visiting Glenbernie Orchard at Darkes Forest as part of Small Business Month. I encourage the community to support this local business. Glenbernie Orchard is certainly worth a visit. It has something for everyone, from fruit picking for families to browsing its store, which

offers vinegars, honeys, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for the adults. I highly recommend trying the orchard's award-winning honey mead and Darkes Forest perry cider. There are only two weeks to go until Small Business Month ends, so I encourage Heathcote small business owners and operators to attend one of its events online or in person.

I congratulate local resident Mr Ross Walsh on his story *The Builder* being published in the latest edition of *Seniors' Stories*. I thank Mr Walsh for sharing his story; he should be incredibly proud. *Seniors' Stories* was launched on 4 November. It contains 100 New South Wales seniors' stories with tales of triumph and tragedy, and is available to read online or at local libraries. At the end of the week I will be visiting Menai Public School, which recently completed its school cricket upgrade. Last year the school requested funding to repair a hazard and upgrade the cricket pitches after they were closed due to the identified hazard. I am pleased to support the school to deliver this upgrade, which will improve Menai Public School's facilities and benefit its students. I am also excited to advise that the new school hall project at Stanwell Park Public School is now complete. The upgrade includes a new school hall, a canteen, an out-of-hours facility and storage. The new space will enhance the learning environment for students to flourish. I have enjoyed working with the school to deliver this fantastic project and look forward to joining the school community with the Minister for Education and Early Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC, in a few weeks to officially open it.

Recently, Heathcote received its first ever blue plaque at the Dunlea Centre in Engadine. The plaque honours the Dunlea Centre's founder, Father Thomas Dunlea, who was an Irish-Australian Catholic priest known for his work with vulnerable youth and alcoholics. In 1940 Father Dunlea established the Dunlea Centre, previously named Boy's Town, as a permanent shelter for homeless boys. I look forward to visiting Dunlea next month for its official unveiling of the blue plaque. The Blue Plaques program provides opportunities for communities to learn about their local heritage. I encourage locals to nominate more noteworthy people, stories and events in Heathcote, with the second round of nominations now open until 21 December 2022. Finally, I thank my community for trusting me to deliver for them. I look forward to continuing to deliver a brighter future for the people of Heathcote now and in the future.

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (12:24): I will briefly mention one of my local constituents, George Farkas, who, together with my office, made a successful application through the Blue Plaques heritage program, which was announced on Sunday. This blue plaque in Point Piper in my electorate will recognise the immense contribution to the literary wealth in New South Wales of Dorothea Mackellar. I am so proud that this program that the Government has instituted allows us to celebrate points of historical and cultural interest in our local communities.

COST OF LIVING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:25): Our State faces a stark outlook leading into the election next year. The everyday struggle for some in our community to make ends meet continues to get tougher and tougher. Inflation has risen by 7 per cent in the past 12 months, with fuel up 29 per cent, rent up 18 per cent, vegetables up 16 per cent, and transport and beef up 9 per cent. Our economy is experiencing cost-of-living increases at the fastest rate in 30 years. The Government has said that this kind of inflationary economy is too hard and it has done very little to influence the situation. In June the energy Minister simply threw up his hands when energy prices were spiking. He told people not to blame him because he did not invade Ukraine. People in my community are hurting. They cannot afford to put food on the table while wages are stagnant because their grocery bills keep climbing.

Recently, I spoke with a kitchen cabinetmaker whose business was thriving before COVID hit and who had fallen on hard times. Supply chains for his materials were completely cut off and his business was slammed against the wall. At the same time he received full custody of his four children. In the middle of a pandemic, which made his job impossible, he was tasked with the responsibility of finding a three- to four-bedroom home within a reasonable price range. The average price of a rental on the Central Coast is almost \$600 a week. That is impossible for a single parent with kids to pay on a reduced income. In his desperation, he converted his warehouse into a livable space for his family. A proud man who had never experienced difficult times, he was initially too proud to ask for assistance. However, after much thought he applied to Housing NSW. The reply he received was that he would need an eviction notice from his own warehouse for them to consider him for housing—advice that was later followed up on by my office and his fantastic community caseworkers. Thankfully, we were able to find him suitable accommodation, which he now lives in with his family.

Our community is really hurting. One huge cost that our community is facing every day is the excessive cost of tolls and the impact that they are having on families and businesses. Under the Perrottet Liberal Government, one company now owns all or part of the M2, the M4, the M5, the M5 East, the M7, the M8, the Cross City Tunnel, the Lane Cove tunnel, NorthConnex and the Eastern Distributor. Members of our community are charged by that monopoly on their way to work, or on one of their many trips to Sydney or other parts of the

State. Labor has said that as a first step, a Minns Labor government will keep the Sydney Harbour Tunnel toll concession in public hands. Labor will also return the revenue from the Sydney Harbour Tunnel and the Sydney Harbour Bridge to drivers in the form of toll relief. A Labor government will give money back to road users, which will have a huge impact on those who are already living pay cheque to pay cheque.

Another important change under a Labor government will be an end to the Liberal Government's obsession with offshoring manufacturing and Aussie jobs. NSW Labor will have things built here again. New South Wales lost 42,000 manufacturing jobs at the same time that Queensland gained 6,000. Labor will set a target of 50 per cent minimum local content for future transport rolling stock contracts by 2027; increase tender weightings to 30 per cent for local content, jobs creation, small business and ethical supply chains; and establish a New South Wales jobs first commission. It was wonderful to hear the departing words of Minister Hazzard last night, when he talked about the work of our health workers during the darkest days our State has faced. It is a shame that Premier Perrottet is ignoring the needs of those same nurses and health workers as the cost of living is skyrocketing and inflation is hitting hip pockets hard across our community.

Our hospitals are overstretched and understaffed—plain and simple. Labor will invest in more nurses and safe ratios by the end of its first term. After more than a decade of this Government, the health system is decaying and bursting under the weight of the State's healthcare needs. At Gosford and Wyong hospitals, our nurses are hurting. The Government has decreased the number of radiographers and pharmacists, sending patients to the private sector instead of paying for something that should be easily accessible in the public sector. It is time that the Government listened to nurses and paramedics and put health care first. This State and the Central Coast deserve a Government that hears this pain, acts upon it and does not shirk from the hard work and changes that are needed to improve the lives of people in our community and New South Wales. I am part of a Labor team that is ready to fight for the Central Coast.

BEGA ELECTORATE AGED-CARE SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (12:30): I highlight the issues affecting older persons in the Bega electorate. I have spoken in the Chamber before about health, housing and transport, amongst other issues affecting my electorate. Those social determinants affect specifically the aged population of the Bega electorate. A survey of issues affecting the electorate revealed the concern of my older constituents. The Bega electorate has one of the highest proportions of older people in New South Wales—more than 30 per cent are over 65 years of age, and that is projected to increase by 14 per cent by 2025. A high proportion are of Aboriginal descent, and one in eight need assistance with core activities.

Specifically, the Eurobodalla local government area has the highest proportion of residents living alone and at risk of social isolation. It has the highest number of low-income households, with financial stress from rent or mortgage. As we age, many of us will develop major chronic health challenges, such as chronic lung disease, heart failure, diabetes and restricted mobility. The burden of those health issues is greater in rural regions. In common with other rural regions, there are up to 50 per cent fewer health providers than in metropolitan areas, producing a spiral of decline due to complex morbidities. Those poor health outcomes and the issue of social isolation are causally related.

The older residents of the Bega electorate inform me of their concerns regarding aging in the community, affordable housing, social isolation, dementia care and residential aged care. Considering the Bega electorate's significant aging population, the demand for quality care and the need for integrated person-centred services and programs will only increase over the next decade. Those are necessary for people to live healthy and independent lives in their own homes and to remain connected with the community at large. Services must be better and more innovatively coordinated at all levels of government, which provide health and community services and programs. There is a need for accessible and equitable delivery and funding of community transport. To live independently, the participants indicated that home help, gardening and home maintenance were key requirements.

Within the electorate, the Eurobodalla has a high percentage of residents living alone and at risk of social isolation. Some 21 per cent of residents aged over 65 years live alone. Poverty, social exclusion, housing problems, bereavement and physical or mental health problems can result in the absence of regular contact with people who know and care about us. Older residents on lower incomes who do not own their own homes are at increasing risk of housing stress and instability, with private renters and single women at particular risk. Insecure housing has negative impacts on the health, safety and wellbeing of older people, while also undermining their capacity to age well in place.

There is an urgent need for innovation in the Australian housing market to provide a more diverse range of affordable housing options. There must be government incentives and subsidies for developers; planning, regulatory and financing frameworks that accommodate alternative models; and enhanced market familiarity with alternative models. The Government must dedicate specific resources to ensuring that older people in regional

New South Wales have access to social and affordable housing, and that must be focused on communities affected by natural disasters.

Dementia is feared by older people. It is not simply the decline in learning, memory, language and function; it is how they will continue to live their lives within their community for as long as possible. They have concerns for their own support and that of their partners and carers. That includes the aforementioned need for coordinated transport packages; assistance with navigating government systems; and better connections between assessors, carers and primary and hospital health services. There is an identified need for better education in the wider community, from businesses to government agencies. Finally, regional residential aged-care homes across the country are at risk of closure. Aged care in regional Australia is in crisis, with more than three-quarters of all residential aged-care homes losing money. Many aged-care homes in regional areas have closed in the past year, impacting hundreds of regional beds. Regional aged-care homes need a separate funding model in order to survive.

HAWKESBURY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (12:34): I recognise the support of the New South Wales Government for Hawkesbury since the 2019 State election. That support has enabled the successful delivery of many projects, both major and local, that make a big difference to our community. Over the past four years, those projects have assisted in the way we commute, work and live in Hawkesbury, and I particularly highlight critical infrastructure spend, which has never been provided before in this electorate. A significant commitment made by the State and Federal governments was the joint funding announcement of half a billion dollars for the new Richmond Bridge project. Planning is well underway, with stage one construction occurring shortly and an imminent announcement of stage two.

The Windsor Bridge opened in 2020. Whilst it attracted some criticism by passionate protesters prior to its completion, it has been well received by users who travel across the Hawkesbury every day. It is a great piece of infrastructure, and one that I am very proud of. One of the Government's most significant announcements was for \$37.1 million to continue with the building of the Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education. A new science, technology, engineering and math building has been constructed and opened at Richmond High School. The Government has also invested \$2 million in Richmond TAFE for veterinary education and training.

With Hawkesbury experiencing the Black Summer bushfires of December 2019 and January 2020, and six floods in 20 months, the Government recognised that the current RFS headquarters was inadequate. An injection of \$8 million for a new Fire Control and Emergency Operations Centre at Wilberforce was well received and will equip personnel with a state-of-the-art hub to better support Hawkesbury and neighbouring areas. Clarendon Station received a \$6 million upgrade to benefit travellers with mobility issues, parents and carers with prams, and customers with luggage. The station is right next to the Hawkesbury Showground and will provide greater access when local events are showcased in the grounds. To add to the showground's good standing, a \$2.66 million grant from the Government has given it a major upgrade. A new pavilion was erected with that funding, as well as other upgrades to showground facilities.

Hawkesbury has benefited from the Government's Sport Priority Needs Program, with Hawkesbury City Council receiving \$1.28 million to improve seven projects throughout the local government area that were especially impacted by floods. Flood-impacted locals were supported when dealing with the loss of property through government grants. Several rounds of small business grants, primary producer grants and the Back Home grants were welcomed. The Government also delivered a record level of funding to repair flood-damaged roads and infrastructure to make sure residents could return safely to their homes and rejoin their communities. Whilst there are still repairs outstanding to major road infrastructure, I recognise the Transport for NSW crews that were deployed to carry out major repairs to and the reconstruction of Wisemans Ferry Road at Cattai, which was totally destroyed.

I particularly mention the WestInvest funding. Hawkesbury City Council received almost \$17 million for four projects, including an upgrade to Woodbury Reserve and Fernadell Park, which also has cycleway projects and wayfinding signage to bolster tourism. Finally, raising the Warragamba Dam wall is this Government's commitment to protecting around 70,000 people in the valley. It is clear to me that the Government is well invested in Hawkesbury. It is important to reflect on the responsible funding that the New South Wales Government has provided. That funding has been available only because of the strong financial management that only a Liberal-Nationals government can deliver. On behalf of the people of Hawkesbury, I thank Premier Perrottet and the Government.

Business interrupted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Pursuant to resolution of the House of 15 November, orders of the day—committee reports can be considered until 2.00 p.m. today.

*Committees***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING****Reports**

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:40): As Chair: I take note of report No. 3/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning entitled *Food production and supply in NSW*, tabled 1 November 2022. The committee began the inquiry in November of last year. The inquiry looked at how we can improve our food system, including by improving food security and equitable access to food and reducing food waste. We considered ways to bring food production into cities, preserve productive land and water resources, as well as sustainable food production measures and managing the impacts of a changing environment on our food system. Our terms of reference also covered Indigenous food and land management practices, workforce challenges and skills development, and implications for food labelling.

We received 77 submissions from stakeholders, including the New South Wales Government, industry representatives, academics and research bodies, health bodies, advocacy groups, community groups, food relief organisations and local councils. We held three public hearings, with 44 witnesses giving evidence. We also conducted a site visit to the headquarters of OzHarvest in Alexandria. I note that the deputy chair, and member for Hawkesbury, enjoyed that visit.

Our report made 36 recommendations and eight findings addressing a broad range of matters relevant to our food system. The inquiry found that food insecurity and a lack of equal access to nutritious food were made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural disasters. Food insecurity is a complex issue that particularly affects disadvantaged people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, regional communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It means not having reliable access to enough nutritious, affordable food. We heard that some people in New South Wales struggle to access enough nutritious food while perfectly edible food is going to landfill and causing emissions.

Our inquiry found that we need a more cohesive approach to address issues in our food system. We recommended that the Government implement an overarching food system plan and create a food system council to oversee that plan and coordinate responses to problems in the food system. We heard that local government could play a bigger role in food system planning. We recommended that the Government work with local councils to develop and implement strategies to improve local food systems. We also found that planning laws could be changed to allow councils to consider community health and wellbeing when making decisions about development applications.

Another lesson from the pandemic was the importance of food relief. We found that food insecurity and growing demand for food relief means that more ongoing funding is needed for food relief programs. Food relief responses should also be integrated into our State's crisis preparation frameworks. We also found that Aboriginal community representation on local emergency management committees could improve responses to food supply issues, especially in remote communities.

The report highlighted the alarming amount of edible food that is wasted in New South Wales. We recommended a stronger food waste strategy that addresses all parts of our food system. We also found that wideranging consumer education campaigns, school-based education and more funding for local councils to implement food and garden organics collection could help drive down food wasted by households, which makes up one-third of all food waste. We heard that food rescue models are a cost-effective way to redirect surplus food. Increasing the amount of surplus food we rescue could also reduce food insecurity and food waste, and deliver social and environmental benefits.

The committee has made recommendations that seek to address barriers that limit how much food is rescued by food relief organisations, particularly high transport costs and gaps in the cold chain. Community gardens and urban agriculture are vital ways for local communities to access fresh produce, particularly for culturally and linguistically diverse, Aboriginal and regional and remote communities. They can provide food security and health and wellbeing improvements and educate communities about food production. Support for these projects should be encouraged and continued. We also heard about the importance of improving student awareness of food production and sustainability through school education and hands-on learning, such as school gardens.

This inquiry considered how we can futureproof our food production and supply chain to strengthen food security in New South Wales. A changing environment will significantly disrupt our food production and supply systems, contributing to greater food insecurity. We need to support and encourage the ongoing shift to sustainable

food production practices and support consumers to make more sustainable choices through a sustainability food labelling scheme. We also found that there is a need to support farmers to adapt to the renewable energy transition and to diversify their use of farmland through agritourism. Consumer trends indicate that plant-based proteins and traditional bush food markets are expected to grow. We have made recommendations for Government to support the growth of these industries in New South Wales, particularly the traditional foods industry led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Finally, we heard that our food production and supply systems face serious workforce challenges. We have recommended a broad, long-term workforce strategy coupled with more immediate action to address current worker shortages. In closing, I thank my fellow committee members—the deputy chair, member for Hawkesbury; the member for Mulgoa; the member for Northern Tablelands; the member for Macquarie Fields; and the member for Wollondilly, who was a former member of the committee—for their valuable and cooperative contributions to the inquiry. Particularly I pay tribute to our amazing committee staff, who have worked across three very robust inquiries held by the Committee on Environment and Planning. I commend the report to the House.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (12:46): I make a brief contribution to the take-note debate on the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning's report No. 3/57 entitled *Food production and supply in NSW*, tabled 1 November 2022. I was appointed to the committee when it was approximately halfway through this inquiry. Unfortunately I was not able to attend some of its onsite meetings, but I place on record my thanks to my fellow committee members for the work they have done and extend my very sincere thanks to the committee staff, who do a stellar job in capturing our discussions and the feedback from site visits and submissions.

I raised an issue that is particularly pertinent to my electorate of Mulgoa in western Sydney. While I appreciate the committee's discussion on that issue, it fell outside the terms of reference for this inquiry. However, committee members encouraged me to use my contribution to this debate to raise the issue of the calculation of land tax on properties being impacted by escalating property values as a result of infrastructure, investment and government planning. In my part of western Sydney is a lot of land is earmarked that currently is under cultivation and used by market farmers. But the very welcome Western Sydney Aerotropolis development, the Western Parkland City, Bradfield City Centre and all of the infrastructure that is being poured out there, and the development of multimillion-dollar properties that house many people and create jobs are significantly escalating the value of land. In effect, the calculation of land tax now being applied to those properties is essentially squeezing out those market gardeners from western Sydney.

I place on record this critical issue and urge the next government to seriously look at it. At the end of the day, we want to ensure that we are providing locally grown food to our Sydney residents. We want to ensure that paddock-to-plate distances are as small as possible. We also want to ensure that the cultivation of produce is maintained in close proximity to the airport. Doing so will mean that we can take advantage of the overnight aircraft to have that produce in South-East Asian markets the very next day. We want to ensure a viable agricultural market based and flourishing in western Sydney, but the issue of significantly rising property values, and the accompanying increase in land tax, is placing a huge burden on my community. Many have been tilling the ground for generations. I place on record that concern in relation to food security and food production, which impacts on my electorate. I look forward to working with the Liberal-Nationals Government after the next election when it is in government, to find a suitable solution to that concern.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (12:50): I also comment on report No. 3/57 entitled *Food Production and Supply in NSW*. I thank the Chair, my colleagues on the committee and the committee staff for their work to produce a pretty good report on an issue that is important from so many angles. I focus on food wastage. One-third of food waste in New South Wales comes from households. The amount of energy, water and waste that goes through to food waste is a significant problem for not only the country but also the world. There is something not right when one-third of the world's food is wasted by the way it is grown, managed and consumed. This issue must be addressed sooner rather than later because if food wastage was a country, it would be the third highest carbon emitter in the world. That says a lot about how important it is to address food wastage.

A number of issues were raised in the report, including how we grow sustainable food, but food wastage requires a multi-industry approach, from government to education to working with local councils and industry on what foods they accept in the supermarket. Not every apple has to be glossy and reflective. We can think about how we work with the charity sector to ensure that food is diverted and not thrown into landfill. One alarming statistic that I found quite concerning is that the amount of water used to grow food that is wasted is equivalent to five times the amount of water in Sydney Harbour. That shows how important it is for us to address this issue. I look forward to working with members from all sides of politics and with industry to address this issue. It is important not only environmentally and ethically but also economically because it is expensive for households in

many different ways. I commend the report and I commend all my colleagues and staff for their contributions to the inquiry.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (12:52): I also make some brief comments on report No. 3/57 entitled *Food Production and Supply in NSW*. I thank the Chair, the member for Sydney, for the way he conducted the inquiry. He was extremely professional, and I enjoyed the reconnaissance that we went to. It was an eye-opener for me, coming from Hawkesbury to areas that he is more familiar with where I saw how food is handled and the lack of waste, which was reassuring. The committee was very concerned about waste. When I was a councillor with the Hills Shire Council, it concerned me when lots of apartments were being constructed. Where there were, perhaps, four homes, 400 apartments were built. The waste that those properties generated was massive.

I had a particular interest in a trial we undertook for some apartments in the Hills area. We had a good response from the locals in the apartments who wanted to recycle their vegetable waste. We set up a composting bin in the apartment car park downstairs and we were able to then put that compost back into the grounds to beautify the gardens. Going forward, we should adopt that mindset of looking at the amount of waste we can avoid. The Chair mentioned early education for students, which is a really good way to start the conversation and to get students involved at an early age. We should also involve local government, which has a big role to play in how we manage waste, how we recycle and how we make the best use of our community gardens. I thank the Chair for that wonderful experience. I enjoyed it and I hope to work further with him in future.

Report noted.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (12:55): As Chair: It is with great pleasure that I speak about report No. 4/57 of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled *Technology and the Agriculture and Mining Sectors*, tabled on 8 November. Soon after I was sworn into this Parliament on 2 March 2022 following my byelection, when I was quietly paying attention and taking in proceedings of this Chamber, I was surprised—to say the least—to hear the Opposition level a question at the newly appointed Chair of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development. That video, which is forever a part of the parliamentary record, is rather amusing. As a barely minted member and a humble backbencher, it is clear from the reaction from all on this side of Chamber that no-one was expecting this rather unusual shot across the bow. Labor was essentially demanding to know why I had been appointed as Chair and when I intended to get on with the business of the committee. While they perhaps thought it would go differently, I thank them for highlighting my role on this fantastic committee. I now have this equally wonderful opportunity to speak on its terrific work and the privilege to have been involved.

Along with the meetings as part of the committee's standard course of business, this inquiry was commenced to examine opportunities that technology and innovation present to the agriculture and mining sectors and what needs to be done to support and overcome barriers to its use and adoption. There were 11 submissions from a range of stakeholders, and 11 witnesses attended the public hearing held in July. The committee also conducted two site visits—one to Wagga Wagga to visit the Charles Sturt University campus and a local manufacturer, and the second to the Newcrest Cadia Valley Operations in Orange. All of those efforts resulted in this report detailing eight findings and 11 recommendations.

Participants broadly agreed that technology will be critical to paving a bright future for the agriculture and mining sectors. The committee found that technology adoption has the potential to enhance ongoing and future productivity to ensure workplace health and safety outcomes and to assist industries to adapt to and manage complex, long-term challenges, including environmental change and biosecurity. The committee's report also found that technology adoption will have transformative impacts on the local workforce and the communities in which these sectors operate. It has the potential to attract a diverse range of skills, qualifications and experience, which could then drive economic and cultural development in regional New South Wales.

Participants highlighted a number of key challenges and barriers limiting the ability of primary producers, industries and regional communities from fully realising the potential benefits of emerging technologies. The committee's report identified and made recommendations to address issues around a lack of confidence in private commercial technology providers and a lack of clarity about tangible cost benefits as barriers to technology adoption by primary producers. Another key concern raised was the need to ensure that workforce skills can meet the requirements of a technological future in the agriculture and mining sectors. To that effect, the committee recommended that the New South Wales Government investigate programs promoting careers in agriculture and

mining to students, and that the Government continue to invest in the uptake of broader science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

We also heard that as technology evolves, there may be fewer opportunities than traditionally available for unskilled workers. Concerns were raised that existing education and training programs in New South Wales may not meet future skill requirements. To address that, the committee recommended that the Government consult with industry stakeholders to identify and address gaps in education and training programs and that it look to short courses to meet expected future skill needs. Inquiry participants also told the committee that existing approaches to regulating technologies may limit their adoption and drive up costs. Therefore we support calls for the New South Wales Government to investigate opportunities for regulatory sandboxes to assist the trial of innovative concepts.

The committee also recommended that primary producers and the mining industry are supported to deal with the financial challenges involved with adopting and using new technologies, and that the Government continually review existing regulations in light of emerging technologies. Another consistently raised point was that regional connectivity is a key priority. The committee found that inadequate or unreliable regional connectivity was one of the biggest barriers to technology adoption. To address this, we recommend that the New South Wales Government continue to proactively engage with the Federal Government on the issue, as well as look at the potential to expand government programs to deliver regional connectivity.

I offer my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for their collaborative and collegiate approach to the committee and the inquiry, and for their valuable contributions: the member for Coffs Harbour and deputy chair, Gurmeh Singh; the member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr; the member for Wyong, David Harris; the member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston; the member for North Shore, Felicity Wilson; and the member for Orange, Phil Donato. I also acknowledge the work of the previous committee chair, the member for Albury; the previous deputy chair, the member for Camden; and former committee members including the member for Cootamundra and the member for Tweed.

I formally acknowledge the outstanding work of committee staff. Their professionalism, assistance and general good nature—and their awesome pub trivia skills—were invaluable. I particularly mention Emma and Rohan for their leadership and consummate management skills. I am sure it must have felt like herding cats at times. On behalf of the committee, I wholeheartedly thank those who contributed to the inquiry by making submissions, meeting with the committee and appearing at the public hearing. Finally, our current deputy chair mentioned that this was one of the most enjoyable committee experiences he had had in his time in Parliament. While I am sure that had nothing to do with the Chair, of course, other members concurred. Without showing any bias, I similarly concur. In my first role as Chair of a parliamentary committee, I am delighted to commend the report to the House.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (13:01): While I was not on the committee, I did read the committee report entitled *Technology and the Agriculture and Mining Sectors* with great interest, given the importance of technology to industries in regional New South Wales. I visited regional New South Wales with the member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, who is in the House. I was shown hospitality by the community of Wagga Wagga and the Wagga Wagga Business Chamber. We visited a number of great companies including Flipscreen and Riverina Oils, which demonstrated the importance of technology in the agriculture and mining sectors. We must change the perception that farming is just planting seeds and harvesting. It is much more than that. Technology can produce greater yields and offer great training, skills and opportunities for regional communities.

Industry policy is also very good social policy in that it ensures that regional communities get the support they need so that those communities can continue to grow. Having said that, on my visit to Wagga Wagga, I received consistent messages about the labour skills shortages in our regional communities. The committee's report noted the skills shortages and the inability to attract people given the skills and training that is required to support the agriculture and mining sectors to grow. I also make the point that the skills shortage and lack of training opportunities are not overnight sensations. Those issues should and could have been addressed over a much longer period of time. While it is better late than never, we certainly cannot hide from the fact that the skills shortage is preventing regional New South Wales from advancing at a greater pace.

The adoption of technology should have been addressed earlier, given the skills, jobs and employment opportunities that come with it. We cannot hide from the fact that those issues have been brewing for many years, particularly in the past decade. We must address those issues sooner rather than later. I look forward to working with people in the industry policy space to ensure that people in regional communities get the support they need so that we can offer employment opportunities, appropriate wages and ensure that our agriculture and mining sectors continue to grow.

Report noted.**LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Reports**

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: I move:

That, in accordance with Standing Order 306 (7), the reports of the Legislation Review Committee, being orders of the day (committee reports) Nos (3) and (6), be considered together.

Motion agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the House take note of the reports.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (13:05): As Chair: I address the House on behalf of the Legislation Review Committee regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 50/57* and *Legislation Review Digest No. 51/57* of this Parliament, tabled on 8 November and 15 November respectively. In the *Legislation Review Digest No. 50/57*, the committee examined 12 bills introduced during the sitting week beginning 18 October. It also examined 26 regulations and reported on two of those.

The committee examined the Fisheries Management Amendment (Enforcement Powers) Bill 2022, which amended the Act to clarify the enforcement powers of Fisheries officers. Specifically, Fisheries officers may require a person to give a thing in their possession or control for examination if there is reason to believe it is considered to be a fisheries offence or is necessary for investigating, monitoring or enforcing compliance with the Act. Officers may also break open and search a bag or container if that is the thing that the officer is seeking to examine. A "thing" includes a fish, fishing gear and other equipment. The committee reported that while those powers are intended to clarify the powers of Fisheries officers, they are drafted broadly and may impact on an individual person's property rights. Noncompliance with those powers also attaches penalties. Therefore, the committee referred the issue to the Parliament for its consideration.

I turn to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Regulation 2022, which expands the definition of a "transport officer" to include the staff at St Vincent's Hospital and Northern Beaches Hospital and persons employed or engaged by an entity that provides transport services under a contract with either hospital. As the Act allows transport officers to use reasonable force to restrain a person being transported to a substance dependence treatment facility, that may allow private sector employees to use reasonable force, restrain persons and conduct searches. Unlike police officers and Service NSW staff, private sector employees are not subject to the same obligations, duties and safeguards provided in New South Wales law. Therefore, the committee referred that matter to the Parliament for its consideration.

In the *Legislation Review Digest No. 51/57*, the committee examined 11 bills. It also examined 12 regulations and reported on two. The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Amendment Bill 2022 introduces a scheme for the assessment of data breaches and allows public sector agencies that are the subject of an eligible data breach to use, collect and disclose an individual's personal information if it is reasonable or necessary to confirm the name and contact details of the notifiable individual. The committee noted that this may interfere with an individual's right to privacy. However, relevant personal information is limited in scope and can be used only in limited circumstances and for a limited purpose to notify an individual affected by the data breach. Consequently, the committee made no further comment on this matter.

Finally, as these are the last *Legislation Review Digest* reports of this Parliament, I conclude by putting some statistics on record. During this Parliament, the committee has tabled a total of 51 digests, which reported on 334 bills and 257 regulations, which were all written to assist the Parliament when debating and voting on legislation. We also note the recent addition of sessional order 188A, which has strengthened the committee's scrutiny functions as it requires members with carriage of bills to respond to the committee's comments in the second reading debate or by correspondence.

I thank my hardworking fellow committee members for their time and careful consideration of the digests each sitting week: the Deputy Chair, Mr Lee Evans, MP; the Hon. Scott Barrett, MLC; Ms Abigail Boyd, MLC; Mr David Mehan, MP; the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, MLC; Mr Peter Sidgreaves, MP; and Mr Nathaniel Smith, MP. I also thank the secretariat team—Sam Griffith, Caroline Hopley, Francesca Aciuli-Matar, Anna Tran, Blake Garcia, Nicolle Gill and Jordan Manning—for their excellent support to the committee in producing complex reports for the benefit of members in a very short time frame and recognise their work.

The secretariat staff put in a lot of work under incredible pressures to deliver when this Parliament turns around legislation, bills and regulations in the pace that it does. It means that we put pressure on the secretariat staff to step up and do the work behind it, which we saw happen a number of times. I thank them for putting in that hard work to make sure that our laws and regulations are as strong as they need to be. I again thank the

committee members. I make note of Mr David Mehan's good contributions to the committee and to this House throughout this time, which I appreciate. I commend the digests to the House.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (13:11): I am delighted to close off the work of the Legislation Review Committee. I endorse the Chair's comments on the *Legislative Review Digest No. 50/57* and the *Legislative Review Digest No. 51/57*, the last digests of this Parliament. It has been a real pleasure working with him on the committee. To round off the committee's work, the *Legislative Review Digest No. 50/57* tabled on 8 November considered 12 bills, commenting on four of those, and 26 regulations, commenting on two of those. The *Legislative Review Digest No. 51/57* tabled on 15 November considered 11 bills, commenting on eight of those, and 12 regulations, commenting on two of those. I recognise the work and professionalism of the secretariat in supporting the committee to achieve its commitment to try to ensure that all bills before the House are contained within the digest, and I back up the comments of the Chair in that regard.

I have been on the Legislation Review Committee since I came to this place in 2015. Throughout that time I served on the committee with my Labor colleague from the Legislative Council Shaoquett Moselmane. We always have worked together to try to do what we can to make sure that the committee is doing its job, and over the past two parliamentary terms we have done our work to ensure that we have improved the scrutiny of legislation in this House for this Parliament. That has been assisted more recently by the new chair of the committee. He has showed a real willingness to work with all committee members to improve the work of the committee, and improve accountability and scrutiny for the benefit of the House and for the people of New South Wales.

In that regard, I note that the digest is now a much more useful document than it once was. The digest now includes a list of all the regulations that the committee has considered in summary form for the benefit of members; it did not eight years ago. The digest now includes a more detailed description of the way the committee does its work. In the guide to the digest on page 3, the committee explains that when it refers matters to Parliament, the committee considers that it requires the member with carriage or the Minister with carriage of the bill to respond. If the committee makes no further comment, it invites but does not otherwise require the member to respond to its comments.

The digest now includes a list of the type of things considered by the committee when commenting on legislation, which was not the case eight years ago. The work of the committee has also ensured that the recommendations of the 2018 inquiry into the operation of the Legislation Review Act continue to be pursued, culminating in the creation of sessional order 188A, which requires members with carriage of legislation to respond to members of the committee or otherwise provide correspondence to that effect. I thank everybody who has been involved in the Legislation Review Committee. As always, I commend the digests to the House.

Reports noted.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (13:16): As Chair: I speak to report No. 3/57 of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission entitled *Review of the Health Care Complaints Commission 2020-21 Annual Report*, dated November 2022. The report covers some of the key areas of the commission's work that the committee was interested in looking at in more detail. The committee's review noted that the number of complaints received by the commission continues to grow year on year. The commission attributes that to several factors, including population growth, an aging population and the expansion of available health services. Despite that increase and changes in staff working arrangements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission has maintained a high standard of complaint handling performance.

We also heard that the commission is working on replacing its existing case management system, which is 20 years old. The commission told the committee that it is working on the design of the new system, with the aim of improving its data collection and reporting capabilities. As part of the design process, the commission is considering what data it needs to collect and report on to address contemporary health system issues. The committee welcomes those improvements, and we recommend that the commission use this as an opportunity to collect additional health complaints data as a way of providing more information about the standard of health services—importantly, including in rural, regional and remote areas. In turn, we also recommend that the Ministry of Health use the data to identify both substandard health services and the absence of health services. The committee considers this data to be a valuable strategic resource that should be used to improve health services, especially in rural, regional and remote areas.

The committee has an ongoing concern about the low volume of complaints from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The commission noted that it has not connected its engagement activities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the formal structure and methodology of a reconciliation action plan. However, the commission has confirmed that its First Nations engagement and connection strategy aligns with reconciliation action plan principles. We recommend that the commission prioritise the completion and implementation of that strategy.

In 2020-21 the commission worked with other State and Federal agencies to counter the spread of vaccine and health misinformation. The committee heard that current legislative gaps limit the oversight of celebrity and high-profile individuals spreading misinformation. We recommend that the commission strengthen its collaboration with other health regulators to counter vaccine misinformation and broaden its public outreach. This work should be supported by legislative amendments to prevent the spread of health misinformation during a declared pandemic.

Another area of particular interest is the low number of complaints the commission receives each year about cosmetic procedures. We are concerned that this may reflect a lack of public awareness about the health care complaints process. The recently released independent review of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency also identified significant under-reporting of complaints in the cosmetic surgery sector. To help increase public awareness and the reporting of these complaints, we recommend that the commission partner with NSW Health to develop and promote specific public education material about the health care complaints process and target consumers who are considering cosmetic procedures. This was also a recommendation from a previous inquiry held by the committee; however, it would appear that more work needs to be done in this area.

Finally, I thank the commissioner, her senior management team and all the commission staff for their ongoing hard work to improve our health care complaints system and their continued diligence in responding to the evolving challenges within the health care system. I also thank the Parliament's committee members for their support and engagement and the committee staff for their work. In particular, I thank the current deputy chair, Dave Layzell, who is present in the Chamber, as well as Mr Tim James, the Hon. Greg Donnelly, the Hon. Mark Pearson and Ms Kate Washington. I also thank the Parliament's committee management team, particularly Kieran Lewis and Rohan Tyler, who have been very helpful to me since I took up the position of chair of the committee.

The committee has identified some important areas coming out of our review, particularly in relation to the need for data from rural and regional areas, the need for people to be aware that they can make complaints about cosmetic procedures, the importance of engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the importance of taking action to prevent the spread of dangerous misinformation. Those recommendations are included in the report.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (13:22): As deputy chair of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission, I briefly contribute to the discussion of report No. 3/57 entitled *Review of the Health Care Complaints Commission 2020-21 Annual Report*. I thank the chair, the member for Wagga Wagga, who provided a lot of input based on his medical background and, more importantly, on his experience in regional New South Wales. It has been one of the most rewarding committees in that it informs our understanding of the greatest challenge for regional New South Wales—that is, managing our health care. I hope that we are given the opportunity to continue the amazing work of the committee together with the commissioner and to expand that role in order to improve health outcomes for regional and rural people. Under the stewardship of the chair, improvements have been made, and I hope in the future we continue in that vein. I thank the chair, the other committee members and the secretariat.

Report noted.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (13:24): As Chair: I commend report No. 3/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety entitled *Embedded Networks in New South Wales*. Embedded networks are private networks that supply services such as electricity and hot water. They are commonly found in new apartment buildings, caravan parks and residential land lease communities. The committee announced this inquiry following reports of high prices being charged to consumers in embedded networks. We received 40 submissions from stakeholders, including consumers, advocacy groups, the State Energy & Water Ombudsman, industry and regulators. Their evidence highlighted that embedded network customers have limited consumer protections and can experience high prices and negative health impacts.

We firmly believe that people should not receive lesser protections just because they live in an embedded network. Our report considers various issues impacting these consumers due to regulatory gaps. I will address three of them today. First, consumers in embedded networks can receive unreasonably high bills, particularly for hot water services. For example, one witness received a bill for \$2,000 for a nine-month period and their neighbour received a bill for \$9,700 for a period of less than 18 months. Taking into account the current cost-of-living crisis, we found this extremely alarming. These high bills have led some residents to take drastic cost-savings action, such as not having hot showers. High bills also impact the most vulnerable in our community, such as people with disability, who may rely on energy services to maintain their health and safety.

Worryingly, we heard that hot water currently falls outside the current definition of energy and therefore outside relevant energy laws. This regulatory gap prevents hot water embedded network customers from receiving adequate consumer and price protections and creates limited avenues for dispute resolution. The committee recommended that the New South Wales Government immediately implement fulsome price protection measures to prevent the unreasonable and unfair pricing of hot and chilled water services in embedded networks. We also recommended that the New South Wales Government urgently collaborate with Federal, State and Territory governments and energy regulatory bodies to secure consumer protection reform.

Second, consumers reported they receive inadequate or no notice before purchasing or leasing a property in an embedded network. We therefore recommended that the New South Wales Government ensure there are appropriate requirements to disclose embedded network services to potential owners or tenants before they purchase or lease a property, including requiring real estate advertisements to disclose the average recurring costs of all services. Third, consumers can face physical safety risks that arise when large embedded networks connect to the grid using high voltage connections. We therefore recommended that the New South Wales Government ensure obligations in State legislation applying to different sized embedded networks are sufficiently clear to maintain network safety.

The committee also made recommendations regarding key barriers to switching providers, the complex complaints process and access to support. We ultimately found that the exemption framework for embedded networks is not fit for purpose. Urgent change is needed to address consumer issues and significant regulatory gaps. The report therefore includes a suite of recommendations that aim to address those gaps. The committee hopes that with the implementation of its recommendations, embedded networks will provide New South Wales customers with genuine benefits and outcomes going forward.

On behalf of the committee, I thank everyone who made a submission and gave evidence to this very important inquiry. I thank the members of the committee for their valuable contributions to this report: Mr Geoff Provest, MP, the deputy chair and the member for Tweed; Mr Edmond Atalla, MP, the member for Mount Druitt; Mr Adam Crouch, MP, the member for Terrigal; and Ms Tamara Smith, MP, the member for Ballina. I also place on record and pass on my thanks to the committee staff for their support on this inquiry, including Sam, Caroline, Francesca, Hayley, Jenny, Ze Nan and Gerard. Their professionalism was exemplary and I greatly appreciate their support in compiling this very comprehensive report and recommendations, which will no doubt benefit residents and tenants within embedded networks across New South Wales in the future. I commend the report to the House.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:29): As a member of the Law and Safety Committee, I take note of the report entitled *Embedded Networks in New South Wales*. I acknowledge the enthusiasm of the Chair, the member for Castle Hill, about the issue of the sinister nature of embedded networks. Access to energy and energy security are essential for the health and wellbeing of all residents in New South Wales, particularly with the recent rise in the cost of living. However, the 40 submissions received by the inquiry, plus the evidence given to the committee directly, indicated that not all residents in New South Wales had access to affordable energy.

The inquiry participants reported that consumers in embedded networks can receive high bills for hot or chilled water services, some reaching thousands of dollars. As embedded network services are often subject to regulatory exemptions, its customers do not receive the same consumer and price protections that standard supply customers do, which is gravely concerning, especially to members of the committee. It concerned us to hear that hot and chilled water embedded networks are even further unprotected. These services come under neither energy nor water regulation and are susceptible to price gouging, as the member for Castle Hill articulated. Consumers also have limited avenues to challenge those bills. We also heard that there are inadequate requirements for disclosing whether a property is within an embedded network, leaving owners and tenants vulnerable to unknowingly being locked into an embedded network contract with limited opportunity to switch, particularly due to onerous termination clauses.

It was clear to us that regulatory reform is absolutely necessary. The committee, therefore, made 22 recommendations addressing the various regulatory gaps. We recommended that the New South Wales Government ban hot and chilled water embedded networks and implement price protections to prevent consumers from being charged unreasonable prices. We also recommended that embedded network services be disclosed to

prospective residents, including through real estate advertisements; that adequate information be available to embedded network customers about access to resolution services; and that unfair contract provisions be regulated. As much of the regulatory framework for energy in New South Wales is governed by national frameworks, the committee recommended that the New South Wales Government continue to collaborate with its Federal and State colleagues to secure increased protections at the national level. The shortfalls of the current regulations were made very clear to the committee during the inquiry. The Chair articulated that in his report, addressing the multiple areas where there are opportunities for price gouging.

I acknowledge the other members of the committee, including the Chair, the member for Castle Hill; the member for Tweed; the member for Mount Druitt; and the member for Ballina. Most importantly, I acknowledge the incredible committee staff. This inquiry was put together quickly, with broad terms of reference. I thank Sam, Caroline, Francesca, Hayley, Jenny, Ze Nan and Gerard for the incredible work they have done for the committee and the people of New South Wales to deliver the report in such a timely manner, especially given the approaching close of Parliament. As I said, even though the regulatory framework is governed, we need to do more. I thank the Chair and my fellow committee members. This is an important inquiry that sets down guidelines for governments moving forward with respect to the secrecy and lack of disclosure around embedded networks. I commend the report to the House.

Report noted.

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

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to my guests in the gallery, Scott Campbell and Michael Sykes. I welcome members of the Strategic Coordination Unit of the Environment Protection Authority, guests of the member for Manly. I welcome four young adults from Branch Disability Support Services in Bulli who are participating in the School Leaver Employment Supports program: Bailey, Harry, Hollie and Joe, guests of the member for Keira. I acknowledge Andrew Foster and Dianne Foster, guests of the member for Newcastle. I acknowledge Louise Edgecombe and Picton bypass campaigner Dianne Mills, lunch guests of the member for Wollondilly. I welcome Catherine Rowe and Lynne Lucas from the South Lakes Arts and Cultural Society, guests of the member for Lake Macquarie. I acknowledge New England Police District Commander Superintendent Seve Laksa and Barrier Police District Commander Superintendent David Cooper, guests of the member for Northern Tablelands. I acknowledge Ray Jeffers and Kyullie Sandoz, guests of the member for Campbelltown. I also acknowledge Fletcher Shumack, a university student, guest of the member for Upper Hunter. Finally, I acknowledge Kai Sadleir, a year 10 student from St Paul's College, guest of the member for Hawkesbury.

Rulings

DIRECT RELEVANCE

The SPEAKER: Yesterday in question time I made a ruling on a point of order taken by the member for Heffron in relation to an answer given by the Treasurer to a question without notice from the Leader of the Opposition. I wish to make a statement on aspects of that ruling so that my intention in giving it is clear. Where there is a closed question and a direct answer has been given by a Minister, I will give more latitude to the Minister in terms of direct relevance for the remainder of their answer.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: On behalf of the Premier: I advise the House that the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery will be absent from question time today. The Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police will answer questions on her behalf.

Announcements

DEATH OF ALISON PATRICIA MEGARRITY, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER (14:18): It is with regret that I inform the House of the death on 15 November 2022 of Ms Alison Patricia Megarity, who served as the member for Menai from 27 March 1999 to 4 March 2011, and as Assistant Speaker from 8 May 2007 to 4 March 2011. In recent times Ms Megarity also served as the President

of the New South Wales Former Members Association. On behalf of the House I extend to Ms Megarrity's family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained. Ms Megarrity's death will be the subject of a motion of sympathy on a future day.

Members and officers of the House stood in their places as a mark of respect.

Question Time

STATE ECONOMY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:20): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that New South Wales is the lowest ranked State in the country according to the CommSec State of the States economic indicators, how does the Premier explain the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade saying yesterday that this Government has made New South Wales number one again? Will the Premier correct his Minister and remind him that under his leadership New South Wales has never ranked anything but last?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:20): He has got to be kidding. I thought I had the work experience kid in this week. I thought he was working for me. As we know, when we talk about CommSec State of the States, that is on your own performance. What does that demonstrate? New South Wales is the engine room of the country. We have the fastest growing economy in the nation. Right now we have the lowest unemployment rate in recorded history. We have the strongest jobs growth. No, we are not last. A Labor State must be last, because we have got the lowest unemployment rate. We do so well it is hard to keep beating ourselves. Wherever people go across this great State, it is a much better place today than it was under those dark days of Labor. Labor had a \$35 million infrastructure backlog.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Labor closed hospital beds and schools across New South Wales, and what have we seen in our State? We have \$112 billion of infrastructure funded over the next four years, adding half a percentage point to economic growth. Those opposite could not build half a train line in 16 years. We are building metros right across Sydney and more motorways so that families can get to work faster and home sooner. Those projects have transformed people's lives across the State, and it has not happened by accident. It has happened because of the strong financial management here in New South Wales over 11 years. We have turned around the fate of our great State. That is because of the values of the Liberal-Nationals—less regulation, less taxes, more opportunities and more freedom than any other State in the country. That is because on this side of the House we manage money well and we build the schools, the hospitals, the roads and rail. In Victoria they call their \$55 billion infrastructure the "Big Build". We are twice as big and we continue to be the fastest growing economy anywhere in this great land.

COERCIVE CONTROL LEGISLATION

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (14:24): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on how the New South Wales Government is working to increase safety for women in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:24): I thank the member for East Hills for her question. I thank the Attorney General for all the work he has done in this space. As the House knows, today New South Wales becomes the first Australian State or Territory to create a standalone offence for coercive control, with historic and life-saving law reforms passing Parliament. We made a commitment to deliver the landmark reforms to protect our women from this insidious form of domestic violence, and today we have delivered on that commitment by criminalising coercive control in intimate partner relationships. Make no mistake, we are saving women's lives. The reforms will deter abusive and controlling patterns of behaviour that are unacceptable.

Our Government has been working on the reforms for years. I thank everyone—particularly the Attorney General—who has been involved in the bill since the first public discussion paper in 2020, through an extensive parliamentary inquiry by the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, a public exposure draft that received almost 200 written submissions, targeted consultations on Cabinet-in-confidence exposure drafts, and almost 30 stakeholder roundtables. The legislation has been created by our entire community. We are as one in our desire to improve women's safety in this State. New South Wales will continue to lead the nation in protecting women.

Our coercive control legislation will complement a larger package of reforms focused on improving women's outcomes across New South Wales. As part of the most recent budget handed down by the Treasurer, the New South Wales Government committed \$16.5 billion over 10 years to improve women's opportunities and child development. That investment includes universal pre-kindergarten education; grants and wraparound support services for women to return to work; support for families with the high cost of fertility treatments;

\$500 vouchers to reduce the cost of before- and after-school care; support for 35 regional schools to establish before- and after-school care in their communities; the Safer Cities program, an initiative to upgrade public places across New South Wales by delivering improved lighting and infrastructure designed to better meet the needs of women; \$18 million for new and upgraded audiovisual facilities in about 50 courts and tribunals; and \$8 million to ensure that domestic violence victims are not directly cross-examined by an alleged perpetrator.

In addition, the New South Wales Government's pharmacy reform, which we announced with the regional health Minister and the health Minister on Sunday, will increase women's access to primary care through funding a 12-month trial to evaluate allowing pharmacists to prescribe medication for urinary tract infections and supporting a statewide pilot where appropriately trained pharmacists can prescribe medications for certain conditions, such as skin ailments, ear infections and hormonal contraception. [*Extension of time*]

Our Government will continue to strive to develop a whole-of-government and whole-of-community response to help improve the economic, social and physical wellbeing of women and girls across New South Wales. The reforms that the Parliament passed today will save women's lives. They will make a real difference to women's safety across the State. They are landmark reforms, with New South Wales once again leading the way when it comes to protecting women and ensuring their safety across our State.

THE HON. MARK LATHAM

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:27): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Given the Treasurer has previously called Mark Latham "racist", said that he was using words that were "hateful and divisive", called him "Pauline Hanson's patsy" and said that he is "willing to make serious allegations without the slightest piece of evidence", and given that today the NSW Liberal Party website is proudly advertising Mark Latham headlining a Liberal Party fundraiser in three weeks' time, is the Treasurer and his party not a bunch of utter hypocrites?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:28): I will always stand up against racism in any form in this House. We should all stand against it, as should the member for Maroubra. It has no place in Australian society. It should never have a place in Australian society. I will do whatever it takes as a member of this place to make sure that we stamp it out. On the question—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: We are a few minutes into the answer. All he has to explain is why he is taking Mark Latham's money.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. That was not a proper point of order and was disruptive. I make the observation that a question of the nature of the one that has been asked—that is, wide-ranging in terms of its preamble but also in terms of comments within it—leaves greater scope for the responder to be directly relevant than they might otherwise be. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr MATT KEAN: I say to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that there is no way I would be inviting Mark Latham to one of my fundraisers, that is for sure. On the question of fundraising, I note that the Leader of the Opposition has his fundraising done by his favourite travel agent Huang Xiangmo. Huang Xiangmo not only organises fundraising and travel arrangements for the Leader of the Opposition but also does a bit of human resources. How did that play out?

Ms Prue Car: Point of order: It is Standing Order 129. The Treasurer is not being relevant. The question is about a particular event. Is the Treasurer going to cancel the fundraiser? Matt Kean is all talk.

The SPEAKER: The member for Londonderry will resume her seat. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time.

Mr MATT KEAN: We are talking about questionable people, so it is a good opportunity to talk about the questionable placement of James Zhou in the member for Kogarah's office. He is the vice-president and director of the Australian Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification of China, which is a Chinese Communist Party front.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Treasurer cannot impute improper motives or reflect on the Opposition leader under Standing Order 73 unless he wants to move a substantive motion.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: We are talking about questionable people. I think it is appropriate that we talk about questionable people. I think that one of those questionable people is someone that—

Mr Chris Minns: Point of order: Yesterday this bloke was criticising Mark Latham—

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

Mr Chris Minns: —and today he is taking his money and organising a fundraiser.

The SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

REGIONAL JOBS

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (14:32): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on how the New South Wales Government has grown the economy since 2019?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:32): Before I answer the question, I update the House on the emergency situation unfolding in the Central West, where the emergency services Minister currently is. A short time ago police sadly confirmed that a body believed to be that of a missing 60-year-old woman has been found in Eugowra. That is heartbreaking news for her loved ones and the close-knit community of Eugowra. It is the first confirmed fatality of the latest flooding event. My heart goes out to her family.

I thank the member for Monaro for her question. I acknowledge the work that she is doing in her community and in getting an almost \$400 million investment into the special activation precinct at Jindabyne. I have said it before and I will say it again, the regions are booming, and that is all thanks to the investment made by the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals in government. There is a sense of excitement and optimism in the air wherever one travels in regional New South Wales. We are also creating opportunities for highly paid, highly skilled jobs in regional New South Wales. That means young people do not have to leave town anymore. They can stay in their own backyards and know that they will have a strong future and can raise a family.

The Government is also investing in building world-class infrastructure so that residents can drive on the best roads and access world-class hospitals and medical facilities in our regions. We are also investing in special activation precincts across the State, which are attracting businesses like Masterpet, which is setting up in Parkes, to set up shop in regional New South Wales. Masterpet has opened its new headquarters in the town, creating around 60 new local jobs. Members opposite see the regions as an impediment. We see the regions as an opportunity. That is why the Government has created the Regional Job Creation Fund, which has been a huge success. Businesses are falling over themselves to set up in the regions.

Simmons Global is moving from Western Australia to Narromine, bringing 250 jobs, creating advanced manufacturing opportunities in regional New South Wales, and Thomas Foods has expanded into Bourke, creating around 200 local jobs. The member for Port Stephens would be excited about the investment that is being made by this Government. LAVO hydrogen in her electorate is creating around 250 local jobs building portable hydrogen storage units.

Ms Kate Washington: Thank you.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I heard the member for Port Stephens say thank you. I knew she would be excited. She can see the investment being made by the Liberal-Nationals Government. [*Extension of time*]

The numbers tell the story. In March 2019 the regional unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent; now it sits at 4 per cent. The youth unemployed rate in regional New South Wales was 11.5 per cent; it is now just 8.6 per cent. Thousands and thousands more people have been given the opportunity to get jobs in regional New South Wales, which is why the investments that this Government makes matter. I am worried because every time Labor gets into government it gets a handle on the reins and cuts projects and takes away funding opportunities. That is already unfolding at a Federal level, with Federal Labor already cutting money out of the regions and cutting projects.

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will cease interjecting.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Labor has turned its back on regional New South Wales. Members on this side of the House will continue to deliver, invest and create opportunities for people in regional New South Wales. Members opposite are embarrassed about their efforts because they have turned their back on the people of this State.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: They have ignored regional New South Wales. We know that Labor stands for "NSW"—Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. It does not back regional New South Wales. The Government knows that the regions are full of endless opportunities and that they have a future. I say to the Opposition Leader,

get out of Kogarah. Go and see what is great about regional New South Wales. The people there do not want a wannabe Premier; they want a Premier who stands up for all the people of this State. This Government has a Premier who represents all people, wherever they live across New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Wollongong, I acknowledge in the public gallery school leaders from nine schools from the electorate of Riverstone, who are guests of the member for Riverstone.

STATE ECONOMY

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (14:38): My question is directed to the Premier. Yesterday the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade said:

Remember when we came to government in 2011 and Tasmania ranked higher than New South Wales in economic measures?

Given that the most recent data shows that New South Wales ranks not only behind Tasmania but also behind every other State in the country—in fact, Tasmania is currently number one—is it about time the Premier finally admitted that his economic management has failed the people of New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:38): I do not think the member for Wollongong understands how to read a report. New South Wales has the fastest growing economy, the lowest unemployment rate and the biggest infrastructure build anywhere in the country, which is twice as big as Victoria. It also has the lowest tax rates in the country.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The Minister for enterprise is deadset right—the Government has transformed this State since one of the highest unemployment rates under Labor.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Since 2011 the Government has invested in 194 new and upgraded schools across the State. The Opposition was closing schools because it did not have the money to operate them. We have opened and upgraded 194 and have invested \$8.6 billion to deliver 160 more. Under the great health Minister, the Government has also invested in 170 new and upgraded hospitals and health facilities since 2011. That was not happening under Labor, which presided over the worst health care anywhere in the country. Now, under the Liberals and Nationals the healthcare system is the best in the country, hands down.

Mr Paul Scully: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I have been waiting patiently for an answer about economic management, not a whole range of investments that the Premier claims to have made, which have run over budget and over time in most circumstances.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is being relevant.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Labor has opposed every project that we have built. The north-west metro was promised 10 times by Labor but it was never delivered. We came into government and built it straightaway. I was in year 3, the same year Brad Hazzard came into Parliament, when Labor promised the north-west metro. It was never delivered, except under us. Across the board there has been more infrastructure under this Government, which has not just driven jobs growth by creating hundreds of thousands of jobs from our public infrastructure investment but also created economic benefits to the people of our State. Ultimately, what is most important is that those projects deliver the best health care, the best education for our kids and the best public transport so that people can get home faster. That is what the Liberals and Nationals have delivered for this State.

TRADE UNIONS AND STATE ECONOMY

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (14:42): My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on the damage that trade unions and their associates are inflicting on New South Wales businesses and the economy?

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 128. The question is clearly intended to incite debate. It also makes an inference. Every subparagraph of Standing Order 128 is breached in the question. The member for Vaucluse should reconfigure the question so that it is consistent with the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: The question is in order.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:43): I can see how the member for Kogarah became the Leader of the Opposition because if the member for Campbelltown is the competition, the Leader of the Opposition is the tallest midget in the circus. I thank the member for Vaucluse for her question.

I acknowledge her outstanding contribution to the people of New South Wales as the member for Vacluse, and as the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the first female Attorney General in New South Wales. I have a concerning update for the House on a new industrial threat from the Labor-led maritime unions. At midnight tonight the Maritime Union of Australia, the Australian Maritime Officers Union and the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers will wage industrial warfare against the New South Wales economy, New South Wales businesses and the people across the State. From midnight tonight workers will walk off the job, shutting down ports and halting vital trade with the rest of the world.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: Let me be clear: That is exactly how Labor treats the Hunter. The member for Newcastle knows it, the member for Maitland knows it and the member for Charlestown knows it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Newcastle will cease interjecting.

Mr MATT KEAN: Members opposite are screaming now, but they will not speak up for their communities otherwise.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: They will not speak up for the mining jobs, the stevedore jobs or the economy in the Hunter. Let me be clear: This is a threat to jobs, trade and the entire New South Wales economy. Let me be clear to those in the public gallery: This is exactly what Chris Minns' year of the strike looks like. He wants to shut down our schools, classrooms, trains and now ports, stopping trade with the rest of the world. It is a disgrace. That comes off the back of the action by the Electrical Trade Union [ETU] to shut down the Sydney Metro City and Southwest line, causing significant cost escalations that taxpayers will have to bear and significant delays in delivering a project across western Sydney. [*Extension of time*]

What do we hear about those Labor members with communities who are not getting the rail link because of the ETU's action—the member for Canterbury, the member for Lakemba and the member for Summer Hill? We hear the sound of betrayal for their communities and everyone across the State. Chris Minns is the betrayer-in-chief. He is doing the bidding of his boss, Alex Claassens.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Treasurer should comply with Standing Order 75 and refer to the Opposition leader by his title or electorate.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr MATT KEAN: This is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition's year of the strike looks like. If this is what the unions do with Labor in opposition, imagine what the Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns, the member for Kogarah, will let them get away with if Labor ever gets into government. The member for Bankstown was right: Under the Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns, Labor has not cleaned up its act.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: Whether it be Eddie Obeid—who still has influence—whether it be putting Khal Asfour in the Legislative Council as the Leader of the Opposition's candidate or whether it be putting James Zhou in his electorate office, Labor has not changed. The member for Bankstown is right.

STATE INTEGRITY AGENCIES

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (14:48): My question is directed to the Premier. I refer to this morning's *The Australian* article referencing "rising Labor star Khal Asfour, hand-picked by Chris Minns". Will the Premier update the House on how the New South Wales Government is strengthening integrity agencies in our State?

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members will remain silent, other than the Premier.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:49): I get special privileges. I missed that question! I never thought I would receive that question from the member for Bankstown, but it is a great question. She knows that the people of Bankstown expect integrity at all levels of government. This morning I spoke at the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference. As we have said over the past 12 months in this State, we have made it a strong priority to build on the Coalition legacy and make integrity protections in New South Wales even stronger.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: To the member's question, the Government's work is focused on three key areas: electoral funding, grants administration and integrity agency funding. On electoral funding, our electoral and campaign finance reforms have delivered the strongest, most transparent political donations framework in our State's history, including expenditure caps for local government elections; 21-day disclosures for political donations over \$1,000 made within six months of an election; expanded bans on property developer donations to include individuals and companies; bans on political donations made in cash over \$100; and reinstated expenditure caps for third-party campaigners in State general elections. On grants administration, we conducted the most comprehensive review in our State's history. After accepting the recommendations of that review, we have issued a new Grants Administration Guide.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Members opposite do not like integrity in politics. The new Grants Administration Guide has strict obligations on anyone awarding government grants to act in accordance with the new guidelines. Just last week we introduced new legislation to give the New South Wales Auditor-General expanded "follow the dollar" powers. The steps the Government has taken on grants administration will give the public confidence that public funds are being spent fairly and are delivering value for money for taxpayers and communities across the State. We are also changing the Ministerial Code of Conduct to impose an 18-month ban on Ministers accepting any offer of employment within a public sector agency—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. Opposition members are being disrespectful and are bordering on disorderly. The member for Summer Hill will come to order. The Premier is giving a serious response to a question, and will be heard in silence.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This is about integrity in government and those opposite are not interested in listening.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Prospect to order for the second time. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the first time. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We are changing the Ministerial Code of Conduct to impose an 18-month ban on Ministers accepting any offer of employment within a public sector agency that reported to them within the past two years of ministerial office. We are making it mandatory for senior public servants who go to work in the private sector to seek ethics advice where that employment relates to their previous role. Finally, on integrity agency funding, the Government introduced comprehensive funding reforms, which were delivered in this year's budget.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: There is a new framework in place, and the Government delivered a \$20 million contingency on top to give those agencies the freedom and space to do their work independently and without financial constraints. [*Extension of time*]

The member's question referred to an article about the upper House appointment. She knows the Labor party rules very well. It has quotas, but not just for women—Labor always reserves one upper House spot for someone dodgy. It is Labor's ICAC seat—the corruption quota. I appreciate her concerns, but Labor must find a suitable person to fill that role.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. The Premier is clearly personally reflecting and using improper motives.

The SPEAKER: There is no aspersion on a member of this place. The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Labor must find a suitable candidate to fill its corruption quota. I understand that. The member for Bankstown should understand that, too. That spot has been handed down from generation to generation. It went from Eric Roozendaal to Tony Kelly to Eddie Obeid to Ernest Wong to Shaoquett Moselmane and now it will go to Khal Asfour.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Premier will resume his seat. I will hear the point of order.

Mr Greg Warren: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. It is an improper motive—

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I remind the member that Standing Order 73 relates to reflections on members of either House. The Premier has not referred specifically to any member of either House. He is referring to either potential or past members. The member will resume his seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I just say to the member for Bankstown—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Heffron will take a point of order.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The correct point of order is Standing Order 129. The Premier's answer is not made directly relevant to the improvement of integrity measures by referring to matters in the past unless he makes them relevant.

The SPEAKER: I have heard direct relevance from the Premier to this point, I am happy to hear just a little bit further. I will give some leeway to any response.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The member for Bankstown is obviously somebody who is very concerned about having the highest standards in public office—and she will be proven correct. I say to her that I am sorry but when it comes to the Labor Party I do not make the rules. Those opposite make the rules, and they are just doing their job filling that corruption quota. We do not make the rules. But I respect the opinions and the standards—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Premier, you've lost 14 MPs and two Premiers to ICAC in the last decade—

The SPEAKER: The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the first time. The Premier's time has expired.

ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (14:56): My question is addressed to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is supercharging the New South Wales economy this summer?

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

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) (14:56): I thank the member for North Shore for her question. The New South Wales Government is absolutely supercharging the New South Wales economy this summer. I inform members and the general public that summer is back in New South Wales. With the New South Wales Government's record investments in sports infrastructure, arts, live music and cultural events, New South Wales is absolutely back. Events this summer include the opening of Sydney Modern, the premiere of *Noël! Noël!* and the best Christmas markets in the whole world. We are going to have entertainment at the remarkable Allianz Stadium, a stadium where there are no bad seats.

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Wollongong that he is on three calls. He will not get another warning.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: There will be great food and the drinks will be flowing. We have personal recommendations about the great Allianz Stadium from none other than the member for Coogee. I am putting out the welcome mat to everyone and wish to extend an olive branch to those opposite. In the spirit of Christmas, I say to them: Come on back to Allianz. Do not listen to the Leader of the Opposition's veto on attending Allianz Stadium—come back and join in. It is my personal invitation. I know that only last week the member for Granville was ringing around Labor members and the parliamentary friends of the NRL, telling them, "Don't go to Allianz Stadium because you might be photographed like the member for Coogee was." But I urge them to come back. Do not listen to the Leader of the Opposition's bans. Let us face it: Last night we saw an easing on the Opposition leader's imposed booze ban. There were reports of people not following the booze ban.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Minister is nowhere near the question.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Minister to come back to the leave of the question.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Last night we saw a really interesting time. There was a five-time Olympic gold medallist in the House by the name of Ian Thorpe. He was photographed with a two-time Opposition leader

contestant. I have in my hand the photo. If you are putting something on social media, do you not think you would label the no-name guy on the left and not the five-time Olympic gold medal hero?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron will take a point of order. The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: It is social media 101: You label the no-name. You do not label the five-time Olympic gold medal hero.

The SPEAKER: The Minister's time has expired.

INSURANCE AND CARE NSW EXECUTIVE SALARIES

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (15:00): My question is directed to the Premier. Yesterday the Minister for Finance called the 60 per cent, \$3.5 million pay rise for icare executives "a recalibration". Does the Premier agree, and will he similarly recalibrate the wages of teachers, nurses, police officers and healthcare workers across our State?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:00): As I said yesterday, decisions on remuneration matters for icare are made by the board, which is chaired by former Labor leader John Robertson.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:00): My question is addressed to the Minister for Corrections. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is working to improve outcomes for Corrections staff and inmates?

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Corrections) (15:01): Firstly, I recognise the great member for Upper Hunter, Dave Layzell. He is an absolute champion for his community. He is well loved in his community. It is real pleasure to get a proper question from a member. Those opposite do not ask me any questions. In fact, the only question they ever asked me was about Parramatta Light Rail stage two, something the Government has committed \$600 million to while those opposite refuse to put one dollar behind it. It is a shame.

I thank the member for Upper Hunter for his strong advocacy for Blackrock Industries. Recently he announced a grant to that organisation from Corrections to help Aboriginal inmates to be upskilled and gain valuable employment in the local mining and construction industries and supply chains. It strikes at the very heart of Closing the Gap initiatives. I thank the Premier for his personal interest in Closing the Gap. We know that Aboriginal offenders have a higher rate of incarceration and reoffending compared to the general population. That is why we are targeting things like the Blackrock program to help Aboriginal inmates gain necessary skills, so that when they get out they can get jobs and not reoffend. I update the House on the latest Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research statistics. We have now had nine consecutive quarters of decline in reoffending rates. That is a great tribute to the 10,000 staff in Corrections and the work that they do 365 days a year to reduce reoffending and to keep the community safe.

Those opposite seem focused on the number of meetings one Minister has. Labor is all talk and no action. It is very sad. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to go and have a chat with the Hon. Rose Jackson. She is unnaturally fixated by the number of meetings I have. My advice is to get out more and actually talk to people out there in the community. Get out of the eastern suburbs, stop playing games and start performing. Members on this side of the House look forward to working on the 2030 strategy with the commissioner to further modernise the organisation and further reduce the rates of reoffending. This Government is securing a brighter future for the people of New South Wales by keeping them safe.

WAGES POLICY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:04): My question is directed to the Premier. Today's wages data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirmed that the wages of most people in New South Wales are currently going backwards by 3.9 per cent—that is, everyone except icare executives, who have been given a 60 per cent pay rise by his Government. Does the Premier still stand by that decision?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:04): I will deal with the first part of the question from the outset. Yes, we saw wages nationally be in a very flat position, and that is why in New South Wales under our Government we have a very strong wages policy of 3 per cent this year, and 3½ per cent with productivity savings next year. I note that, compared to almost every jurisdiction around the country—including the Commonwealth Government—our wages policy leads the way. It does; it is just a fact. I note that the unions in the Labor States, who are getting a smaller pay rise—

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Point of order: My point of order relates to under Standing Order 129. It was a closed question. It is very specific. It just needs a yes or no answer. Does the Premier stand by his decision?

The SPEAKER: It was not a closed question. It was an open question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It was far from it. After that direct part the member went too far and, unfortunately for her, I get to give my answer.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. As I said when the House decided that answers must be directly relevant, when a statement is followed by a closed question, it is open to the Minister to respond to the statement as well as the question. I therefore rule that the Premier is relevant.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Great decision. Now, as I said, it is interesting to note—and we heard from the Treasurer earlier in relation to the Maritime Union of Australia [MUA] and the position it has taken on the ports, trying to cripple our State—that the unions are not putting the people of New South Wales first. It is disgraceful action.

[Opposition members interjected.]

We will see where the people of New South Wales are. We will see where the farmers are. We will see the farmers who have suffered through all this flooding, who need equipment, and the MUA, backed by the Labor Party, are blocking and stopping the wharfs.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Blocking and stopping the wharfs.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The MUA is a disgrace. Anyway, what we are not seeing around the country are Labor States that are having less wage increases than us. I do not see the unions protesting there. And to the question from the member for Coojee, it is a decision made by an independent board.

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (15:07): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will my honourable friend update the House on how the Government is delivering key projects across regional New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (15:07): I can, because the Opposition will not ask me a question so I have to get myself two questions. I acknowledge the work that the member for Northern Tablelands does in his electorate. I also welcome his special guests: Superintendent Steve Laxar, the Commander of the New England Police District; and David Cooper, the Commander of the Barrier Police District. We believe in delivering and investing in regional New South Wales. We want to make sure that those opportunities are given to people, no matter where they live. We speak a lot about bigger projects and the investments that are made there, but sometimes it is the smaller projects that actually make the biggest difference to the lives of people living in those communities.

Our Regional Growth Fund has delivered thousands of projects across our communities over the past five years. Over the past five years around \$2 billion in investment has come from that program, which has delivered over 2,700 projects. This has been game-changing investment into our communities. It actually touches every part of our community and reaches out to every regional local government area. It funds transport projects that enable easier movement within those local areas. The Cessnock Airport had an upgrade. It received \$6.6 million to reseal and extend the runway to allow it to host larger aircraft. The Information Centre at Birrabi in Port Stephens received upgrades worth \$5.4 million.

Ms Kate Washington: Thank you.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: There you go, the member for Port Stephens said thank you. I agree. Finally, she said thank you. But there are also key active transport projects that better connect our communities. The one-kilometre shared footpath and cycleway on Tuggeranong foreshore in Wyong got \$500,000 in funding from our stronger communities fund. Those opposite say thank you, but we invested in it. Our Regional Growth Fund provided sporting field and change rooms. The Maitland Croquet Club received \$267,000—the hypocrisy of the member for Maitland.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The member for Maitland was standing happily at the club, talking about the investment and making out how great it was, but it is the Liberal-Nationals Government that invested in her

community. The member for Maitland stood there, basking in the glory and happy to be in a photo, but she opposes everything. She opposed the regional seniors travel card, our Regional Apprentice and University Student Travel Card and our Right to Farm Bill. I do not know why she hates our farmers. I do not know why she does not stand up for regional New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

I say to the member for Maitland, stand up for regional New South Wales because the only people those opposite stand up for are the factions. What they are really good at is knifing one another in the back. That's what they did so well to Mick Veitch. They brought in the two-time loser from East Hills and now he is their upper House member.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129 and Standing Order 73. The Deputy Premier is not being relevant and he is imputing improper motives. Where was your lot last night standing up for regional taxis? Nowhere.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. There is no point of order. I have ruled previously that there is no point of order when a member makes a comment of that nature after taking a point of order. I place the member for Maitland on three calls to order. She is very lucky that I am not directing her to leave the Chamber. I do not want to hear a single word from her for the rest of question time—not a word. The Deputy Premier will continue.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Rest assured, I would have kicked her out the door. The member for Maitland does not like the investments that this Government is putting into the regions—

Ms Anna Watson: Point of order—

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

Ms Anna Watson: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. I note that about 10 Opposition members are on calls to order yet not one Government member has been called to order and they have been yelling across the Chamber.

The SPEAKER: The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Labor stands for nothing. That is why Opposition members are on calls to order. They do not stand for anything. They just want to get in the way of people in regional New South Wales. They do not want to stand up for the regions. Where does Labor actually stand? We hear nothing from Labor members when it comes to standing up for the people of New South Wales. Federal Labor is cutting Federal programs and projects across our communities. Every time we see a Labor government elected, it turns the tap off in regional New South Wales. It is those communities that miss out. It is shameful. It is hypocrisy, and again we see the DNA of the Labor Party. It forgets about regional New South Wales. The investment will only continue because of the Liberals and The Nationals in government.

STATE ELECTION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (15:13): I direct my question to the Minister for Environment and Heritage. Does the Minister support the Liberal Party using Mark Latham to raise money for the election? Is the Minister a hypocrite?

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (15:14): I thank the member for Lakemba for his question. I thought the question of the week might be on the \$190 million *NSW Koala Strategy*, which is a great program that we are delivering. It is fantastic work. If the member would like to ask me a question about that, I would be happy to answer it, but this question has already been appropriately answered by the Treasurer.

GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (15:14): I address my question to the Minister for Planning—

The SPEAKER: Order! We will wait for silence. I call the member for Prospect to order for the third time. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the third time. I remind the member for Shellharbour that she is on three calls to order.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Will the Minister update the House on what the New South Wales Government is doing to help provide for the people of New South Wales?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (15:15):

I thank the member for Tweed for his question. What a great member he is. He is a great provider for his community. Just like me, he is afflicted with a touch of the silver fox. But, of course, with age comes experience and a sense of responsibility for those around us. Yesterday, while listening to Ray Hadley on the wireless and getting the day's strategy out on the typewriter, I got a fax letting me know about a tweet. I am delighted to announce that after my successful re-election in March apparently I will inherit the coveted title of "Father of the House". In fact, Michael Daley and I will take over the role in a dual capacity, so the House will have two fathers. And what a fortuitous time for that tweet to reach me—the same day we celebrated marriage equality. You will all have two fathers next year. And yes, Ryan, you can still call me Daddy.

There is going to be a very difficult conversation between Michael and me as to who takes what position, but we will worry about that after March next year. What a power couple. We will be the "Brangelina" of New South Wales politics. We will be known as "Robaley". I think that is pretty catchy. We might work with that. But I do not know what responsibilities Father of the House will bring me. However, I think it is only fitting that, as your future Father of the House, I will provide for you all.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: I do not know what the point of order is, but can you help me?

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: We are already delivering gold-plated parks across the State, building critical infrastructure and providing clear pathways for people to get into their first homes through equity assist and First Home Buyer Choice. We are delivering a pipeline of homes and we have put in place a great policy to ensure the fast delivery of those homes. That is somewhat different to Labor's housing policy—it just wants more housing in Vacluse. But the New South Wales Government will never punish anyone by forcing them to live in Vacluse. The Government continues to deliver more schools and hospitals than ever before. While I am on hospitals, I am advised that NSW Health has nicknamed the Leader of the Opposition the "Golden Staph"—you catch him in hospitals but nobody ever wants him there. But do not worry, Chris—and merry Christmas—because I got you a staff pass to NSW Health facilities. [*Extension of time*]

This year we delivered a fantastic budget. I pay tribute to our Treasurer, who has been in Egypt. Upon his return, he reassured me that he was not over there getting Greta Thunberg to run as a teal in Lane Cove, for which I am grateful. Of course, it was interesting to hear Minister Elliott tell us the reason behind his gout and weight loss last year. Gout, otherwise known as the disease of kings, put him in the perfect position to assume his next role as Governor of New South Wales. We worked out he had gout not because he was eating too many oysters or consuming too many tomatoes, but because of too much exposure to the sauce. I am not talking about Fountain Tomato Sauce; I am talking about the sauce. Mr Elliott, you will be a huge loss to New South Wales Parliament, and an even bigger loss to *The Sunday Telegraph*. But, alas, I will be sad to see many of those great people leave this place.

I congratulate the member for Bankstown on her new position as the Commissioner of ICAK, the "Independent Commission Against Khal". Truly, Labor's upper House ticket looks like the Aldi Special Buys—weird stuff they are trying to get rid of. In fact, they have former free speech campaigner Cameron Murphy. He can probably start with campaigning for free speech for Tania. But enough of the japes and capers. It has truly been a great year. On behalf of the Government and the planning department, I have personally delivered for all of your electorates. We will continue to do so over the Christmas period. I look forward to seeing you at the booths.

COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (15:20): I direct my question to the Premier. Given that older people in my community are really struggling with cost-of-living pressures and housing affordability, what is the Premier doing to alleviate poverty and extreme financial strain for older people in the Ballina electorate and across regional New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:20): I thank the member for Ballina for her question. Good one, Robbo. You played back into form. Well done.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Thanks, mate.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It has been a while. Just quietly, I have been taking you off a bit, but anyway. To the question from the member for Ballina, I appreciate it is a difficult time right across our State, particularly in regional New South Wales. Earlier the Deputy Premier spoke about the number of initiatives that we have in the bush. In particular it has been a challenge for families that have been affected by drought, fires and floods in addition to the pandemic over this period. This year is the third year of the regional seniors travel card,

which I have been converted to in my Road to Damascus moment. Some \$250 will be provided each year for fuel, taxis or NSW TrainLink so that seniors can get out and about in regional New South Wales.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Do I get all that next year?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: If you move to the bush. I think you will get the pension. I thank the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government for the Digital Seniors Card, which has skyrocketed. Some 24,000 seniors are signing up for the card every month. Some 6,500 businesses have now registered with Service NSW to provide discounts for seniors across our State. We are providing over \$79 million for local council rate concessions of \$250 for pensioners. We will also provide over \$320 million in energy assistance this financial year, including a \$200 seniors energy rebate to anyone over 60, a \$285 low-income household energy rebate for pensioners and other Centrelink support recipients, a \$110 New South Wales gas rebate for pensioners and low-income households, a \$285 medical energy rebate and additional life support energy rebate to cover costs of life support devices and \$800 in energy accounts payment assistance to those who need it most. That all forms part of our over \$7 billion in cost-of-living initiatives. In context, the Federal Government's budget provided over \$7 billion for the entire country. In New South Wales people can log in and go to the Service NSW Savings Finder. The great blog *The Latch* said:

The NSW Government's Saving Finder website slaps. It's easy to use, gorgeous, and chock-full of great deals. If you want to sit atop a throne made of rebates, then NSW is exactly where you want to live.

Whether one lives in Ballina or Byron, I ask the member for Ballina to let her constituents know of the great measures available on the Savings Finder.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY REFORM

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:23): My question is addressed to the Minister for Local Government. In light of the revelations in *The Australian* today, will the Minister update the House on what steps the New South Wales Government is taking to strengthen integrity in local government?

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (15:24): I thank the member for Seven Hills for his question. The member for Seven Hills takes a keen interest in matters of integrity, as do I. I must admit I read the article that the member for Seven Hills refers to with concern this morning. Councillors, like us in this place, are expected to uphold the highest community standards our ratepayers and constituents expect and deserve. This month the Liberal-Nationals Government implemented the toughest new integrity measures for MPs in this place to continue to build and rebuild trust in government. I am committed to reforming the local government sector in the same way for precisely the same reasons. There are a small number of bad actors in elected bodies at all levels, which is why these integrity measures are so essential. The vast majority of councillors do the right thing and do not need to worry about any of these measures. They know what the community expects from them as elected representatives, and they do the right thing.

As these articles continue to come out left, right and centre regarding the conduct of the mayor for Canterbury-Bankstown, one must question the integrity of those opposite and whether they have learnt anything from their dark history. We have an Opposition tearing itself apart over allegations of corruption. Yet we see that the Opposition leader is not as decisive as the now Independent member for Bankstown in dealing with the mayor. He actually backed the mayor in and said he stands by him. That should be enough to send shivers down the Labor Opposition's spine, but the words of its leader show they do not have one.

The Leader of the Opposition did make one comment that I endorse, when he said the member for Bankstown "calls a spade a spade". The member for Bankstown said in this place, "Clearly, the New South Wales Labor Party has not cleaned up its act, and it is not ready to govern." On that point, I could not agree more. The media is suggesting that Khal Asfour is an accident waiting to happen. Bad judgement by Chris Minns—or is it bad judgement on Labor's selection of its leader? At the heart of it all, it is about integrity, integrity, integrity. Those opposite do not even care about integrity. They are just so closed off on integrity.

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

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN: They are not even interested in listening to the reforms that the Government is undertaking and that I intend to undertake in local government to ensure we are upholding the very best standards and delivering for our constituents and the ratepayers of this great State.

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

*Members***PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:27): In my enthusiasm, during question time I made a reference to the member for Campbelltown. I withdraw that remark and unreservedly apologise for any offence caused.

*Documents***NSW ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSION****Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 19 of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, I table the report of the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner for the year ended 30 June 2022 and received this day. I order that the report be printed.

*Committees***PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE****Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to report No. 8/57 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled *Examination of Selected Auditor-General's Financial Audit Reports 2020*, dated November 2022, received this day and authorised to be printed.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

The SPEAKER: I announce that the following electronic petition signed by more than 20,000 persons has been lodged for presentation:

Sydney Koala Populations

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to protect Sydney's koala populations and preserve koala habitat, received from **Mr Greg Warren**.

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

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

Iyoria Aboriginal Elders Belonging Estate

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to facilitate the Iyoria Aboriginal Elders belonging estate, received from **Mr Jamie Parker**.

Granville, South Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe Traffic

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to investigate the impacts on traffic on local roads in Granville, South Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe, received from **Ms Lynda Voltz**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

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

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Edmondson Park High School—lodged 11 October 2022 (Mr Anoulack Chanthivong)

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor—Bega Electorate Radiation Oncology Centre—lodged 11 October 2022 (Dr Michael Holland)

*Business of the House***SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: CHRISTMAS FELICITATIONS**

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended on Thursday 17 November 2022 to:

- (1) Provide for the following routine of business after the formalities after question time:

- (a) the moving and consideration of the motion "That the House take note of Christmas felicitations";
 - (b) at 4.00 p.m. the petition debate;
 - (c) further consideration of the motion "That the House take note of Christmas felicitations" (if not concluded);
 - (d) at 6.00 p.m. the valedictory speech of the member for Pittwater;
 - (e) further consideration of the motion "That the House take note of Christmas felicitations" (if not concluded);
 - (f) community recognition statements—for a period of up to 30 minutes;
 - (g) private members' statements;
 - (h) Government Business—consideration of any Legislative Council messages, including the option for the Speaker to leave and resume the chair on the ringing of one long bell (if required); and
 - (i) the House to adjourn without motion moved.
- (2) Provide for the following speaking time limits on Christmas felicitations:
- (a) Premier—10 minutes;
 - (b) Leader of the Opposition—10 minutes;
 - (c) Deputy Premier—10 minutes;
 - (d) Deputy Leader of the Opposition—10 minutes;
 - (e) Leader of the House—10 minutes;
 - (f) member for Heffron—10 minutes;
 - (g) member for Wollondilly—5 minutes;
 - (h) member for Shellharbour—5 minutes;
 - (i) member for Coffs Harbour—5 minutes; and
 - (j) one crossbench member—5 minutes.
- (3) Provide for any member to provide written Christmas felicitations of up to 800 words for inclusion in the *Hansard* record, with content rules for written community recognition statements under Standing Order 108A applying.
- (4) Members intending to submit written felicitations to submit them electronically to dps.hansard@parliament.nsw.gov.au by 12 noon on Thursday 17 November 2022 for inclusion in the *Hansard* record of that sitting day.

Motion agreed to.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution of the House of 15 November 2022, the valedictory speech of the member for Cabramatta will now commence.

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (15:31): I firstly thank the House and you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to incorporate my valedictory speech. As most members would be aware, I had throat cancer treatment and radiation chemotherapy in March 2018. Additionally, earlier this year I contracted COVID, which left me with a vocal cord palsy, making it difficult to speak. That is why my voice is so rough—like what happened to former Premier Neville Wran after his throat operation many years ago.

I thank all members of this House for their friendship and camaraderie over the past 14 years. I do not think I have had a bad word from any one of you. To the members who are leaving or retiring from Parliament next March, I wish you all good health and may you have a long, healthy and happy life. For the members who are continuing on the good fight, may I wish you all the best of luck next year and in all your future endeavours. To you, Mr Speaker, and the members of this House, farewell and may the good Lord smile down upon every one of you. It has truly been an honour and a privilege to have served with you as a member of the New South Wales Parliament.

In accordance with the resolution of the House, I incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*. Thank you, and farewell.

I first came into this House as a result of winning a by-election in October 2008, following the resignation of Ms Reba Meagher. I was at a tender young of 63. I'd given away all hope of entering State politics, as Reba was still relatively young and had many more years left to serve. After all these years, I am very thankful to Reba, as her resignation provided me the opportunity of a lifetime to become a representative of my local community in this distinguished House.

I have enjoyed every moment in this place. Over the years, I believe I have made many friends on both sides of the Chamber. Although we may on occasion get stuck into one another about different issues, we all understand it is part of the theatrics of this place, as we are all here to do our best to improve the lives of the people and our respective electorates.

Despite our differences, when it comes to our policies and philosophies on how to achieve our goals, I can attest firsthand to the earnest love, care and passion shown by all members of the House when advocating for the betterment of their respective communities.

I was given the great privilege throughout this time to be appointed and serve as the Opposition Whip, a role I enjoyed immensely. Serving as the Whip put me in a unique position where I got to know all members quite intimately, as they would confide in me when they required a pairing or time off.

Serving as the Whip also afforded me the opportunity to have worked alongside Ms Colleen Symington, the Executive Officer to the Opposition Whip. Working with Colleen was an absolute pleasure, and without her I would have been absolutely lost. Colleen is truly an extraordinary person who is always there to provide support and guidance to anyone in need. Her contributions to the office and the Parliament over the years have truly been invaluable. Thank you, Colleen, for your support and friendship over the years.

I would also like to thank Ms Anna Watson, the current Labor Whip, for her empathetic understanding and enduring support during some very difficult times. Anna ensured I always had the time and support I required during sitting days, and for that I am incredibly grateful.

If I may, I would like to step back in time a bit and speak about how I ended up here and my entry into the world of politics. I joined the Labor party in late 1971. Our Federal member and former Prime Minister was the great Gough Whitlam. My first election campaign was in 1972, the "It's Time" election, which was a time of great excitement and invigoration for Labor. Every single meeting I attended was electric. We knew we were on our way to victory. And when it was known that Gough was going to be attending one of our branch meetings, every member would show up.

When Gough was going to be at a public function, residents would flock to that location in droves just for the chance to see Gough. If they were lucky enough, they would get the chance to shake his hand. Gough was admired and adored by all. He was larger than life and we all loved him. I'm sure that if he was not removed as Prime Minister by the Governor General, Australia would now be in a much better place.

As Gough was our local Federal member, I got to know him quite well. In the following years, after I had become the mayor of Fairfield City, whenever we had community festivals or social functions, I would ensure Gough received an invitation. I don't think he ever refused a single invite. On most occasions, Margaret would also accompany him. This was beneficial to all those in attendance, because whenever Gough's speeches started to go on for a little too long, she would lean over towards him and say, "Gough, wind it up". Thanks, Margaret.

As many members of this House would be aware, throughout the seventies and eighties Cabramatta became known as the drug trade capital of New South Wales, and most likely all of Australia. Druggies and drug dealers would come from far and wide to ply their illicit trade. The New South Wales Government of the day felt it was better to bury their head in the sand and take no action because by allowing these problems and illicit drug deals to be centralised in Cabramatta, the problem wasn't going to be spreading to other areas of Sydney.

During this time, it was a common sight to see drug-affected individuals, addicts, lying on the footpaths and in alleyways throughout the centre of Cabramatta CBD. It was commonplace to see drug dealers hanging around at the train station waiting for the next train to come in. Druggies were coming in from all over Sydney by train to get their supply of drugs.

Although the police would do whatever they could to deter this behaviour, there just wasn't enough police or resources made available to control and curb the situation. It wasn't until Bob Carr's Labor Government said enough is enough and poured funding into policing and provided them with the necessary resources that this scourge on society was curbed and Cabramatta was no longer on the front page of our national media every day for drug-related activity.

I was elected to Fairfield City Council in 1987 as an alderman, which was changed to "councillor" as a result of changes to the Local Government Act in 1992. After serving for five years on council, I was elected by my councillor colleagues to the position of deputy mayor for the period 1992 to 1993, and I was subsequently elected as the mayor from 1993 to 1994. Back in those days, they were one-year terms.

In 2002 I was once again elected as mayor by my colleagues, and at the 2004 local government election I ran and won as the first popularly elected Mayor of Fairfield City. I was re-elected as mayor in 2008, only weeks before my election to Parliament in October 2008. I stayed on council as mayor until March 2012, holding both the mayoralty and the State member's position. If I had resigned the mayoralty, it would have caused an expensive by-election and wasted a lot of the ratepayers' dollars.

My time on council and entry into Parliament were amongst the most turbulent years of my time in politics. With the horrific murder in 1994 of the then State member for Cabramatta John Newman, Councillor Phung Ngo was charged and found guilty of arranging and ordering the murder. I honestly don't know what started the hatred between the two men. However, it was apparent at the time that John was paranoid about Phung Ngo entering the Labor Party and building supporters in the local branches due to the large number of Vietnamese families residing in the area.

John feared that Phung Ngo would have the support to take his seat at the next preselection, although the local understanding was that Phung Ngo never wanted to serve in the Legislative Assembly and instead was aiming to run as a member of the Legislative Council where he felt he could work on a much broader canvas looking after the interests of his community across the entire State and not being confined to one lone electorate.

Whatever the reason, it was a stupid, cold-blooded and callous thing to do, and it reverberated throughout Cabramatta for many years. It was stated at the trial that there was one occasion at a function in Cabramatta, which John and I attended, that at the end of the night on his way out into the car park there was an intention to murder John in that car park that night. However, upon seeing me with John, it was decided to postpone their intentions. I'm thankful they changed their minds. If they hadn't, I may not be standing here today.

Problems continued upon my entry into this place, as an upper House member with information supplied by my political enemies in Fairfield council made three speeches in the upper House about issues that happened some years before, asserting that I was corrupt and had used my position to benefit my family and finishing his speeches by indicating that he would refer me to ICAC. I later spoke to this member and I indicated to him that none of these issues was in the realm of ICAC. He responded with something to the effect

of, "I know that, but I have achieved what I wanted. Your name will be smeared and appear on the front page in the local papers and may even appear in national news."

Despite this, all his efforts were in vain. This ploy was to provide support to the Liberal candidate who ran against me for the seat of Cabramatta at three State elections, and I beat them every time and increased my margin while I was at it. Today my margin stands at 17.2 per cent, which I feel is a standing testament to the many years of enduring support and advocacy I have provided to residents and the broader Cabramatta community.

I spoke to the former member for Mount Druitt, the Hon. Richard Amery, on several occasions concerning these untrue and frivolous accusations laid against me, and he would reply, "I'm glad I didn't come into this House with the baggage of local government"—a sentiment that I'm sure resonates with many members of this House who spent any length of time serving on local government.

Can I thank my electoral staff for their enduring diligence and professionalism throughout my service in office. The loyalty and talent of these people made my life in Parliament that much easier. May I extend my sincerest thanks to Anne McNamara, Mathew Craig and Kelvin Tran, former staff members Michelle Odisho, Kenrick Cheah, Anh Dang, Donson Phetrasy, and the late secretary of my Mount Pritchard branch, Laurie Clifton. Laurie was my mentor and great supporter, guiding me through the minefield of branch life at the start of my political journey. I would also like to thank the wonderful staff of Fairfield City Council for their support over the 25 years I spent on council.

Can I thank the tremendous efforts of the Hansard staff, who do a phenomenal job of making all members of this House sound so good in the transcripts. When I read over some of my speeches, I can see the remarkable job performed by Hansard, who work so hard to keep up with the constant interjections and noise that is part of day-to-day operations in this place. May I also thank the attendants that help us get through our day and the security personnel who work tirelessly to keep our workplace safe 24/7.

I want to especially thank the residents of Fairfield City and those residing in the Cabramatta electorate for giving me the great honour and privilege of representing them since 1987. For this privilege, I will forever be grateful to you all.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the many ALP party members who have given their time, supported me, and selected me to continue serving the party and our broader community over the years. With the party's talk of enhancement and increased participation by its members, it is important to remember these loyal party members need to be given the right to choose who the next candidate to contest the election is going to be.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my family. To my partner, Del; my two beautiful children, Paul and Kerrie, who have achieved so much and I am so tremendously proud of them; my three grandchildren, Nicky, Claudia and Liam, who are in their final years of high school, I love them so much; and to the mother and grandmother of my children, Barbara—I owe them all a very deep debt of gratitude, as their love and guidance has assisted me in all my political endeavours. I have cherished their support throughout this entire journey from the very beginning.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Cabramatta and confirm that the remainder of his valedictory speech will be incorporated in *Hansard* pursuant to the resolution of the House on 15 November 2022.

I now call the "Emeritus Speaker", the member for South Coast, to present her valedictory speech.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (15:39): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am not emeritus though, unless you are doing something that I do not know about. Are you?

The SPEAKER: I have just done it.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Thank you. I thank everybody for coming today, in particular members of the Labor Party. I know I gave you a really hard time for a long time, but it is really nice that you came. If you are looking for an apology and a sign that I am sorry—no, I am not sorry! For the times I asked you to go, one after the other—God, I had a good time doing that. I want to make a couple of apologies to the member for Keira, who is not here of course, the member for Rockdale and the member for Cessnock, who spent more time out of the Chamber than in the Chamber when I was Speaker. I do apologise for that. But they did take it in good humour and I love them for that. They are good guys.

I did not really want to do this today: I just wanted to go. I did not want to make a fuss. I did not tell my family. I did not invite any of our conference members. I just wanted to go quietly. I have had people say, "You have to write a valedictory speech. You've got to do it." So I have, and I will to the best of my ability, without crying. I did not want to tell my family because I think the only reason they would have turned up was to make sure I was leaving. After 40 years of local government service and service in this place for 20 years, I think they did not believe that I would go. But here I am, and I am on my way. It has been a fantastic but wild and crazy ride—eight years in opposition, eight years as Speaker, and then as a Minister.

I have had such a varied role in this place and I am so blessed to have done that. I have enjoyed every minute of it—except for the appalling behaviour of some members opposite. That was not so great; that was not easy. But I look forward to leaving this place fairly quietly. I have not been a quiet person in my past but I look forward to leaving quietly—going home to my beautiful South Coast home and enjoying my grandchildren, doing a bit of gardening and maybe playing bingo, or things that old people do. I do not know. It is funny when we talk about our children. I will mention them, even though I did not tell them about this today because none of my children have taken any interest in politics whatsoever—unsurprisingly.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Smart kids.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Smart kids: One is a veterinarian, one is a lawyer, and one is a police officer. They just went in different directions, and I am so happy that they did. I am happy because they are way cleverer than I ever was and they have gone ahead in life, with their challenges, of course—all of them. But they have done very well and given me nine beautiful grandchildren, so I will enjoy them immensely. My husband has been a great partner to me over the past 43 years of marriage. He would come regularly to functions with me as I am the member for South Coast. I am sure he was disappointed every Monday morning when I packed my bags, left to come to Sydney and did not return until Friday. Then we would go out to whatever function was on. He was loved probably more than I was when we went to functions. If I went to a function without him, people would say, "Where's Ossie? Is he here?" I would say, "Well, I'm here." They loved him and I thank him for all of those times that perhaps he would have preferred to be somewhere else, but he was not. He went and he has been a great husband—in that respect, anyway. He is not a great cook, or anything else.

I see, hopefully, the next Liberal member for the South Coast, Luke Sikora, in the gallery. We made fantastic friends with our veteran community on the South Coast. They are just beautiful people. They have taught us, and me in particular, so much. I do not want to leave anybody out, but I mention particularly the Korean War veterans, who made the first appointment to see me when I became the member for South Coast. They spoke to me about the lack of recognition of Korean War veterans post armistice. They were some of the best people we ever met. Sadly, some of them are now deceased, but Bob and Mavis Morris, and Rod and Janet Copeland taught this old history teacher a bit about the Korean War that I had never learnt in school, in university, and never taught at high school. These people have enriched our lives, and that is what our veterans do. I am so proud to have made so many good friends in the veteran community, and Luke knows that.

But my family have always supported me, of course. I speak about them not disparagingly, they have always supported me. Even after a strange U-turn of careers, after 27 years as an English History teacher. I was not a member of the Liberal Party. I never ever intended to come to this place. I did not even know where it was or what it was or who was the Premier. I was not interested. I just enjoyed my teaching career. I loved it, just loved it. In 2002 somebody said to me, "Would you like to join the Liberal Party and run for the seat of South Coast?" It was obviously a Labor seat then and I thought about it. The rest is history; I did it. But I did not know anything about SECs or FECs or Liberal Party rules or some of the shady characters that lurk around the corridors of the Liberal Party.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Why are you looking at me?

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: I was looking for Matt Kean but he is not here. I did not understand any of that—and to be honest, I still do not understand any of that. I do not know the rules and regulations. I do not know much about the SECs or FECs. I know they are important but, quite frankly, I knew then as I know now, that what was important was to look after the people of the South Coast. That is all that mattered, and still does. I am going to mention quite a few people today. There are so many people I could mention but cannot mention because there is not enough time. There are so many people I need to call out and say they have been just wonderful people. For all of you, if you do not get a mention, whether you are Labor or Liberal, you are Green, you are Shooters and Fishers, you are Independents, whatever you are, I just think so much of all of you because of the passion you bring to this place and the sacrifices you make. I love youse all for that! Even though we disagree and some of you have got crazy, crazy bloody ideas, really, I respect you all. Was that a point of order against that word?

Mr Jamie Parker: No.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: So, please accept my apologies if I do not mention you. Here are some of my champions in this place. The first champion group, and the most important group of people in this place to me, is IT. Can anybody relate to that?

Mr Geoff Provest: I can.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Yes, IT. Why? Because I know nothing about IT. For some period of time I had Speaker's staff and ministerial staff doing things for me. I would say, "Jane"—and there she is—"I can't turn on the computer, which button is it? Jane? Jane?" I just did not know. Then I had to do it myself. Oh my God! Those people in IT are so patient. You get on the phone, "Yes, Mrs Hancock. Yes, you just go to this icon." I would say, "Slow down, speak in a language I can understand." You know what they are like, if you have ever dealt with IT. They are so patient with people of my age and my generation, and my lack of knowledge. They could be really impatient, but they are not. IT, you are all champions in this place, and I think I speak for everybody, even the technological giants like Felicity who know what they are doing. I have asked here for help. For somebody who does not even know how to download an app or get an app—I think I did that the first time

the other day—or what a podcast is. All these things that I have discovered because I have had to do it myself. But, I am a different generation. I am Brad's generation. We did not have calculators at school or anything like that. I taught at school with blackboards and chalk, for goodness sake.

Mr Brad Hazzard: So did I.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Thank you, IT. Of course, the champion of champions of IT is Victor Dominello. There he is, my love. We have been mates for a long time and good friends. Without Service NSW a lot of our communities would still be in the Dark Ages. I thank Victor, who is the champion of champions of IT and for everything he has done digitally—whatever that means. I know you have come a long way, Victor. I congratulate you because you are just a giant.

Mr Victor Dominello: Thank you.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: We used to sit up there in the back bench and didn't we have some great conversations about you know who?

Mr Victor Dominello: And I am still scared of you.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: You are not scared of me, no. Now I go to the Clerk and the staff of the Parliament. I have worked with three clerks. The first was Russell Grove. Of course, that was in my early days as a Speaker. He was a bit quizzical about me. He did not quite know how to take me. He would come into my office before question time and just sit there, with his head on that side and then this side. He would say, "Are you all right?" I would say, "Yes, fine." He just sat and comforted me. If there were any questions I had, he would answer them. Then there was Ronda Miller—mad. The first female Clerk. I was proud to be part of her appointment process. She was a wonderful person and again, thoroughly loyal. By that stage I was getting to the time when I did not always accept the Clerk's advice—mostly, but not always. Then along came Helen. You all know what Helen is like—gentle, intelligent, knowledgeable, everything you expect a Clerk to be and want a Clerk to be. But more than that, just a wonderful, beautiful human being. And Carly sitting there, how long have you been here Carly?

[A member interjected.]

Carly, I hope that you are here for a lot longer because of the service that you also provide to members. They know what you are like, and of course, all the Clerks at the table. Everyone in this House—and I say this from the perspective of being the Speaker for a long time—knows what makes this place tick and who makes this place tick. It is none of us. It is everybody at the front of House. It is the caterers. Thank God for catering; I love catering. The cleaners, the drivers. I got to have drivers when I was the Speaker and a Minister. To Tony, to Ranveer, to Gary; they are like family, as you said yesterday, Brad. They really are like family. My grandchildren used to come and greet them, "Hello, Tony" when we left or came back on a Friday afternoon. Our drivers are such good people, and we are blessed to have them when we are privileged enough to have them. So, thank you to them.

There is Mark Webb—we never did get to have lunch. I will come back and we will have lunch. To Peter and Ian and all of the people who work in this place, thank you so much for everything you do for the members who are here in this place at the moment. There are some strange individuals. Have I spoken too long? Yes, I knew it. I am going to wander over here. Where is my name up there? There it is, in Speaker's row. You see the one next to it, Thomas George. You do not remember Thomas George being Acting Speaker, do you?

[A member interjected.]

Of course he was kind. The reason his name is up there is that he was acting for me for sometime when tragedy hit my family and I had to take some time off. Just generally speaking, Thomas George would come in after a particularly torrid question time when Daley was giving me heaps, or Keira or somebody, and he would just pop in the door and say, "Are you all right?" I would say, "Sure, I'm fine." He would say, "Okay, just checking." Sometimes I was not all right, but I was not going to tell him. He checked on me every day. He is a special person and his name needs to be up there. It is so appropriate that it is up there in Speaker's row. They will probably take mine down.

Greg Warren, where is he? I just wanted to mention him as shadow Minister for Local Government because he worked with me so well and so closely on local government matters, so respectfully. I wish him luck in the future because I think working on legislation closely together, if you have got a shadow who can work with you—we did work well. I was very happy it was Greg Warren that I had to work with rather than, say, the member for Rockdale or someone. Thank you Greg wherever you are, for working collaboratively with me. You two are an absolute pair of champions. What do you call a pair of champions—a murder of crows or whatever it is? That absolute pair of champions over there inspired me and they have inspired me as long as they have been here—

which is not that long, five minutes really. They are extraordinary. Both have shown courage and passion when introducing legislation perhaps too controversial for either major party to. You led us to be able to have conscience votes, which allowed us to discard our party loyalties and vote for what we thought was right.

Mr Brad Hazzard: You have not said who they are yet.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: I did. You should listen.

The SPEAKER: For the record, the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: What did I say?

Mr Brad Hazzard: Those. But you are always right Shelley, I am wrong.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: I know. Can I just say, your advocacy for the most marginalised in our communities has been something to behold. It is not just for the most marginalised in my community or yours, but the entire State. You have done so much. You have been brave and courageous. I love you both and I am sure we will dine again some Monday night. We might invite you again.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Oh, thanks.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: I have enjoyed your company over such a long time. You are great, brave souls. I love you both and I will miss you. Here is a strange one. The lady opposite, Janelle Saffin, the member for Lismore, what a champion! During the floods in Lismore I listened to that brave lady's story about her swimming out of her home to save her life. Every day she appeared before the media with Government members whom I am sure she recognised worked hard. I respect this courageous, brave and beautiful lady. I am choosing a random group of people and Janelle is one of them. Steph Cooke, who is not here, emerged as the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery and what a treasure she is. She puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She believes emergency; she feels it. She is just beautiful. She left today probably to go to Eugowra or Forbes, or wherever the floods are affecting people so badly. Steph Cooke is a champion. We are lucky to have her as Minister. She has been unbelievable.

Jamie Parker, who is here, gets a mention too because he is still the teacher's pet. He was the teacher's pet when he was a member, sitting on the backbench in the Chamber. It is hard for me to say this because he is a Green, but he is still the teacher's pet because he was so respectful. If he interjected it was without malice and without aggression. It does not mean to say he was not assertive on behalf of the causes for which he stood up. You are a lovely guy and The Greens will miss you. People like you do not come along very often. I love you too. I had better get back to members on my side before they kill me and walk out. I refer next to a model member of Parliament and someone that everybody should aspire to be—passionate, happy all the time, hardworking, relentless, knocking on my door when I was a Minister to do this and that for the Central Coast. It does not get much better than this guy. He throws everything into his role as a local member.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Are you going to name him?

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: What did you say?

Mr Brad Hazzard: You have to tell us who he is.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: I did, didn't I?

Mr Brad Hazzard: No.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Is he not the member for Central Coast? Oh no, he is the member for Terrigal. The member for Terrigal is a one-off and very special. There is no-one in this place who does not love you. Well done. Good luck in the election. We will meet again, I am sure.

Mr Adam Crouch: For sure.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Here are some of my other friends and champions in this place. Melinda Pavey, a bloody talented woman, will be missed. She is much loved. What a loss. Now I am going to start crying. I have to mention Gladys Berejiklian even though it has been a while ago. She was one of my closest and dearest friends. We came into this place in the same year. I still miss her to this day and people in my electorate miss her. They still cry when they talk to me in the street and ask, "How is Gladys? Isn't it terrible that they did what they did to her." They do not really know who "they" are but it is terrible what "they" did to her. They are not quite sure. But, yes, I miss her. I was broken-hearted about what happened to her, but anyway. I mention also John Brogden. I would not be here without John Brogden. He had to give me the tick off to say, "Yeah, she's all right. She'll do," as the candidate for South Coast. I still think a great deal of John Brogden. He was an immense talent, charismatic, and a beautiful person. I will always think highly of him and love him too until the day I die.

I mention next some of the big and bold characters that some members may not remember. Do members remember Richard Amery? He used to sit on the Opposition benches and make me cry with laughter when I was in the Speaker's chair. He was a funny guy. He was worse than I was with technology. He still used a typewriter and a little policeman's notebook. But he was one of the very rare people who had natural wit and good humour. He was a witty and funny guy. Not many of those people exist. The member for Fairfield will remember Richard Amery—a champion. Andrew Tink was also one of those guys who made us laugh out loud. I have to mention Anthony Roberts. He would not be here, would he? No, of course not. He is one of the big, bold characters of this place. That is why I love this place. He is big, bold and funny. Do members remember the bloody box that he used to bring in? What he said this afternoon just makes one laugh. We disagree in many areas and in many ways, but I think he is a great big, bold character—one of those characters that I will never forget in this place. Well done, Anthony.

Dare I say it but the next one is John Barilaro. These are the big characters. John was a big character but small in stature. However, he never backed down. I am just being factual. He never backed down to anybody. He stood up for what he believed in. There was one exception; he backed down to Gladys Berejiklian, of course. Members will remember Noreen Hay who used to interject from the Opposition benches and say, "Lazy, lazy, lazy." Of course her interjections were directed to us. She is a good friend of mine; a great person. Those interjections were also without malice. They were funny and noisy. In the first four years of my speakership people tended to be kinder to each other. I guess one of my parting messages is: Please be kind to each other. Nobody else will be; most people hate our occupation. We have to be kind to each other. I mention Adam Marshall because he is an extremely intelligent young man. He is the champion of cracking speeches. He gives fantastic, brilliant speeches. Well done, Adam.

I refer next to some really close friends. The friend that tops the list has to be Melanie Gibbons—a talented, young, gentle woman, who has never torn anybody down publicly or privately. To me, she is never critical of anybody. She is just a gem. Dom, I think you should do everything you can to keep her in this place. We do not want to lose a woman of her integrity and loyalty. She is a beautiful friend.

Ms Melanie Gibbons: Thank you.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Don't cry. How much longer do I have?

The SPEAKER: You have as long as you need.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: Felicity Wilson—talkative, loquacious and garrulous. Did I say talkative? I do not know how many times I have said, "Felicity, just shut up. Just shut up. You don't have to be so difficult. You don't have to be so argumentative. You don't have to know everything or pretend to know everything." Even though she has annoyed me in the past, I love her to bits. She is immensely talented. If you listen to some of the speeches she has delivered in this place you will be more than impressed. The hope and the future of the Liberal-Nationals Coalition in New South Wales is Felicity Wilson. God love you.

Where is Eleni? Oh my God, she is another one—feisty, problematic, argumentative, pisses off the men, intimidates the men, and I just love her for who she is. I said to her yesterday, "For goodness sake, Eleni, if people ask you to change, you might soften around the edges a little bit but don't change. Don't change who you are. Never change who you are." I am still an idiot. I am who I am and you need to do that. God love you, girl. I will move quickly now as I have taken too much time. Everybody will want to go to the bar. To my friends Gareth Ward and Andrew Constance, they have had their own challenges. They are still my friends. I hope that all good things come to them in the future. It is tough for them.

I have said many times in this Chamber that my electorate of South Coast is the most beautiful in the State, with its pristine beaches, beautiful villages and towns. You all know that because you all want to live there or travel there on your holidays. Jihad Dib knows that because he lived there for a while. It has beautiful national parks, forests and beaches, bays and rivers—everything that one could ask for—with no high-rise like the Central Coast. High-rise to people in the South Coast is two storeys. "We don't like two storeys; that's high-rise." That is what the South Coast is. We do not want it to change too much. We do not like too much attention; we just want to do our own thing, be who we are and stay the same, basically speaking, as we have always been.

The South Coast is a wonderful electorate but it faced bushfires and tragedies before the 2019-20 bushfires. That one was the worst of all. I lost two of my closest friends in those bushfires; they lost their lives. We lost everything on our property in Lake Conjola, Conjola Park. We did not live there but everything else was there. It was very tough. Then we had floods that devastated our dairy farmers and our communities. But we are so resilient, as most of our communities are. We are resilient and brave and we will come back. Even now when we are suffering through difficult times of very high rainfall—not the floods that Janelle's electorate suffered—we have a resilient community. We have a great community.

In many ways we have a diverse community. In terms of accepting of diversity, I always knew that during the marriage equality debate my electorate of South Coast and the wider Federal electorate of Gilmore would be right up there in the statistics in favour of marriage equality and, yes, they were. They were the highest, I think, in regional New South Wales or regional Australia. Yay! I predicted what would happen. The Federal member did not, but I did, and I am proud of my community. Their attitude would be "Hey, whatever makes you happy." That is a beach community and a coastal community. We all want to be happy and we want to let everybody else be happy and not stand in the way of anybody else's happiness. Thank you.

I thank all of my volunteers, my friend Jan Gregory, who is in the Chamber—she is only in Parliament for the Women's Council otherwise she probably would not be here to see me—and all my staff who have worked in ministerial offices. Luke Sikora is in the Chamber. I know he is going to win. He has worked beside me on so many of the issues in the South Coast, whether it is the Bay and Basin Police Station, the Princes Highway, Burrill Lake Bridge or Termeil Creek Bridge—it goes on and on. He has been there; he knows all about them. I thank all the volunteers from the RFS, the SES, Marine Rescue and Surf Life Saving who fought during the floods and the bushfires. I have had something to do with all of them for a long period. I also thank all the volunteers in the State electorate conference and my branch members and people who are not branch members who have helped me win five elections and who stood in the rain and heat and worked for me voluntarily. I will do a different thank you to them.

To my staff in the electorate office—Lynne, Adam and Caitlin—thank you for working so well with the South Coast community. Lynne and Adam have served for 20 years. I thank the staff in the Speaker's office, including Luke, Jane, Bryce, Mark, Troy, Sean, Brigid, Gladys, Jo and Michelle. I took most of them when I went to the ministerial office. I think you wanted some of them, Mr Speaker, but you were not about to get them because they are a class act. Anybody who has ever dealt with people like Luke, Jane or Troy—or any of the rest of them—know that they are special people. They cared about every member who walked in the door upstairs. They treated them with respect and love because that is how I trained them. You treat a Labor Party person the same way as a Greens person. Whether they are crazy or not, you treat them well. Bryce, Clayton and Damien are in the public gallery. They are still here; they survived. I thank all of them. I must also mention Tracey Hodgkinson. I thank them all. You have all changed my life, and I hope that I have changed yours.

The last thing I have to say is about Dom Perrottet. Who knew that I would say this about him? He is smart—seriously—clever and intelligent. I am not making that up; I do not need to because I am leaving this place. I do not need to suck up. I have learned when I have listened to him and observed him that he is courageous, intelligent and clever, and nobody else will come close in this State in the near future to matching his skills. I say that with all sincerity. I will do everything I can to at least retain the electorate of South Coast and help you retain government because we deserve to be in government. We are a good Government. We have been a good Government. As long as we keep the South Coast in Liberal hands—where it should be—that will be my contribution. All the best to you, Dom. I know that you are going to be great. He is a star. I know everyone has quoted poetry. I think it was Churchill. The Minister for Health quoted some poetry.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Robert Frost.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK: No, the member for Oxley quoted Robert Frost. I do not know what you quoted. I cannot remember. Everybody does that. I am not going to do that because the old English teacher in me could not find anything quite appropriate, except for the lyrics of a lady called Vera Lynn. Anybody heard of Vera Lynn? Do not start singing. I am doing it not just for all of you but also for my mother because this was a song played at my mother's funeral. She loved Vera Lynn. She was a woman born in Carlisle in England, and during the war she met my father who was on leave in Carlisle with the Royal Australian Air Force. They met and six weeks later they were married, and they were married till the day that my dad died. I loved him and I loved her. This is what I say to all of you, and I am not singing it and do not join in:

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for South Coast for her valedictory speech. I learnt a lot from her as a previous Speaker. I have also learnt a lot from her as a member in this place and as a person. Shelley, that was a wonderful speech. I thank you for it.

*Private Members' Statements***CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS**

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:16): The member for South Coast and former Speaker's valedictory speech will be a very hard act to follow, but I will do my best. I acknowledge some incredible regional businesses recently celebrated at the 2022 Central Coast Regional Business Awards. Business NSW is the State's peak policy and advocacy body and has represented New South Wales businesses since 1826. Recognition from Business NSW is something to be proud of, so I congratulate all the finalists and the winners. The awards are designed to recognise growth, resilience and entrepreneurship, and celebrate the success of our regional businesses, which have done it so tough over the past few years. I am so proud of all the businesses on the Central Coast, which, during the toughest of times, stayed focused and resilient, and did all the things necessary to ensure that people on the Central Coast were kept safe and in work. I am also proud of the Government for providing support to those businesses during some of those tough times.

Winners of the regional round of the awards will proceed to represent the region at the upcoming New South Wales Business Awards. I highlight the Chamberlain Group in West Gosford, which I have had the pleasure of visiting, which was named 2022 Central Coast Business of the Year and also received top honours in the Excellence in Sustainability category. The company's impressive regional vision, supported by its core values of sustainability and passion, have driven the success of the business. General manager of operations and business development Graeme Sheekey accepted the award on behalf of the team. Graeme is an outstanding leader in his field. He travelled to Sydney for the awards before flying to Abu Dhabi to represent his company overseas. Chamberlain Group not only provides products domestically but internationally as well. The largest manufacturer of residential and commercial garage door openers and gate access systems in the world, Chamberlain Group is a major international company located on the Central Coast. After its acquisition of Grifco in 2007, its West Gosford site has gone from strength to strength under a lean business model that maximises value while minimising waste. I congratulate the company on showing excellent initiative by underpinning business virtues with sustainability.

I congratulate one of Australia's leading nursing agencies, Nurses Now, which provides experienced and skilled 24-hour on-call nursing staff to support people in need, on its award in the Excellence in Large Business category. From its roots at the family dining table, the company has grown to become one of the leading employers of healthcare staff in New South Wales. LEP Digital was recognised in the Excellence in Small Business category. Based in Erina, this small business consists of a team of talented and passionate content marketers who endeavour to support dynamic and forward-thinking brands to succeed in a digital place. By intertwining data and design, LEP Digital innovatively and authentically connects with audiences. Melinda McCrone, a data-driven marketer at LEP Digital, was named Employee of the Year, and founder and director Laura Prael was recognised as an Outstanding Business Leader. These are incredible achievements for Melinda, Laura and all the staff at LEP Digital. I congratulate this team of digital masterminds.

I congratulate AAGilesberg Productions, which was founded by Amanda and Craig Giles—Craig is actually in the Parliament today—on taking out the top award for Excellence in Micro Business. Founded in 2006, the company provides high-end video production on the Central Coast and also does work in the Parliament. With a passionate team focused on building networks within the industry, this microbusiness is on track for huge success. I also congratulate The Grants Whisperer founder and director Louise Fisher on her company being named Outstanding Start-up. A specialist consulting firm, The Grants Whisperer team is committed to supporting local businesses, community organisations and local government with developments, taking projects from grant ready to shovel ready. What a fantastic job Louise does.

I congratulate Industree Group Pty Ltd, which has been recognised in the Excellence in Innovation category. The company is an Australian designer and manufacturer of premium personal protective equipment—PPE, as we all know it. Independent and Australian owned, the company's focus is centred on designing the ultimate PPE for the consumer, with a range extending from disposable protection to clothing and workwear, as well as hearing, ocular and respiratory protection. The list goes on. I congratulate Kings of Neon on its Excellence in Export award and the incredible Australian Reptile Park on its Employee of Choice and Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion awards. I know Minister Roberts has been to the reptile park numerous times, where he saw some interesting wildlife. It is a great place to take the family. Finally, I congratulate Pacific Link Housing on its Truly Outstanding Community Organisation award and Sam Lentini on being recognised as the Central Coast's Outstanding Young Business Leader.

ORANGE ELECTORATE FLOODS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (16:21): I update the House on the impacts of flooding across my electorate. Many people living in communities across the Orange electorate and beyond are experiencing another devastating natural disaster that will have a dramatic and lasting effect on their lives and livelihoods. There have

been reports of people's homes dislodging from footings and floating away in the currents of the floodwater at Eugowra—family homes and possessions completely lost, destroyed or damaged beyond repair. The flooding is not just in Eugowra; it is also affecting communities elsewhere in the Central West. As I speak, people are still unaccounted for at Eugowra. I note that the Deputy Premier indicated in question time that the body of a female person was located today. My heartfelt and sincere condolences go out to her and her family. I hope and pray that those who are missing are located safe and well, and that they are soon reunited with their families and loved ones.

Last weekend much of the Central West experienced a rain event that exceeded records. Given that the ground was already fully saturated, the rain ran into waterways causing flash flooding, catching some communities unawares and unprepared. The flooding at Eugowra triggered an emergency response, with multiple helicopters deployed to rescue people who had scrambled to rooftops and tree canopies to escape the raging floodwaters. There was a whole-of-government response to the emergency, with all full-time and volunteer rescue agencies deployed to rescue as many people as possible. They have all done a magnificent job in very difficult circumstances. I congratulate everyone on their efforts. This is the first time in history that all State emergency services responses have been exhausted in response to flooding, necessitating calls for assistance from interstate and abroad, with assistance coming from New Zealand.

Australian Defence Force assets have also been deployed to assist with rescue efforts. While Eugowra was hit hardest and fastest, many other communities across the region experienced record rainfall and flooding. Molong experienced a flood like no other in recent history, with floodwater extending higher in the township than other floods this century. At least 60 homes and businesses were directly impacted at Molong alone. I was there on Monday morning and witnessed the community pulling together to help each other by removing what property they could save from flood damage and emptying water-damaged possessions from shops and local businesses.

Canowindra, Cudal, Bogan Gate and Trundle—the list of communities hit by heavy rain and flooding goes on. Forbes, which was hit with flooding a couple of weeks ago, is now bracing for what is predicted to be the biggest flood on record. It is expected to exceed the big flood of 1952, which is a record that nobody would wish for. The spillage from Wyangala Dam will add to the significant flood impact and prolong the flooding in Forbes and the greater Lachlan Valley. The Newell Highway is cut off by floodwaters and will be for many weeks ahead. Forbes is stranded again. The same happened in 2016. It had and will again have a devastating economic impact on businesses and the local community.

The personal loss is irreplaceable. The damage to businesses has been challenging, on top of successive impacts from drought, mouse plague, COVID lockdowns and successive flooding. Our communities are resilient, but there is only so much that can be endured. The damage to infrastructure will be in the billions of dollars. There have been reports of bridges being dislodged from pylons and drifting away, roads being destroyed by sinkholes, and rail lines being totally buckled. There will be much work to do at a significant cost, with disruptions to infrastructure and networks continuing long after the floodwaters subside and the weather changes.

Telephone and digital networks have been impacted, adding to the challenges for emergency services coordinating resources and locating people who are unaccounted for. Restoration of communications has been an important priority for government and providers in the response to this disaster. Natural disasters have been declared in at least 70 local government areas, and communities wait upon the Australian Government to respond to the Premier's request for disaster assistance to get much-needed funding to those people who need it now.

I implore the State and Federal governments to cooperate and expedite that process as an urgent priority. Many people have lost everything but the clothes on their backs, and will need financial support and assistance to get back on their feet. Welfare agencies and government support services are being coordinated to assist those affected. Many people living in the flood zone have been accommodated by family or friends or in emergency accommodation sites and evacuation centres, at which various services have been placed to assist people face to face. I urge everyone to stay safe, take care and look out for each other. I sincerely thank all the emergency service workers and volunteers who have worked long hours to help protect local communities.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (16:27): On behalf of all members in the Chamber, particularly those who have gone through such devastating natural disasters like me, I wish all the best to the member for Orange. I hope his communities are safe and that they get through this. He is doing extraordinarily well as the local member by offering leadership and support and being there when his community most needs him. Well done.

SHELLHARBOUR ELECTORATE PUBLIC HOUSING

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (16:27): As I have said many times over the years, the true measure of a society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. The current public housing crisis in the Shellharbour electorate and across New South Wales indicates that we, as a society, have failed our most vulnerable. The residents of the Shellharbour electorate who are most in need of help to put a roof over their heads

have been abandoned by the Government. In 2021, 608 people were on the Shellharbour general waitlist for public housing and another 49 were on the priority list. The wait time is currently around 20 years. The reality on the ground is much worse than the official waiting times suggest. Many people on the list are giving up and removing their names without having gained social housing tenancies due to the ridiculous wait time. They are falling through the cracks, with many becoming homeless.

In 2020-21 over 48 per cent of people seeking accommodation because they were homeless had to be turned away due to a lack of available spaces, and that figure has been growing steadily year after year. Last year, over 70,000 people needed support from homelessness service providers, but those providers only had funding to support 58,000 clients. That massive gap—25 per cent—should not exist in a country like Australia. Last month, the NSW Council of Social Service [NCOSS] reported that homelessness has increased by around 10 per cent in New South Wales since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, as more people seek assistance from specialist homelessness services. NCOSS also reported that 54,000 households have entered or experienced a worsening of housing stress since the start of the pandemic. Importantly, NCOSS stated that the pandemic itself is not solely to blame; the pandemic exposed underlying failures of housing policy in New South Wales.

The New South Wales Government has spent just \$869 million on social and affordable housing projects over the past two years, which will contribute to building only about 880 new homes. That is not nearly enough to assist the 50,000 households currently on the social housing waiting list. It is equivalent to putting a bandaid on a bullet wound. To help alleviate the housing and homelessness crisis and, the State desperately needs to catch up by building 5,000 new homes each year for the next 10 years. But only 5 per cent of housing currently being built is dedicated public housing. That is clearly too low.

As members of the House are aware, I am a strong advocate for victims of family and domestic violence. The provision of adequate public housing is critical to ensuring that people in danger can leave abusive partners, knowing that long-term public housing is a short wait away, not 10 years. Women find it particularly difficult to secure public housing, especially older women fleeing domestic violence situations, including coercive control. It is more difficult for women aged in their 50s, 60s and 70s because access to the priority list for social housing on the basis of age is limited to people over the age of 80. Currently nearly 5,000 women aged 55 or older are on the waitlist for social housing in the State. Many of those women come from abusive relationships that have left them without savings or adequate superannuation, so they have no hope of getting a private rental home.

Those women are at real risk of homelessness. They should not have to sleep in a car or on a friend's lounge or floor to stay warm at night. The public housing crisis in New South Wales is part of a broader housing crisis that extends from public housing through to the private rental market. The Government can take pressure off the private rental market by investing more in public housing and it can take pressure off homelessness service providers by building more public housing. It is a win-win and a no-brainer. It is time for action. I urge the Government to finally do something about this situation, which it has known about for the 12 long years that it has been in government.

HEALTHY CITY DESIGN

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport) (16:32): The community in Pittwater thrives because of the natural and built environment surrounding it. Beautiful landscapes and good public infrastructure entice people out of their homes. That can be seen walking on the beaches first thing in the morning, bustling through busy shopping streets during the day, and on playing fields and in parks throughout the weekend. However, for many in the community physical activity is not a part of everyday life, directly increasing susceptibility to developing chronic non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and diabetes. While the causes of type 1 diabetes are not clear, the environmental causes of type 2 diabetes are all around us. Thirty years ago type 2 diabetes in children was virtually unheard of. Today, in Australia, almost 1,200 children and young people live with the condition. By 2050, 3.1 million Australians, or one in 12, will be living with diabetes. The cost to the Australian economy will be \$45 billion per year.

We lament how poor health impacts our lives. As leaders, we must reflect on how our decisions create the conditions for wellbeing. Cities have been designed in a way that limits the mobility choices people are able to make. Marchetti's constant is a planning principle showing that, through the ages and in different technological eras, people have always been willing to budget an hour of their day—half an hour each way—to travel to and from work. In the past, that meant people would walk up to 30 minutes each way. Now people spend that time sedentary, in private cars or on public transport. We have quite literally manufactured our very own global physical inactivity pandemic. When you consider research by Transport for London, which found that the likelihood for individual obesity decreases 4.8 per cent for every kilometre walked per day, city design is a huge inhibitor to our community living healthier and therefore richer lives. In 2016 research in *The Lancet* found that, in a study of

14 cities on five continents, the density of homes, intersections, public transport and parks in cities were all significantly and positively related to physical activity. This study, published in a medical journal, found:

Design of urban environments has the potential to contribute substantially to physical activity.

As Danish architect Helle Søholt said, the solution to urban diabetes is not medicine—it is urban planning. Some private developers moan that things such as trees, paths and parks add up-front costs. However, just as fast food is cheaper in the short term, the long-term costs pan out to be much more. Depriving families of the means to live healthy lives condemns them to lives limited by chronic illness. That is why it was personally gutting that my efforts to introduce basic urban design standards in new subdivisions—such as ensuring footpaths and street trees, and even no-cost interventions like lighter coloured roofs—were so cynically opposed.

As a society, we can choose between investing in the essential infrastructure that encourages healthy lifestyles or paying the hospital bill for a growing pandemic of non-communicable disease. In an aging society, we need to look at all the ways we can prevent the cost burden of unnecessary sickness. In urban areas that already exist, we need to retrofit our public spaces, transport systems and built environment to make walking and cycling easier. Many of the impacts of density that turn communities against development, like traffic and design, can be solved by creating new infill development where residents do not rely on the car to leave their home. More housing close to jobs, schools, transport and public space, and linked by walking and cycling, is the solution to so many of our society's ills.

I have been fortunate to be part of the Commission on Creating Healthy Cities led by Oxford University and The Prince's Foundation. The commission brings together leaders from around the world on healthy city design. We found that urban design curates the way people live in cities. If we design and facilitate safe, friendly and healthy streets, people who use them daily will live safe, friendly and healthy lives. It is that simple. Just as our careers demonstrate the consequence of our educational choices, so too our health and wellbeing reflect the consequences of our life choices. Urban design shapes the unconscious choices we make about our health and wellbeing. Good design saves money and lives. It gives people a richer, safer and more meaningful experience of life as well. As the head of the commission, and former head of the National Health Service, Lord Crisp said, "Health is made at home, hospitals are for repairs." Good health does not just mean curing disease. It means living happier, more active lives to prevent disease in the first place. We can only do this if our cities are designed to support the rights of every human to live as healthy, social and active citizens.

HOUSING POLICY

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (16:37): Last week I spoke in this House about the housing supply and rental crisis in my electorate of Strathfield. I spoke about a number of the structural and cultural problems that stand in the way of our State and our country managing housing properly, and how those problems have resulted in the current housing and rental crisis in New South Wales. I spoke about how individuals regard housing not primarily as a dwelling but as a wealth generator supported by distortionary tax concessions, such as the extremely generous capital gains tax discounts and negative gearing. As one of the biggest investments a person makes, housing causes many home owners to resist anything they regard as devaluing their home, such as additional supply or higher density. Over five million people in Australia own at least one property. Therefore, lower house prices are not in their interests.

I spoke about how development in New South Wales is almost entirely a private sector-led, short-term profit-focused, debt-fuelled, pre-sales driven, build-and-flip development model. In turn, this model has resulted in three things. First, we have seen the contraction of builder margins to commercially unsustainably low levels. That large builders such as Grocon and ProBuild could be placed into administration is the product of having multibillion-dollar projects with margins as little as 1 per cent. That is commercially unsustainable and a product of the developer driving down builder margins in competitive tender processes with fixed-price contracts.

Secondly, this model has resulted in significant quality issues in buildings. We all know about the Opal Tower debacle, where unfortunate unit purchasers have been financially ruined. According to a presentation from the office of NSW Building Commissioner David Chandler, serious defects exist in 39 per cent of New South Wales apartment buildings. Thirdly, most developers give insufficient attention to ensuring the amenity and livability of the project through proper planning. They engage in the planning process merely as a way of maximising floor space and therefore profit.

What are some of the solutions to the current state of the industry and market? First, we need to reduce housing demand by winding back some of the factors that turbocharge the view of housing as a wealth generator—as the most effective investment available. That will require the Federal Government to revisit reforms to capital gains tax concessions and negative gearing by making them less distortionary and extreme. Secondly, we need to boost the supply of housing whilst ensuring that the quality of housing and communities is enhanced. That will require reforming the current short-term focused, build-to-sell, debt-fuelled development model. As a principle,

I believe we need to encourage a longer term housing development model where developers take a longer term interest in the properties that they build, as well as having the balance sheets, business models and commitment to do so. One avenue for this is to restrict the ability of developers to pass off all the risk and liability for a project to other parties. As a principle, developers should be responsible and liable for the quality of the buildings they build, promote, sell and profit from.

The concept that if you buy an apartment in a building that has serious defects, you sue the builder or certifier and not the developer is like saying that if your iPhone does not work, you sue the Foxconn factory that assembled it and not Apple. We should consider restricting the ability of developers to wind up their development companies until a number of years after the building is built and sold, whilst also ensuring that the original directors of the company remain in place so as to be responsible long term for the quality of the building. Another avenue is encouraging the nascent build-to-rent sector in New South Wales. I commend the New South Wales Government—following on from the Victorian Government—for its recent moves to support the nascent build-to-rent sector by halving the land value assessment for land tax purposes. Under build to rent, developers would not be building and then seeking to sell the units as soon as possible but would rather hold the properties to lease long term to long-term tenants.

The benefits of this model are threefold. First, it ties the developer to the project long term, meaning that it will be much more focused on building the best quality, most sustainable product for the long term. Developers will not be incentivised to cut corners or build to the cheapest cost with the cheapest materials because they will be involved with the property long term. Developers will also be more likely to focus on the broader issues of amenity, transport, livability and sustainability through the planning process. Secondly, it switches the business model from a short-term, debt-fuelled, build-and-flip model to one based on long-term operating cashflows. This is a much more stable business model. Lastly, build-to-rent projects are also the most suitable arrangement for social and affordable housing as they lower the capital cost required to secure the accommodation for those least able to pay. As politicians, we must lead a community conversation about how we balance population growth, sustainable development and quality communities.

BALMAIN ELECTORATE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (16:42): In this private member's statement I acknowledge the people of Balmain electorate. In doing so, I highlight the successes that have been achieved only because of the strong support of the community. I will take members to a few issues that existed before I was elected to State Parliament. Our community ran an enormous campaign to extend the light rail from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill. At the time it seemed so obvious to use the old freight line but both old parties did not commit to it. In fact, it was only weeks before the 2011 State election that the old parties committed to that. It was a great tribute to everyone in the community, including the school community. The student leaders at the Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay campus made sure we had free travel on light rail for schoolkids, which was not the fact when light rail first started.

I acknowledge all the work the community did to build the inquiry into WestConnex. Groups such as Leichhardt Against WestConnex stopped the Darley Road dive site and so many other projects that would have impacted on our community. We have won a new ferry service for Glebe, which is an incredible forward step. Importantly, while the White Bay Cruise Ship terminal has caused so many problems, our community fought hard and won regulatory requirements for the use of low sulphur fuel in cruise ships, which is also a step forward. But now, as many members know, the Government has committed over \$60 million to equip White Bay with shore-power facilities to allow cruise ships and working vessels to turn off their engines at port and plug into electric power. Better yet, it will be run on 100 per cent renewable energy and is expected to save over 14,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide over 12 months.

In addition to those transport initiatives, the biggest fleet of electric buses is in the electorate. After securing the first-of-its-kind trial of four electric buses, over 3,000 people in my community signed a petition to support converting the entire bus fleet to electric. The Government has agreed to and taken on that commitment. I thank everyone in my community who worked so hard on that. Many people in my electorate do not have a place to park their car; they park on the street. Therefore, kerbside charging points are a huge issue in my community. We obtained over 1,600 names on a petition. We had multiple meetings with the Minister for Energy, as well as questions and motions in Parliament. I am pleased that the Government has committed \$10 million to co-fund 500 kerbside charging points. That is an important step forward for not only our community but also communities throughout New South Wales.

Over the 12 years I have been in this place, The Greens have passed over 100 amendments to strengthen legislation for mental health, marine parks, anti-corruption measures and heritage protections. I was proud to pass a bill to change our State's Constitution to ensure that Parliaments can meet during times of crisis so that members can sit rather than Parliament being handed over to the Executive. Importantly, I was pleased that the Government

supported my amendment to provide \$50 million in funding for green hydrogen. Critically, it also supported my amendment to the Greater Sydney Parklands bill, which secured \$14 million of funding and ensured that the Government's proposal was not proceeded with, protecting Callan Park from the risk of privatisation so that it could be enjoyed by the people of Sydney. The community has supported so many efforts, including saving Ultimo TAFE library, improving Ausgrid's tree management and ensuring that we restored \$3 million of funding cuts for local women's refuges.

I was pleased to work with the Attorney General to secure funding for the Family Law Court women's support service. We successfully negotiated with the Government for a free-of-charge lease on additional land for Glebe PCYC. We saved the Glebe Youth Service from eviction. We won \$12 million in funding for new and upgraded wharfs, a new public school for Ultimo and a ferry for Glebe; \$2.2 million to restore Dawn Fraser Baths; and \$4.75 million of funding in local parks. I also acknowledge the campaign to save the Powerhouse. Finally, over \$3 million in grant funding was provided for local sporting clubs, community organisations, women's support services, local arts, community services and local heritage funding. I acknowledge the Balmain Association, Glebe Society, Hands Off Glebe, Friends of Ultimo, Friends of Callan Park, all the P&Cs, Glebe NAIDOC, Glebe Youth Service, Leichardt Against WestCONnex, all the WestConnex groups as well as the LGBTQIA+ community, who have been so supportive. I thank them for everything they have done for our community.

SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:48): Guess what month it is? It is Small Business Month. How good it is. I know members opposite do not like small business that much. Their union mates are killing small businesses in Sydney CBD with their disgraceful train strikes. They do not care about small business. Only the Liberal-Nationals Government is the friend of small business in New South Wales. This month offers an opportunity to pay tribute to 800,000 small businesses across the State that provide essential goods and services, which contribute greatly to our State's economy—\$400 billion per year to be exact. That is what those opposite have been mucking around with. Small businesses are integral to the social and economic fabric of regional communities like Wollondilly. Small businesses form the building blocks of Wollondilly's great livability, ensuring that residents do not need to travel long distances to access the goods and services they need. Small businesses also provide invaluable employment opportunities for those who have made regional New South Wales their home.

At the heart of Wollondilly's charm and distinct local character—I always say God made the world in seven days and Wollondilly on the eighth—small businesses provide a friendly face to residents and visitors alike. I know the member for Campbelltown loves to come over the escarpment to Wollondilly to visit the beautiful shire. He might visit small businesses in my community. Does the member for Campbelltown fancy an eye check? I think he wears glasses from time to time. Hannaford Eyewear, an award-winning optometrist in Bowral, was established in 2004 by its principal, Thao Hannaford, and her husband, Grant. Since then, it has provided excellent eye care to the people throughout the Southern Highlands. I think most members of the Opposition have hearing problems so let us talk about Mittagong Audiology, which provides tailored services for anyone seeking ear-related health care. The clinic provides adult and paediatric hearing assessments, Cochlear implants and hearing aid support, just to name a few. The clinic was opened in late 2021 and Natalie and her husband have been doing a fantastic job in the region for the past 22 years.

River Road Creative Academy, one of my favourites, is just down the road from my electorate office at Tahmoor, and is led by Patrick Nielsen. It supports and nurtures music and creative talents of students of all ages in the area. Patrick has created a purposeful space with numerous programs to allow, unite and connect through people's creative endeavours. The team at River Road offer instrument tuition, and songwriting, music production and filmmaking workshops. If members have the pleasure to visit River Road, they will witness and appreciate firsthand the work of Patrick and his team. Small businesses create a sense of community that is unique in a region like Wollondilly and are responsible for attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

SoHi Spirits is another small business in my electorate. I note some members of the Opposition have been sneaking into my office and sampling some of my gin and vodka, even though alcohol is banned in this place. I will not name names. We say it is 12-year-old apple juice. SoHi Spirits is a family-owned business that began as a passion project and has been winning awards. The founder is Bowral local Alex Doughty. The business offers spirits that appeal to the senses, with its beautifully crafted packaging and excellent taste. The business is a passionate supporter of local growers and producers. For example, its potato crisp vodka uses potatoes sourced from Family Hill Potatoes in Robertson, and its gin botanicals are sourced from the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, just to name a few.

It is incredible to see small businesses supporting other small businesses, especially those within the agricultural industry that have suffered so much in recent years due to fire, droughts and floods. One of the biggest changes we have seen in the planning instrument that comes in on 1 December is helping agritourism businesses.

The member for Londonderry has a couple of agritourism businesses in her electorate as does the member for Wyong. The member for Campbelltown might have a couple of agritourism businesses that will do well as a result of this draft change. Obviously, my colleagues in The Nationals are all behind it. The silver fox from Tweed loves agritourism. Small businesses have shown resilience, great ability and smart thinking during the past few years, and I am their biggest supporter.

WYONG ELECTORATE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:53): I refer to some important organisations in my community. Specifically, I reiterate that the way that a community looks after its most vulnerable people says the most about that community. I know Mr Assistant Speaker shares some of the same services I do in supporting, in particular, the homeless and vulnerable people in our areas. Tonight I talk about Coast Hands and Southlakes Incorporated and the work that they do with Bikers Hand and many other local businesses.

On Saturday night we participated in a fundraiser at the beautiful Royal Hotel in Wyong, which is owned by the wonderful Frank and Marney, who support the community. The old Royal Hotel used to be a place to stay away from. Since Frank and Marney have taken over, it has become not only a cultural hub but also a food mecca and a great place to help community groups to raise money. We held a beach-party themed event there. Local band The Phoenix was playing. It is a very good cover band, for anyone who is interested. Together with patrons, we raised over \$2,000 on the night. That will go to Coast Hands and Southlakes Incorporated to help over Christmas. When many services close down over Christmas, those two organisations continue to operate and provide services. The great thing about them is that they are totally run by volunteers. They have no paid staff. They just got together because they saw a need in the community. They provide a great service.

Recently I was at Kibble Park in Gosford, where I saw their important work firsthand. On the night in Gosford, Orange Sky did the laundry and a chef volunteered his services to produce wonderful Italian food and chocolate mousse for the people. The food was hot for the clients on the night and extras were put into takeaway containers for people to take home for the rest of the week. Justine from Justine's Coffee Bar was there. She organised the fundraising event at the Royal Hotel. Justine has provided free haircuts for homeless and disadvantaged people for a long time. People lined up to get their hair cut on the day. I must say that its reputation is spreading because people came by train from Sydney to partake in the services that were provided. Founder of Coast Hands Micah Weekes is a very passionate fellow. People might run in the opposite direction when they see him at first, as he is a big fella and looks imposing, but he has the biggest heart. He is the gentlest giant I have ever met. He is a quality human being.

Christine from Southlakes Incorporated was nominated for a NSW Australian of the Year award. Though she was not successful, she was over the moon at her nomination. She is another volunteer who puts everyone before herself. She does a really fantastic job. I met Justine in the past couple of months. She has opened a coffee bar in Wyong. In the time Justine has been there, she has made a difference to homeless people in Wyong by coordinating the police and local council on a whole lot of issues. For those who want to find out what is happening in Wyong, get a coffee from Justine and she will fill you in. I have supported several of her homelessness fundraisers. Those three examples show how many good, generous people we have in our community. I am so proud to be able to mix with those people, take part in their activities and assist them in supporting the people in our community who need that really important help.

Business interrupted.

Public Interest Debate

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:58): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that after 12 years of Liberal-Nationals Government in New South Wales:
 - (a) the Government's obsession with privatisation has meant \$93 billion of assets has been sold off, leading to a cost-of-living crisis and worse services;
 - (b) we have an education system which is failing our children because one in nine young teachers are leaving the profession and chronic teacher shortages are causing declining student outcomes;
 - (c) we have a health system that has been neglected with emergency wait times at an all-time high, a hospital system that is stretched and nurses who are overworked and under-resourced; and
 - (d) the State has lost over 40,000 jobs because this Government does not back domestic manufacturing.
- (2) Calls for a fresh start for New South Wales.

I am very keen to debate the motion this afternoon. Though the motion is self-explanatory, I will outline why Labor has brought it to the Chamber on the second last day of Parliament for the term and as we reach the end of the third term of the Liberal-Nationals Government in New South Wales. Let us look at the first issue. Under the Government, \$93 billion of public assets have been sold off. There is a very long list of assets. The Government has a long record of privatising public assets that were once owned by the people of New South Wales. They include Port Botany, Port Kembla, the Port of Newcastle, Eraring Energy, the M7 rental payments, Vales Point, Transgrid, Ausgrid, HomeCare, Land and Property Information, Endeavour Energy, Sydney Motorway Corporation—the list is too long to read out. One might say it is quite a record, but it is not one to be proud of.

At the end of the day, privatisation has resulted in a cost-of-living crisis that the people of New South Wales must bear every day, and members know that is true. The truth is that the New South Wales Government will wear that record like an albatross around its neck. Selling off public assets has made the cost-of-living crisis much worse. Let us look at manufacturing. Under the Government, New South Wales has lost almost 42,000 manufacturing jobs.

[*Government members interjected.*]

Members opposite might groan, but it is very important to the future of this State if we are losing 42,000 jobs because the Government has prioritised overseas manufacturing. That is a shame. The Government said that New South Wales was not good at building trains. How could we forget that? The Government decried domestic manufacturing, but let us look at its record. The new intercity fleet was built in South Korea—that went really well. The ferries were built in China and Indonesia—that went even better. The 38 Northern Beaches B-line buses were built in Malaysia, the trains were built in China, the Metro Northwest trains were built in India and the light rail vehicles were built in France and Spain—and we all know what happened there.

All members know that our constituents are crying out for work for themselves and for the sake of their children, and yet the Government has consistently awarded contracts to overseas manufacturers when we could have been creating jobs in this State. Look at the New South Wales health system. More people presented to emergency departments with the highest category emergency than ever before at over 110,000 in one quarter. Half of patients with the highest category emergency did not start treatment on time. That is the worst result on record. In western Sydney, three in four of the highest category emergency treatments did not start on time. At Blacktown Hospital, nine in 10 of the highest category emergency treatments did not start on time. That is unacceptable.

I urge all members to think about the constituents who I know are coming to them with horror stories from emergency departments. I must make the point as I know from personal experience that there is much improvement to be made to the health system in New South Wales. The wait times that sick people must endure to get treatment in this State is unacceptable. I now come to education and education outcomes. Relative to other countries, between 2006 and 2018 New South Wales students have dropped from sixth to twenty-third in reading, ninth to thirty-first in maths and third to twenty-third in science.

Relative to other Australian States, between 2012 and 2018 our students have dropped from fourth to sixth in reading, third to fifth in maths, and third to fifth in science. This year's NAPLAN shows that year 9 boys are struggling to not even reach the national minimum standard when it comes to grammar. Coincidentally, those boys have been at school the whole time that the Liberals and The Nationals have been in office in New South Wales. That is why this side of the House speaks about the chronic teacher shortage that besets our State—this is the result of that. Fewer teachers in our schools means worse outcomes for our children. What is more important for a government to provide than quality health care and first-class public education for our children and for our future?

The truth is that education outcomes have continued to go backwards, and that has correlated directly with the decline in investment and finding teachers to be in our classrooms. It is a shortage that the Government was warned about time and time again, and it has failed to address it. It has failed to recruit the teachers that this State needs, and it will be one of its lasting legacies. What a legacy that would be. It is shameful what the Government has done to teachers in this State and, therefore, to students. Mass privatisation, second-rate overseas-built public transport, a cost-of-living crisis, school outcomes going backwards, and a health system stretched to breaking point—after 12 long years, the case could not be clearer that New South Wales needs a fresh start.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (17:05): I begin my contribution to the public interest debate by moving a small amendment or minor modification. I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting all words after "House" be deleted and inserting instead:

- (1) Notes that after 12 years of Liberals-National Government in New South Wales:
 - (a) this Government has made record investment in schools, hospitals, roads and rail across New South Wales;

- (b) this Government's infrastructure investment in New South Wales has created hundreds of thousands of jobs right across the State, delivering record low unemployment;
- (c) this Government has delivered record investment for our regions with a \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund;
- (d) this Government is delivering \$7.2 billion in practical cost of living relief to families through more than seven different rebates, concessions and measures to boost household budgets, including Active kids, Creative Kids, Back to School vouchers, the Toll Rebate Scheme and the Energy Bill Buster program;
- (e) this Government has delivered transformative tax reform to give more first home buyers the opportunity to get the keys to their first home.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I seek clarification from the member for Oatley. Is the member still moving his amendment?

Mr MARK COURE: It is still the amendment. It is a large amendment, making a minor modification. We are just tweaking the motion.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: It is an unusually long and detailed amendment.

Mr MARK COURE: I am only halfway through.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I hope the member for Oatley concludes shortly in the three minutes or so he has remaining. The member has the call.

Mr MARK COURE: The amendment continues:

- (f) this Government is delivering a universal year of pre-kindergarten for all children who live in New South Wales and invested a record \$15 billion in childcare and early childhood; and
- (g) this Government has responded to the challenge of a transitioning energy market and climate change through its Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap to ensure households have access to cheap, clean and reliable electricity—

I thank those opposite for supporting that electricity road map—

- (2) Agrees with the former Labor member for Bankstown's assessment that "NSW Labor is not ready to govern";
- (3) Calls on NSW Labor to stop complaining, stop the slogans, end the "Year of the Strike" and develop policies for our State's future.

Would the Assistant Speaker like me to read the amendment again?

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I will restate the amendment if the House divides on it.

Mr MARK COURE: Perhaps my time should be reset.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I ask the member for Oatley to provide a copy of the amendment to the Clerk.

Mr MARK COURE: This public interest debate is nothing but a cheap opportunity with empty words and low-rent slogans. On this side of the House, we are building better hospitals.

[*Government members interjected.*]

Audience participation, please. From Stronger Schools to caring for the environment and strengthening the economy, the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government will continue delivering for the people of New South Wales. It is crystal clear that this year's budget supports families and builds a brighter future for everyone in New South Wales—and I do mean everyone. We are leaving no-one behind, including, of course, diverse communities across New South Wales. It has been 12 years of turning this State around from a slow, lagging, run-down place to a booming economic powerhouse. This Government is delivering record infrastructure spending on roads, rail, schools and hospitals that makes this State the best place to live, to work and to raise a family. We are delivering for western Sydney. We are providing cost-of-living relief of more than \$7.2 billion in rebates, concessions and measures for working families across New South Wales. We have created hundreds—
[*Time expired.*]

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (17:11): If anything demonstrates 12 years of this Government's time in office, it is Melissa, who is an emergency nurse at Liverpool Hospital. She sustained a rib fracture after a punch from a patient suffering a mental health episode. Because of short staffing on the ward, her colleagues were unable to monitor patients and administer medication on time. Karen found Campbelltown emergency department so overcrowded that she was forced to self-administer antibiotics to her 81-year-old mother with a post-surgery arm infection after being told it would be more than a seven-hour wait. People were sitting on the emergency department floor and nurses were handing out blankets for them. Macquarie Fields resident Kelly's son was shuffled around from emergency to resuscitation to short stay and then back to emergency after suffering an anaphylactic shock.

In the face of undoubtedly devastating examples across New South Wales—in particular, in western Sydney—the response from the New South Wales Government to repeated instances of health failures was to say to the people of this State and the frontline workers, in particular, "Why don't you go and work in a third-world country?" Nothing about wages, nothing about conditions and nothing about the circumstances on the ground. All it could say was, "Pick up, head off overseas." We have seen it over and over again—whether it is wages, conditions or the circumstances related to privatisation.

I will read some quotes from senior Ministers in this Government. On the Government's pay deal for frontline workers, we heard, "It's completely fair and reasonable, and, indeed, it's very generous." Inflation in New South Wales is 8 per cent. In the face of overwhelming evidence of under-investment in infrastructure in the west, another member of the New South Wales Government said, "The people of western Sydney have never had it so good." In response to the chronic teacher shortages across our Department of Education system, the education Minister called those claims a "beat-up." In relation to a chronically and utterly devastated health system in this State, the New South Wales Government labelled those specific allegations "utterly ridiculous." At the end of the day, we must ask: How did the Government and this Premier, in particular, inherit the most popular government of any jurisdiction in this State—and, indeed, this State's entire history—and then drive it straight into the gutter?

The truth is that there is absolutely no empathy or understanding from anyone on the Government benches about what real people are going through every single day of their lives. Have we ever heard the New South Wales Premier stand up in this Parliament or elsewhere and say, "I understand what you're going through when it comes to high electricity prices"? Have we ever heard him express any empathy in relation to the teacher shortages or the health disaster in this State? Has he ever expressed anything other than the perpetual sense of a land tax, privatisation and holding down wages and conditions for frontline workers? That is the trifecta of solutions. I can see the member for Willoughby nodding.

That is the trifecta of solutions from the New South Wales Government—a land tax, perpetual, 80 per cent hopefully, more privatisation and pulling down as many wages and conditions for frontline workers as this Government possibly can. Who is asking for this? Who is suggesting that this should be the rhetoric or the policy response from a responsible New South Wales Government? When Parliament rises in a couple of days, what will be this Government's solution? Without a doubt, it will be to appoint Stuart Ayres back to the New South Wales ministry. The bloke was running a JobSeeker program for hacks inside The Nationals and the Premier's response will be to bring him back into the New South Wales Parliament. It will potentially send Matt Kean off to Egypt to suck up to royals, as if he is auditioning for the next season of *The Crown*.

Look at the list of people who have abandoned this Government in the last few months: Gladys Berejiklian, Jonathan O'Dea, Trevor Khan, John Ajaka, Rob Stokes, Geoff Lee, Victor Dominello, David Elliott, Brad Hazzard, Melinda Pavey, Gabrielle Upton, Andrew Constance, Niall Blair, Steve Bromhead, Chris Gulaptis and Kevin Conolly. The list includes one Premier, one Speaker, one President, 14 Ministers, six backbenchers—23 MPs. Who could blame them? Our beef is not with all the people who have left this Government in the last few months. It is with the dregs who are remaining. The truth of the matter is that this State needs renewal and this team is nowhere near up to the task. The fact remains that their best people have gone and their best days are behind them. It is time for a fresh start for New South Wales.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I would like the member for Upper Hunter to be heard. The member for Upper Hunter has the call.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:16): I came here today and thought I was going to hear some good ideas from members opposite—and I just got slogans.

Mr Christopher Gulaptis: No ideas—none!

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: No ideas, no policies, no backbone and no ticker. We do not hear anything from them. They are hiding under the table. All they do is throw stones—that is all they do. Yet members on the Government side of the House are taking on the challenges of the day. We have spent 12 years transforming this State after you people left it in a mess. You left it in a dire situation. We have built this State to be the premier State—New South Wales, the premier State. We are proud of what we have done. All members opposite do is talk down our State and absolutely pull down this State. But it is a great State and I am very proud of the absolute transformation we have seen. We are producing a credible and strong future for families in New South Wales. I am very proud of what we have done. Labor members talk down and demonise privatisation. What this Government has done with asset recycling is transform this State. This Government has actually put the money back into the economy. We are now so busy building infrastructure.

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

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: We are building a better place. We only have to look at the regions. The regions are the best we have ever seen them. They are absolutely going gangbusters compared to how Labor left them. We only have to look at the roads, the stronger country roads. I tell you what, we are producing and we have a lot more work to do. Imagine if the regions were in the state that Labor left them in. My goodness, after seeing the floods, bridges—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. It is great fun. I can see everybody is enjoying the debate—members from both sides—and I am happy for that to continue. There is a little bit of noise to the right of the Speaker's chair and I need a little bit of quiet. I think Hansard would be having some difficulty. We will have a free-running debate, but members should be mindful that the noise is a little bit difficult for Hansard. The member for Rockdale is a particular culprit. The Clerk may restart the clock.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: Some serious transformations have happened in regional New South Wales. I am very proud of the roads and bridges that have been built. The program for replacement of the old timber bridges is now so busy that we are struggling to find contractors. It makes a huge difference when we can take trucks over bridges that previously had had no money spent on them during 16 long years of Labor. The member for Clarence would remember 16 long years of Labor. There is a whole generation out there that cannot remember. It is terrible. Let me now turn to health infrastructure. We all know what has happened: The State of New South Wales has been absolutely transformed in health infrastructure. We have been building hospitals all over New South Wales.

Mr Christopher Gulaptis: Because they never would.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: We all had to move to Queensland when Labor was last in power. Of course, I am very proud of some of the construction that is happening in Muswellbrook and all the way up through the Upper Hunter. I am pleased to see some good investment that is happening throughout regional New South Wales. We have invested over \$2 billion in 2,700 projects—the sorts of projects that change people's lives. They include sporting fields and community groups—the sorts of things that make life better. That is exactly why I am standing in this House right now. That is because it is making lives better for people in regional New South Wales. We boosted the Regional Growth Fund by \$1.3 billion to bring the total of the fund up to \$3.3 billion. We have seen what a Federal government does to regional spending. It pulls the money out of the regions and that is exactly what members opposite will do to regional New South Wales. We have seen money ripped out of areas all over regional New South Wales.

Those opposite trash talk manufacturing in this State, which really frustrates the people of the Hunter Valley and the people of Upper Hunter. I invite members opposite to visit any of the manufacturing facilities in my electorate. We have some of the best manufacturing industries in the world. I can tell members that some of the mining technology we work on is the best in the world, but Opposition members trash talk this State. They are not ready to govern and not ready to even pick up a stick to fight for this State.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Coogee will cease interjecting. I welcome the decorum of the member for Heffron. The member for Heffron has the call.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:22): The once great Liberal-Nationals Coalition is now like a dying carcass as a wave moves through Australia, sweeping aside the arch conservative zealotry—and New South Wales is next. As we watch the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party sweep The Nationals from their rural heartland in western and south-western New South Wales, as NSW Labor takes the regional areas of Lismore and the Far South Coast and as the teals move to take the northern suburbs and possibly the Eastern Suburbs seat of Vacluse, the message is clear: After 12 long years, the New South Wales Government has reached its use-by date. Their best days are behind them and the people of New South Wales want a fresh start.

Government members' zealotry and privatisation of government monopoly assets have left the people and businesses in this State with no protection from a competitive market or no regulator to control prices, giving those beneficiaries of their largesse super profits by increasing prices and reducing services. So bad were the privatisations of Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle that the chairman of the ACCC described it repeatedly as the worst example of anti-competitive privatisation. This Government's conduct caused him to change his personal philosophy of being pro-privatisation to determining and announcing the people are right. He is now opposed to privatisation because of the example that this Government set. Privatisation of bus services throughout the regions of Sydney has produced the ire of tens of thousands of people as their services are cut, their routes truncated and on-time running reduced substantially.

It was announced in 2012 that WestConnex would be privatised at a cost of \$10 billion and that the project would include building a road to link the M4 and M5 with Port Botany, and would be designed to improve access for moving freight to the port. That project has now cost \$23 billion and does not go within eight kilometres of

Port Botany. The Government will never recover the billions it has outlaid, and motorists are paying for it in outrageous tolls. It refused to build trains, ferries and trams in this State to provide local jobs and local economic investment. Instead, the Government chose to have them manufactured overseas and every purchase made has been embarrassing. Indonesian-built RiverCats to be used on the Parramatta River do not fit under bridges. They were full of asbestos, could not be reversed and cannot be used at night. The Manly ferries that were built in China do not fit the Manly wharf at low tide. They cannot handle the swells in the harbour, because when they tried to use them the windows cracked and the rudder fell off.

The trains for the Intercity fleet were bought from Korea at a cost of more than \$2 billion and they do not fit on the tracks or in the tunnels. The cracks in the Spanish-built trams that were bought for the Inner West Light Rail were so great that someone could have stuck their head through them. The Government was warned about teacher shortages in 2019 but it has taken no action. Now we have merged classes, cancelled classes, overworked teachers leaving the education system and our education standards are falling against most competitive countries in the world. Our health system is in crisis not just because of the pandemic but because this Government has underinvested in staff in every part of the system. Those wonderful people to whom we entrust our lives are under extreme pressure to the extent of exhaustion because of the conscious decisions that this Government has made. After 12 long years, the Government's best days are behind it and its time is up. New South Wales needs a fresh start.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that interjections are disorderly.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:27): I must say, I feel a little starstruck today. I am not sure how others feel. The Leader of the Opposition came to the House today and I am so excited to see him in person, not just in video footage on Twitter. He actually came to the House. We should all congratulate him on his 173rd speech since being in Parliament. Well done to the Leader of the Opposition.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for North Shore will not lead the House in unparliamentary behaviour.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: He has been here two years longer than me and I have almost 800 speeches. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on turning up. Turning up to work is really a fresh start for the Leader of the Opposition. He has left it until the second last day to do it, but we are very excited to see him in the Chamber and hear his contributions. He obviously does have a lot of style, if not substance. It is great to see that style today, so thanks, Chris. It is so good to see you. What we know in this place is that the notion of a fresh start is not going to go far for Labor. As we have heard from the member for Bankstown, everyone in the State knows that NSW Labor has not changed. We can put lipstick on a pig, but we know it is still a pig. That one is a special one for the member for Wollondilly, shall we say.

We know that Labor likes to get excited in this place occasionally. They like to come together occasionally. It was nice to see its members turn up because their Leader is here. Usually when he wants them to do something, they do not. Usually when he wants them to get together, they do not. Usually when he wants them to support him, they do not. But it is nice today that they all turned up. It is nice to see that a lot of Labor members turned up to support their leader today. It is exciting to see they have filled those benches. Long may NSW Labor stay there. They look fantastic underneath Wentworth. We love looking at Labor members from the Government benches. We love seeing them over there, so they can stay there for the long term.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! There is too much noise in the Chamber.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: The people of this State know that NSW Labor cannot be trusted. It cannot deliver outcomes for the community. It let down the people of this State time after time. It is so sad that all that Labor has brought to us today is a slogan, "A fresh start". It elicits to mind toothpaste commercials. It elicits to mind people running through fields of daisies.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: It elicits beautiful, exciting motherhood visionary concepts and the charisma, grace and charm of a vacuous, empty, same old Labor—the rotten Labor that lets down New South Wales time and again. I am sorry but Labor cannot fix the brand by saying it is fresh, because it never will be.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: The stink has stuck to Labor. Today it is trying to apply mistruths to the facts.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Terrigal will come to order.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I say "mistruths" because I am being generous and kind. Its members are talking about education and health. Bring it on. We have no concerns talking about education and health. We do

not just talk, we deliver the outcomes—unlike Labor, which closed 90 schools. We have built and upgraded 200 schools. Labor closed 2,000 hospital beds. We built or upgraded 180 hospitals, with another 130 on the way. Labor members come to this Chamber and complain about our teachers, saying they are leaving their profession, leaving our students behind. We say they are not. We say the facts do not speak to that. We say that the facts show that our teacher retention rate is at 98 per cent.

Facts are a challenge for Labor. We know almost 7,000 new teachers have joined the profession this year alone. Mr Minns would know that if he ever turned up to work. We spent more than \$60 million supporting our teachers' development this year. We have 10,000 more teachers in our system than in 2011 when we got rid of that lot! In its last 15 years Labor closed more than 2,000 hospital beds. We all know that. Who got the health system up to scratch for a global pandemic? We did. Labor would never have been able to do it. Its members stink. They always have and they will never change. The only people who can deliver for New South Wales are the Liberals and The Nationals. That is why we are staying on this side of the Chamber and Labor members can enjoy sitting on that side of the House.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The member for Canterbury will cease interjecting.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (17:33): In reply: I was sitting there thinking, "How am I going to wrap up this debate about where New South Wales should be headed as we approach the election next year?" Then the member for North Shore provided me with all the material that I needed. This is the reality. It would be funny if it was not so tragic and true. This State is facing some serious issues. People are waiting longer than ever in emergency departments. There is a chronic teacher shortage and burgeoning and cancelled classes in almost every area of the State affecting education outcomes. After 12 years this is what the Government has come to. The member for North Shore launched a bizarre attack on the character of the Leader of the Opposition, which was a little obsessive in my opinion.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for North Shore will come to order. The member for Terrigal will come to order.

Ms PRUE CAR: Imagine being a nurse or a teacher, begging the Government to listen to you, and what is its response? Imagine being a frontline worker saying, "I actually want more than thanks. I would like to be valued so that more of us can work in the public sector to deliver services." By the way, they are the people who got us through the pandemic, not the Government. The Government has responded by giving them real pay cuts. The member for North Shore made jokes because she thinks it is all fun. The Liberal-Nationals have been in government for 12 years and have completely lost touch. The answer to everything is, "You are not complaining correctly. Everything is fine, just listen. Everything is fine. On the North Shore everything is fine."

In western Sydney it is not fine. At Blacktown Hospital it is not fine. In the classrooms of rural and regional New South Wales as well as in the inner city of Sydney—there are teacher shortages everywhere—it is not fine. The Government puts its head in the sand and the people of New South Wales will deliver their verdict in March next year. We desperately need a fresh start in this State. After 12 years, surely even those opposite cannot seriously think this Government's best days are in front of it when all it has got is the member for North Shore making crap jokes. That is the best it has got.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for North Shore will come to order. The member for Terrigal will come to order. The member for Upper Hunter will come to order.

Ms PRUE CAR: There is a reason the Government is under attack on both flanks. It is because after 12 years it is tired, it is out of touch and it is in big trouble in March, because the people of New South Wales can see right through it.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Members will come to order. We will deal with the original motion and the amendment moved by the member for Oatley.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: I suggest that the amendment is out of order, first, in relation to its length—as the Assistant Speaker observed—but, most importantly, because it replaces the entire motion. It removes all words after "House." An amendment must bear some remote relevance to the motion before the House. An entire motion cannot be replaced with a completely different motion.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I thank the member for Heffron and I appreciate his point. However, there is precedent regarding amendments moved by members on both sides of the House, particularly during the public interest debate. I do not uphold the point of order.

Mr David Harris: Point of order: I draw your attention to Standing Order 159 in relation to the amendment. The mover has failed to sign the amendment. Therefore, I ask that it be ruled out of order.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I will seek clarification, but I have a copy of the amendment that has a signature.

Mr David Harris: That is the signature of the Clerk to say it was checked.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Members will come to order. I do not need their assistance. I rule the amendment out of order. I uphold the point of order of the member for Wyong.

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

The House divided.

Ayes35
Noes41
Majority.....6

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Barr, C	Bromhead, S
Haylen, J	Cooke, S
Hornery, S	Perrottet, D

Motion negatived.

Personal Explanation

MEMBER FOR PENRITH

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith) (17:47): By leave: Under Standing Order 62, I wish to make a personal explanation. In the recently concluded public interest debate, the Leader of the Opposition made a remark that I ran a recruitment racket out of my office. In this personal explanation, I also have the provision under Standing Order 70 to quote from a document relating to the explanation. I quote from the report that was provided by the former ICAC Inspector Mr Bruce McClintock, SC. He stated:

... there is the question whether the actions undertaken by Mr Ayres as identified by Mr Head and as set out in [13] above amount to a breach of the relevant sections of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mr McClintock concluded that, in his legal opinion, I did not. He also goes on to say:

... investigations establish that Mr Ayres did not give any direction relevantly to Ms Brown.

He also says:

On Mr Head's specific findings, Mr Ayres acted honestly and in what he considered to be the public interest and therefore there is no breach of clause 6 ...

I seek leave to table the document.

Leave not granted.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I will rule on whether or not the member made a valid personal explanation. The matter that has been referred to by the member for Penrith does, in my view, constitute a serious reflection on the member for Penrith and a matter that has been under consideration in another place and by other parties. I therefore believe that it is in order for him to have made that personal explanation.

Ms Anna Watson: No, it is not.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: You can challenge my ruling. I uphold my ruling that the member for Penrith made a reasonable explanation. The member then sought to table a document, and leave was not granted.

Private Members' Statements

MAITLAND ELECTORATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (17:50): I highlight some of the achievements made in the electorate of Maitland over the past eight years since I was elected. We have fought hard, and we got the Maitland Hospital. I acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Minister for Health, which I mention because I am grateful for the fact that it is a fully public hospital. We are still working on getting full staffing to get it right, and that will be a challenge. But we are working on that at the moment with the new Minister for Regional Health. To get nearly half a billion dollars worth of investment in a non-Government held electorate after seven years and to fight off privatisation was a huge coup for our community. I pay tribute to the unions that were involved, including the Health Services Union, the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation. I also pay tribute to the community that came together to do that. We had petition debates and ran a long campaign.

In the last budget we also secured a commitment for an additional building to centralise some of the health services in the fantastic precinct that has been established around the hospital. When I go around the State, I see other areas where the Government has planned significant investments for very many years. I was in the electorate of South Coast the other day in Moruya. There is a hospital upgrade and a bypass, and it is all a bit confused. It puts a brake on investment when the private sector does not know what governments are doing. I think in Maitland we got it right.

We have also had a number of new school infrastructure projects and significant upgrades. Gillieston Public School is on the books; it will happen. We have some time frames and we know it will be a rebuild and not a nineteenth-century school building. We got rid of the dirt floors in the boys toilets. We will hopefully have the septic properly connected to the town's sewer this year, which is a really good thing. Ashtonfield Public School was the last public school built in Maitland and was built as a new school in 2007 under the former Labor Government. For the fastest growing community in New South Wales, we have had to fight for every single classroom and desk. Now the fight is on to get teachers. Rutherford Public School and Bolwarra Public School have been upgraded, and that has been good too.

We have had upgrades to Metford Road, which is a major connector between the two State roads in front of Maitland Hospital. Again, I thank the Minister for Health for that. We had the road at Testers Hollow raised after the Federal member for Paterson and I did a lot of work on that issue. We also worked to get a MRI licence for the new Maitland Hospital approved. That is a great outcome. We received funding for Walka Water Works enhancements and there is some funding for Oakhampton Road. A new ambulance station and pod was also funded. With the commitment of a local member, it is possible to achieve good things from Opposition.

In my time as the local member, Maitland police station, Maitland Fire and Rescue station and Maitland Showground have all received upgrades. There was also the duplication of roads at Rutherford. Work on the updated Maitland flood plain finally commenced; however, there is much more work to do on that. Some \$8 million was invested in the Thornton Road network at Raymond Terrace and traffic lights were installed on

the half overpass at Maitland. However, there is still more work to do there, about which I have been talking to Transport for NSW.

In 2018 Victoria Street station received a mobility upgrade, which included three new lifts, new canopies and the refurbishment of the heritage platform. Before I was elected to Parliament, I invited the Hon. Penny Sharpe to the Hunter. She asked why I was asking for the upgrade because she said that it was already disability accessible. The former transport Minister, and former member for Willoughby, who then became the Premier, had long promised the upgrade. Even though the work had not been done and the station was not disability accessible, Transport for NSW changed the description of the station on its website to say that it was. But I got the job done and the Government finally invested in the upgrade.

During my time in Parliament, 103 Community Building Partnership grants have been provided to community groups across my electorate. Nearly 40 grants from the Local Sport Grant Program have also been given out. My electorate has also done well out of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, with over \$5.5 million of programs being funded through grants—a list of which I will table so that they can be seen. The NSW Boating Now Program has funded upgrades to boat ramps in my electorate. My constituents did not benefit as much as they should have from the Fixing Country Roads program, but they have benefited from the Regional Tourism Activation Fund and the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund. They also received \$2.5 million from the Resources for Regions program. The Maitland electorate has received many millions of dollars from this Government, despite the fact that it is not a great government and it should go. The people of my electorate will do better under a Labor government, but I have not done badly as an Opposition member.

NORTHERN BEACHES WOMEN'S SHELTER

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (17:56): I acknowledge the Minister for Health, and member for Wakehurst, who has been my dear friend and neighbour during my nearly six years in Parliament. However, that pales in comparison to his 32 years as a member. I say thank you to him. Today a momentous piece of legislation, the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022, passed the upper House. I acknowledge the Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, who has carriage of the bill in the upper House, the Hon. Natalie Ward. Under the bill, New South Wales will become the first Australian State or Territory to create a standalone offence for coercive control. This historic and life-saving reform will be matched by funding.

In what may be my last contribution in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament, I acknowledge the outstanding work of the largely female staff at the wonderful Northern Beaches Women's Shelter and thank them for supporting women in need. I reinforce my call to the Government to fund an additional shelter on the northern beaches. The dedication of the wonderful staff and volunteers at the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter has seen them support over 800 women since it first opened its doors. It is worth noting that the shelter continued to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week right through COVID.

I thank the board members of the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter: Rosy Sullivan, Annabelle Daniel, Sarah Falzarano, Orla Keane, Beth Lawson, Sherry Midgley, Luke Mitchell, Fiona Reid and Megan O'Leary. I also thank my friends, shelter manager Narelle Hand and fundraising manager Kirstie Christensen. The passage of this momentous legislation will support victims of domestic violence, which is an important issue. Again, I acknowledge the Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence for her work in passing this legislation and recognise the support that it will provide the team at the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter.

Last year the Government announced historic funding of \$484 million for housing and specialist support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. The important legislation that was passed today will also be matched by funding. I encourage all members to ensure that women across their communities get the support and care they need. Unfortunately, domestic violence does not know the bounds of a postcode. For that reason, I reinforce my call to the Government for an additional women's shelter for the northern beaches. I thank the Attorney General and the Minister for their work on this important reform.

Business interrupted.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution of the House of 8 November 2022, the presentation of a valedictory speech by the member for Davidson will now proceed. Before I call the member for Davidson, I welcome to the public gallery friends, family, members of staff and other supporters of the member

for Davidson, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. In an unusual move, I shall depart the chair for the member for Davidson.

The SPEAKER (18:01): I call the member for Davidson! It is with generous confidence the constituents of the Davidson electorate honoured me in 2007 with the responsibility of serving in both their and the broader public interest. Now in my sixteenth year of service, *Hansard* records that I have formally addressed the House more than 1,100 times from Opposition, from Government and as Speaker in the middle. Since that time I have remained indebted and grateful for the privilege of a seat in this Chamber and tried to faithfully repay my constituents' trust.

During that time in Parliament I have been more interested in external engagement with, and responsiveness to, public stakeholders than internal party political power moves. While not always optimal for my career progression, it has helped lift my local seat status to the safest Liberal stronghold in New South Wales and meant an improved electoral performance for the Coalition team. I have tried to put service over personal ambition, integrity over political expedience and principle over easy pragmatism. There should be challenging, robust and respectful exchanges between political representatives as part of a healthy democracy. Members should be here for the people, listening, learning and caring for them as we fulfil our responsibilities.

When I entered Parliament from a successful private sector career in law and business, I hoped for a chance to serve as a Minister in Government. Unfortunately that did not eventuate, and for some years I found life in this place personally difficult. However, I am reminded that depth and character come from disappointments and struggles. I almost decided not to contest the last election, but I am delighted to have gone around for a final term. Although the role of Speaker was not an office I sought, my past four years in the role have been particularly satisfying. The role demands a large degree of independence, impartiality and resilience.

I thank former Premier Gladys Berejiklian for nominating me as Speaker, after I had served as Parliamentary Secretary to both her and the then Treasurer. That Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, is now an excellent Premier himself, who has courage, compassion and conviction, and whose tenure I hope extends past the next election. Both Premiers have my strong, ongoing respect and admiration, as does Opposition leader Chris Minns, who has done well in a challenging role. I similarly acknowledge the contributions of past Premiers O'Farrell and Baird, under whose leadership I was fortunate to serve.

What legacy can I point to as Speaker? When I started in this chair, I outlined an agenda to modernise the Parliament's infrastructure and systems, improve the level of public education and engagement, and lift behavioural standards as well as create development opportunities for people working within our important institution. I believe we have done well on all those fronts. We must continue to build more effective communication and increase meaningful engagement with the public, including those living beyond Sydney. There is a strong connection between civic participation and the health of democracy. That makes it important for governments and parliaments to increase public education, communication and engagement. Having pioneered the use of citizen juries in New South Wales when chairing the Public Accounts Committee, I would like to see greater use of them on topics like political donations reform and Aboriginal reconciliation. I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

As members, our engagement should extend to bodies that serve democracy, whether in an oversight function or to help develop democratic ideals and educate others, as well as with international stakeholders who hold similar beliefs and values. I certainly appreciate the role of our integrity and oversight agencies, like the ICAC, as well as those organisations we have partnered with on professional development programs, like Next25 and the McKinnon Institute; so, too, the diplomatic corps and foreign parliaments, with which I have enjoyed positive exchanges. Such international involvement and my governance role on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association have involved interesting overseas travel. However, I always return home grateful to be living in New South Wales, with its wonderful multicultural influences, attractive environment and way of life to cherish.

I acknowledge the media's role in this place and know that it plays an essential role in a strong democracy. Interestingly, in the media conference room on level 6, behind the lectern and curtains, is a backing board displaying the successful Sydney Olympics bid logo from about 30 years ago. Coincidentally, in my first full-time job as a solicitor, I worked on a legal licensing agreement authorising the use of the Olympic rings within that logo. It struck me recently that the five Olympic rings are a bit like political groupings in this place. They represent the world's five inhabited continents, with blue, red, green, yellow and black circles linking together in unity.

Similarly, the different groupings in this place often find common links to deliver positive outcomes. Recent examples of positive outcomes are question time reform and legislation introducing Auditor-General follow the dollar powers, both causes I have previously championed. Thankfully, there have been many others. That is easier in an environment where Independent members have substantial influence. While there is much to

be said for any government having a clear mandate in at least the lower House, minority governments can help to cultivate a more collaborative environment of integrity and respect. Whatever the composition of Parliament, we must find the right balance in addressing some of the great challenges for our society, including the tension between economic growth and environmental protection; between increased local employment generation and encouraging international free trade; and between local political autonomy and greater harmony across jurisdictions in a somewhat outdated model of Federation.

I am pleased to have been Speaker at a time when the Legislative Assembly has served the people of New South Wales well, with a strong focus on innovation, adaptation and community. Our willingness to innovate and change was evident at the beginning of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament in 2019 when we adopted sessional orders recommended by the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee to enhance the Assembly's scrutiny and representative capacity. We introduced e-petitions and petition debates to encourage public involvement and Parliament's responsiveness. We later reformed question time to allow for more questions and to require Ministers to provide directly relevant answers.

Parliament needed to adapt in order to maintain a strong democratic system during a historic time living with COVID-19. After closing due to the pandemic in March 2020, Parliament introduced safety measures, hybrid sittings and walk-through divisions to allow the House to meet while following public health orders. In 2021, when the old broadcast system in the Assembly Chamber failed, members and staff promptly adapted to vary procedural practices to continue sitting. Accordingly, for the first time, we sat in the Jubilee Room. Suffice to say, there is now a new and improved audiovisual system and capacity.

When Parliament focuses on the community, it delivers better outcomes for the people of New South Wales through substantial legislation, committees and other activities. That was evident in the responses to the bushfires and floods, with the first 2020 sitting week dedicated to a condolence motion for the victims of the 2019-20 bushfire season, and fundraising for the victims of the 2022 floods. Some other notable matters that I have presided over as Speaker in this term of Parliament are securing substantial extra funding to pursue an ambitious program of modernisation projects; revisiting the Stolen Generation apology on its twenty-fifth anniversary; the Queen's platinum jubilee and the subsequent change in monarch to King Charles; securing the hosting of an international Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference for 2024; as well as the Broderick review and the ongoing response to address bullying, sexual harassment and serious misconduct.

It has been a huge privilege to work alongside many talented and dedicated individuals. I thank all members for their contribution to our important deliberations and decisions, and many throughout this Chamber for their friendship. Many thanks to Helen Minnican, as a highly proficient Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and Mark Webb, as an excellent chief executive of the Department of Parliamentary Services. They have demonstrated strong leadership along with their executive teams, including Carly, Jonathan, Simon, Julie and Kelly. The development, growth and performance of those executive teams has been remarkable over the past three to four years. So much has been achieved, for which I likewise thank every parliamentary officer. There are too many to name individually, but they all have my heartfelt gratitude.

I recognise those who have worked in my Speaker's office at various times, including Brigid, Ellie, Samantha, Ally, Shu-Fang, Jodi, Floyd and Georgia, all under the guidance of my wise chief of staff, Paul Blanch. Their combined dedication, professionalism and impartiality helped to ensure that this place operated smoothly. As recognised in the many visits to electorate offices around New South Wales by me and Paul, electorate office staff play a crucial role in supporting members' work, which is much appreciated. The other place is sometimes maligned by members in this place, but it plays a valuable role.

Mr Alister Henskens: Name one.

The SPEAKER: You're all on calls! I have appreciated a collaborative and constructive relationship with the Legislative Council Clerk, David Blunt, and former President Ajaka and President Mason-Cox. We have worked well together, along with Helen and Mark, in the Parliament's broader interests. They all appear, along with many others, in a commemorative Legislative Assembly booklet—and a second book of messages—that I was presented with this morning regarding the Speaker of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I was genuinely surprised and touched by those kind and thoughtful gifts. I thank all those who contributed, led by Carly Maxwell and Jenny Whight. I note that I will leave this place as a local member along with many fine colleagues who have served with distinction. They include former Speaker Shelley Hancock, from whom I learned a lot, as well as Rob Stokes and Brad Hazzard on the northern beaches. Rob has been a good friend who helped drag me to this chair, and Brad a seasoned mentor.

Locally, I am pleased that the northern beaches Liberal team has seen major road projects delivered on Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway and Mona Vale Road, all improving access to the new Northern Beaches Hospital. This term of Parliament has also seen the delivery of two new bike parks on that side of my electorate,

both of which I played a central role in creating, working closely with the local council. On the North Shore side of my electorate, we have been particularly successful with major capital building works for schools. Killara High School has experienced two major upgrades in the past decade, Roseville Public School is thriving with its enhanced facilities, while St Ives High School and St Ives North Public School have recently completed major builds. The new Lindfield Learning Village school at a repurposed former tertiary education site has expanded since opening a few years ago and is a big success. Following upgrades of railway stations at Lindfield and Roseville, I am pleased that Killara station will likewise soon be completed to provide easy access to commuters. Importantly, I have also worked to protect our local environment and opposed inappropriate plans for overdevelopment where warranted. I again appreciate the support of colleagues at local, State—including the member for Ku-ring-gai—and Federal levels regarding many of these initiatives.

While it has been fantastic to serve in elected office—and I will maintain an interest in politics—I do look forward to returning to a more normal existence in a personal, business and community sense. I have never wanted politics to become an all-consuming lifetime obsession. I know it is the right time to retire from Parliament, at a time of my choosing and with good standing. Whichever successor is afforded the tremendous opportunity to contribute as the next member for Davidson, they will occupy a seat currently held with the highest Liberal Party margin in New South Wales of 25 per cent. That is largely the function of a wonderful Liberal Party conference, with many of its members now present in the gallery. Their combined support and selfless commitment are perhaps best personified in Robyn Kerr, whose quiet mentoring I have appreciated. I thank them all, especially those who have served in an executive capacity over the years. They include Jenny Powell, Christine Kay and Sam Ngai. Tomorrow I will see them back here at Parliament for lunch in appreciation of them recently organising a memorable conference dinner event marking my long service to the electorate, which featured the Premier as the special guest.

My magnificent electorate office team has been key in achieving one of my most satisfying performance measures as a local MP: being consistently rated by the independent FairGO organisation as the most responsive MP in New South Wales. I acknowledge all my electorate office staff who have contributed over the years, including Diane and Reg briefly in the early years and then the irrepressible Phil Corbett. Annie Rinaudo capably took over from Phil more than three years ago, and Sarah Ingram has laudably worked part time for a few terms now. Richard Tilden has made a great part-time contribution of late, as did Ed Clapin early on before he graduated to full-time work for various Ministers. I have tried to mentor various young people over the years, and it is rewarding to see their careers progress. Holding my electorate office team together, especially when I am away, is my outstanding and loyal senior electorate officer Koharig Boulghourjian. Recently Koharig was recognised with an award for 15 years of dedicated service. They are all highly valued.

My final set of thanks go to my family, without whose love and support I could not have done much at all. My mother and father, Marianne and Michael, are in the Chamber today and I dedicate this speech to them. They are phenomenal parents who have set an admirable example with family, work and community involvement. Here too are some of my eight siblings—Michelle, Angela, Philippa, Natalie, Richard, Adrian, Kate and Camille. To each of them and their respective families, thank you. To my beautiful, insightful and talented wife, Jacqueline, and our four marvellous boys, Ben, Daniel, Matthew and Joshua: You leave me speechless. I am most proud of you and deeply grateful that you have endured the sacrifices that my vocation has demanded. I love you all. I also give thanks to Jacqueline's family, including Elizabeth and Barry Murphy. I note that Barry attended all 15 of my annual Davidson Business Breakfasts.

Mr Brad Hazzard: That is dedication.

The SPEAKER: Indeed. In the recently renovated and now properly accessible Speaker's Garden is a statue of Saint Thomas More, a former Speaker in the UK who was beheaded in 1535. Having been dragged to this chair knowing the fate of many such Speakers of old, I am relieved to be facing political retirement with head and reputation intact.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: There is one day to go!

The SPEAKER: I note that if I had lost my head, it would not be found wearing the Speaker's wig! This week I revisited my inaugural speech in this place, entitled "Building on Traditions – Foundations for Tomorrow". In it I somewhat presciently spoke of the important role of the Speaker, and how as parliamentarians we must build a better tradition of rule adherence and integrity to ensure higher levels of public confidence in our common vocation and the political process. I also spoke of the need to meld the best of the past with innovative new foundations for the future. I drew on the image of saltwater and freshwater meeting in Middle Harbour Creek within my Davidson electorate, and used that as a metaphor for the vast sea of tradition mixing with a fresh pool of ideas that might generate new life.

Likewise, the time has come for this parliamentarian to make way for a fresh approach and renewal. Tomorrow will be our last sitting day before the pre-election recess and more capital works in this parliamentary precinct. In fact, I have just come from an end-of-year-sitting gathering in the Speaker's Garden where we launched a long-awaited book on the history of this New South Wales Parliament. Mindful of all that, I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas season, and all the best for 2023. I hope the future beyond is every bit as bright and interesting for this Parliament as its past. God bless you all.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): It is my great privilege as a member of the Speaker's panel to introduce and welcome our friend the member for Fairfield. I invite you to present your valedictory speech.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:32): As I commence my final speech in this place, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Parliament of New South Wales sits—the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. I also acknowledge the people of the lands I have represented for the past 12 years—the Cabrogal people of the Darug nation. Madam Temporary Speaker, it is an honour to have you preside over my valedictory speech. You have been a close colleague of mine since entering this place and you have shown me what it is like to be an effective member of Parliament both inside and outside the Chamber. I thank you for your friendship. I also acknowledge Speaker Jonathan O'Dea and former Speaker Shelley Hancock.

The third-quarter siren has sounded on my time in this place. When I delivered my inaugural speech, my hair was brown, and I read the speech without glasses. How times have changed. I have had the honour and the privilege to represent Fairfield in the 2011, 2015 and 2019 elections. And let me tell you, that was a baptism of fire into this place that I will never forget. Only the bravest of the brave put up their hands to contest the 2011 election. I was one of them. I am proud to say that I held onto the seat of Fairfield in 2011, even though it went from a 20 per cent margin down to 1.7 per cent. I am grateful to the local Fairfield Labor branch members for their support and belief in me to carry the flag after 2011. I could not have done the job without the efforts of my campaign director, Adrian Boothman, his mother, Maria Boothman, and our loyal volunteers.

Since the 2011 election Fairfield branch members have worked alongside me to progressively increase the margin to almost 18 per cent in 2019. I cannot thank them enough for their commitment to early morning train station visits, street stalls, mobile offices and festival stalls. I thank the following local Labor Party branch officials for their assistance over the years: in Cabramatta, Tri Vo and Andrew Nguyen; in Fairfield, Gavin Abrahams, Johnson Hilaney and Peter Pavisic; in Guildford West, David Van Brussel and Rex Sorby; and in Smithfield, George Barcha and Tony Campolongo.

Prior to entering this place, I spent 16 years in Catholic education in western Sydney. Education is in my DNA. The inspiration to become a teacher came from my maternal grandparents, Pietro Ilacqua and Anna Lo Surdo, and my parents, Rosario Zangari and Domenica Ilacqua. They taught me the value of hard work and the importance of education. My roots are typically working class. I am proud to say that I am the descendant of an Aeolian Sicilian migrant fishing family. I am the descendant also of Anna Fazio, my great grandmother, who was born into a poor fishing family on the Aeolian island of Lipari. I think it is safe to say that, during the mid-1800s, both Anna and her brother, Vincenzo Fazio, could never have imagined that their great grandchildren would become members of this Parliament. Vincenzo's great granddaughter, Amanda Fazio, would become the President of the other place.

My family saw the opportunities that education created in this country, opportunities they wanted for their children. I seized these opportunities whilst retaining my family's traditions of manual labour, and I became an industrial arts, technological and applied studies, and VET construction teacher, with religion. You could say I got the best of both worlds. From a young age I wanted to be a teacher and to help others. I lived and worked through the struggle and tough nature of the fishing industry with my family, and it made me even more determined to steer my future towards education. Education has been a passion of mine since childhood. It has always been a part of my life, so much so that I married a maths teacher, Melissa Pellegrino, who is sitting right up there. As a member of Parliament, I made it a priority to regularly visit schools and acknowledge the efforts of teachers and students through leadership awards, academic awards and teacher service awards. I thank all school principals, teachers, support staff members, students and parents for opening the door and making me feel welcome.

The welfare of students and teachers has always been a priority for me, during my time both as a teacher and as a member of Parliament. In my final years of teaching, I was honoured to have led the professional development of teachers and students in the leadership sphere. Leadership is not just a name tag, nor is it a title or a badge. Leaders are meant to coach, mentor and guide people directly under their care. True leaders are humble and do not abuse others, using treacherous behaviour to achieve power. I take this opportunity to thank former Labor leaders John Robertson, Luke Foley and Michael Daley for their belief in me to take charge of shadow

portfolios from 2012 to 2019. I was honoured to be the shadow Minister for portfolios including Corrections; Emergency Services; Justice and Police; Sport and Recreation; Trade, Tourism and Major Events; Veterans Affairs; and Citizenship and Communities.

I could not have done my job as a shadow Minister without assistance from stakeholders, unions and associations. I especially thank the Police Association of New South Wales, the Fire Brigade Employees Union, the Rural Fire Service Association and the Prison Officers Vocational Branch for their friendship and assistance. I also thank Mick Pezzano, David Golledge and Justin Lee for their advice and good counsel. I thank the many multicultural community groups for their assistance. What is common to all shadow portfolio stakeholders is the passion and commitment they have for their respective communities, and they are always fighting for a better deal for the ones they represent. I thank them sincerely.

Being a member of Parliament in opposition is tough. The perception in the community is that you cannot achieve results for your community, as you are not in government. I never subscribed to that notion. Over the past three terms, results have been achieved through collaboration and collegiality with the community and stakeholders. Locally we were able to achieve the restoration of the Lansdowne Bridge; secure the upgrade of the iconic Meccano set traffic lights with a new metal structure; keep the Fairfield Transport Interchange project on the agenda after the New South Wales Government scrapped the project following the 2011 election, and eventually witness its construction; secure the installation of lifts at the Canley Vale railway station after a rigorous campaign; ensure that plans are underway for the widening of the Horsley Drive at Polding and Nelson streets; and oversee the initial planning phase for the installation of lifts at the Villawood railway station after a protracted campaign by the community.

As shadow Minister I was proud to fight for and make changes in presumptive legislation for New South Wales firefighters alongside the Fire Brigade Employees Union and the Rural Fire Service Association, legislation which the New South Wales Government introduced after Labor's introduction of the bill. I fought against the revocation of section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act and put the New South Wales Government on notice to oppose any changes to the Act. I fought for and secured an increase of multicultural liaison officers in the Fairfield City Police Area Command, from one to five officers. I advocated for funding for Grace's Place and called on the Government to match Labor's commitment. This project has now become a reality and will open in 2023 to support families that are victims of homicide.

Through the Community Building Partnership program, I was honoured to have worked with not-for-profit organisations, charities and schools to secure vital funding to deliver important local programs. I especially thank the people at Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre, the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, CORE Community Services, the NSW Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance, Woodville Alliance, Community Action Services Australia, the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society, the Parks Community Network, Community First Step, Karitane, Sunnyfield and the Australian Foundation for Disability, as well as many other community groups, for their support and friendship.

When I was elected in 2011, the world could never have imagined the COVID 19 pandemic—a global challenge that is still impacting our community today. There certainly was not a handbook given to MPs on how to assist the community under such circumstances. The Fairfield electorate was one of the communities to be impacted by the lockdowns. Much has been said and debated about what should have been done and what could have been done. But I am not here to debate that tonight, other than to say the community I represented felt the full brunt of unnecessary finger pointing and vilification. As the local MP representing a community impacted by the harshest lockdowns in our State, I can honestly say that I had no choice but to stand up to the Government when it unfairly targeted Fairfield and demanded surveillance testing. This sudden expectation was not met with the required resources for testing.

Despite the difficulties during lockdown, I was proud to introduce the Fairfield Home Care Packages Program with the generous assistance of Good360 and partner donor organisations Safenet Nooh, Our Pure Planet, Rapid Relief Team Australia, NAFFCO Australia and Food Angel. I thank sincerely Alison Covington, Susan Wallis and the team at Good360 for packing over 200,000 products for hygiene care hampers. The program would not have been successful without the distribution assistance of the Salvation Army Fairfield, Helping Hands NSW Sydney, Fairfield Police, St Merkorious Charity, Villawood Senior Citizens, Community Action Services Australia, the Chaldean League of NSW and Shayna Humanitarian Services.

I have participated in many notable debates over the past three terms in this House. There are two debates that stand out—the reproductive healthcare reform and the voluntary assisted dying debates. They are not highlights for me by any stretch of the imagination. I have always stood firm in my conscience to fight for life. I will always fight for life, not against it. These values were strongly voiced by my community. I would like to thank the following religious leaders for their support and guidance, not just throughout the conscience debates but over the years: the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher; Auxiliary Bishops of Sydney Terry Brady

and Richard Umbers; the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Amel Nona; the Metropolitan of the Assyrian Church of the East His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia and His Grace Mar Mari Emmanuel; Father James McCarthy; Monsignor Paul Mingana; Father Rodi Sitto; Father Michael De Stoop; and Father Dominic Dinh. I would also like to thank the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, His Eminence Sheikh Azzam Mesto from the Rahma Mosque, and the Most Venerables from the Mingyue Lay Buddhist Temple and the Phuc Hue Temple.

There has been much talk about electorates in south-western Sydney following the New South Wales electoral redistribution and the abolition of the Lakemba electorate. I place on the record that I was not afforded the professional courtesy of any formal discussion or consultation prior to September this year regarding my future by the Labor Party or the Leader. I was isolated, I was ignored, I was ostracised from any conversations regarding the electorate that I have represented since 2011. I came to the final decision of leaving this place as a result of that lack of inclusion.

After more than 1,300 speeches, 1,000 questions on notice, thousands of hours engaging with the community and advancing the Labor cause, I would have thought that my dedication to my community would have been at the forefront of discussions and any decisions about the future of the Fairfield electorate. Instead, I spent two years in a state of anxiousness. I found myself in a dark mental place as a result of the lack of professional courtesy when the future of the electorate I held for Labor for three elections was being discussed without me. That is when I knew it was time to leave. The mental toll is too great, and I cannot continue in this place. This has made me a passionate advocate for mental health, and for suicide prevention, awareness and support. One of my favourite novels as a child was *To Kill a Mockingbird*. As Atticus Finch says:

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.

I thank the co-founders of The Australian Man Cave Support Group, Pastors Lou Greco and Agostino Gattelari, for their support during this time. Although I had never spoken a word about what was really going on in my life politically, their unwavering kindness and compassion is to be commended. As the proud patron of this group, I will always be an advocate for suicide awareness, prevention and support. It is incumbent on all members of Parliament promoting mental health, suicide prevention, awareness and support to start getting serious about the treatment of colleagues in this place.

It is not good enough for MPs to take part in token gestures and then turn a cheek and isolate, ostracise and engage in rumour-mongering against colleagues. Former New South Wales Liberal Opposition Leader John Brogden tragically attempted suicide. He is now a staunch advocate for mental health and suicide prevention and support. I hope I am wrong when I say this—I really do—but unless the toxic culture and mistreatment of colleagues in this place changes, I fear that one day someone will be pushed to the edge, and this is something for which I cannot stand. If this place is serious about cleaning up the bullying, the harassment, the mistreatment of colleagues and the sexual misconduct identified in the Broderick review, the review must not be used as a political weapon of choice. Bullying in all its forms must not be tolerated and it must not be weaponised for political gain. Unity is the only pathway on this issue.

As I conclude this speech, I would like to thank many people and organisations that have made my time as a member of Parliament an enjoyable one. Firstly, I thank the local RSL sub-branches of Canley Heights, Cabra-Vale Diggers, Fairfield and Smithfield. Lest we forget. It is widely known that I am a sports tragic. Basically, if it can be kicked, passed or thrown, I will watch it. I would like to thank the Wests Tigers for their hospitality and friendship over the years. To CEO Justin Pascoe, Chairman Lee Hagipantelis, Dr Leslie Glen, Tony Andreacchio and Rick Wayde—here's to the Tigers leaving the doghouse and going to the penthouse in 2023! I am from the streets of western Sydney. In the words of the Red and Black Bloc [RBB] that support the Western Sydney Wanderers:

We're from the streets of Western Sydney
Home of the mighty RBB. RBB!
We will follow you forever
We will be by your side.

To the chairman of the Western Sydney Wanderers, Mr Paul Lederer, to CEO Scott Hudson and General Manager Mark Jensen, it has been an honour and a privilege to have been the inaugural Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of the Wanderers with Dr Geoff Lee, MP. I look forward to continuing our friendship after New South Wales politics. Thanks must also go to Southern Districts Soccer Football Association, Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Association, Fairfield Relay for Life, and The Australian Man Cave Support Group for bestowing upon me the honour of being their patron. I must also thank the Chaldean League of Australia for bestowing upon me the ambassadorial role.

I would also like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, three very special people that have journeyed with me during my time here: Senior Electorate Officer, Stella Patane—who recently received the New South Wales Parliament's 10 Year Service Award—Jess Daniele and Katerina Sotiropoulos. Working with them has been a professional highlight. There has always been laughter, and a joke at my expense, but more importantly an unwavering commitment to the constituents of the Fairfield electorate. Their empathy and compassion for the people of Fairfield has no bounds. I am going to miss you all, and especially the birthday celebrations and, of course, our famous Friday family lunches. I will certainly miss those. I would also like to thank former staff members Mathew Craig and George Barcha for their work during their time at the Fairfield Electorate Office. I would also like to thank the Stanley family—I am referring to my great friend Anne and her husband Larry—for their support of me and their friendship over the years.

Thank you to all colleagues past and present over the years in this Chamber. I hope that my interjections and sometimes not-too-funny jokes did not offend anyone. But if they did, I do apologise. I also want to thank my neighbouring colleagues Tania Mihailuk and Nick Lalich for their friendship and support over the years. Tania, you are a big loss to the community and to the Labor Party. You are a person of conviction and integrity, someone who strives to give their best to the people they represent. Thank you for your friendship and advice—both warranted and sometimes unwarranted. I wish you, Alex and the family all the best for the future.

To Nick Lalich, you have been a family friend for over 30 years, and you are a Fairfield legend through and through. You have been a dear friend and mentor. Thank you, Nick. May you and Del have many wonderful travels ahead. But I must put on the record some of our funny travels together. What some of you do not know is that I used to chauffeur-drive Nick to Parliament. As the junior backbencher, I was Nick's driver. On many occasions when we were driving to Parliament, leaving his place two blocks down the road, I would have to say, "Nick, put your seatbelt on. I don't want to be charged with elder abuse." To that, he did listen.

No MP can do their job without the love and support of their family. When I say "family", I do not mean just Melissa and our four children; I mean the extended family. It is a really big one. I have many cousins, aunts and uncles in the gallery, who are all waving. They know who they are. There are many of them. I love them and am very proud of them. I thank them for handing out how-to-vote cards and putting on the red T-shirt for me. I thank my family. I say a big thankyou to my siblings, Peter, Caterina and Giuseppe, their partners, Kelly and John, and their children. I trust that we will be sailing on calmer waters with Mum and Dad soon. I thank Mum and Dad for what they have done for me and our family. I thank my mother- and father-in-law, Giovanna and Franco Pellegrino, who have been amazing supporters. Seriously, they are worth at least 5,000 votes! I could not have done it without them. Hence, the 2011 result speaks for itself.

I thank my big sister-in-law Daniela, big brother-in-law John, brother-in-law Anthony and sister-in-law Laura, and their children. They have been on this journey as well. They know what they have done, and I cannot thank them enough. Words are not enough to thank our dearest of family friends, old son John Murphy and Auntie Adriana Murphy, for being there for me and my family since I was 12 years of age. I thank my old mate and radio partner, Frank Chiment, his wife, Mena, and their family for their support and friendship. I look forward to cracking open the decks, taking out the vinyl and CDs, and spinning some nineties house music when I get out of this place. I thank the Macrams, the Bonos and the Fedeles. I know there are a few bottles of red and whisky that need to be opened very soon.

Finally, I come to the hardest part of my valedictory address, which is acknowledging my wife, Melissa; my daughter, Tahlia; my twins, Christian and Loridana; and the baby, Nicola. When I first arrived in this place, Nicola was just 11 months old. Unlike her siblings, she has never known me as anything but a member of Parliament. To give some perspective, she will graduate from year 6 in a few weeks' time and commence year 7 in 2023. While I have always tried to be there for her and her siblings, they have had to share me with the people I represent. That has meant many missed events and family occasions. I am glad to say that I am coming back home. I look forward to many days out on the water, doing what our family loves doing most.

I could not have done this job without my wife, Melissa. Her loyalty and commitment is second to none. She has picked me up when the chips were down and encouraged me always. She is my rock, and the lemons in the limencello. Well, we are Italian! I look forward to travelling more and, hopefully, bagging a few big ones together off the back of the boat at Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Budgewoi and Tuggerah. Any of those will do. Thank you very much, honey. I love you. As I leave this place, I cannot thank the people of the Fairfield electorate enough for giving me the greatest honour to be their representative for the past three terms. I am eternally grateful for that honour. I leave with words from 2 Timothy 4:7:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Until next time, God bless you all.

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

*Bills***MEDICINES, POISONS AND THERAPEUTIC GOODS BILL 2022****Returned**

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

*Private Members' Statements***NORTHERN TABLELANDS ELECTORATE**

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (19:06): As this parliamentary session draws to a close, the task falls upon me to make the customary around-the-grounds commentary of life in the Northern Tablelands over the past four years—and what a four years it has been. Who would have thought when the Fifty-Seventh Parliament started that we would deal with a pandemic that no-one alive had seen. Of course, we were also in the middle of the worst drought in living memory. Now that that has finished, we have more rain and flooding activity than anyone could have foreseen. It affirms the line from the famous Dorothea Mackellar poem, *My Country*, that Australia is a land of "droughts and flooding rains". The past four years has been a tale of many extremes, in every single way. We also had a drought of employers and job prospects. Now, as with many parts of the State, we have come out of COVID with our foot on the accelerator, gunning for growth. Every single industry sector is struggling to find enough skilled and unskilled labour to meet demand.

We struggled to attract people to visit our region to support the visitor economy. Now there are more people coming to enjoy our area than many people in the hospitality sector have seen in living memory. I acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers and other people who give thousands of hours of their time and their family's time each year to support worthy causes. Obviously we have seen a lot of the emergency services over the past little while in the Northern Tablelands. I particularly thank those volunteers and staff members for the work they do to keep our communities safe. I also thank their families, who make sacrifices to support that involvement. I thank the people who are involved in the many voluntary organisations, whether it is the P&C associations, the Country Women's Association, the historical societies and others that grease the cogs of our communities and keep them ticking, vibrant, active and growing.

The Moree Plains Shire has seen growth and green shoots over the past little while, not just from floodwaters, but from the major projects that are underway. Soon construction will start on the new \$80 million hospital as well as the \$195 million special activation precinct. I pay tribute to the new Mayor of Moree Plains Shire, Mark Johnson, Deputy Mayor Susanna Pierce and acting general manager Nick Tobin for the leadership they have shown in the community since they began those roles in December. They have been a breath of fresh air.

Under the stable leadership of Mayor John Coulton and general manager Max Eastcote, the neighbouring Gwydir Shire Council also continues to power ahead with over \$40 million in funding secured to renew and upgrade its road network. Like many towns in the bush, the Gwydir shire is based heavily on primary industries, so roads are big business. Without good roads, we cannot get produce to market. I commend John and Max for their leadership in their communities and for the way in which they have worked hard to use those funds to upgrade community facilities across Warialda, Bingara and other small communities.

Inverell Shire is located in the centre of the Northern Tablelands. It continues to power ahead and is the fastest growing community in the region, with the most diverse economic base. I thank Mayor Paul Herman, Deputy Mayor Kate Dight, general manager Paul Henry and all of the councillors. They have the secret to success, and success breeds success. It is a positive community. The council is organised and strategic. They run things well and the community is well presented. At the moment the council is engaged in one of the most ambitious capital projects we have seen since the new \$60 million hospital, and that is the \$25 million redevelopment of the aquatic complex. I acknowledge Mayor of Glen Innes, Rob Banham, who is doing a terrific job leading his community and providing new community facilities, including a new pool.

I also acknowledge Armidale and Uralla regional councils, led by Robert Bell, Sam Coupland and Todd Redwood. They are doing magnificent work to recover from the floods by rebuilding the road network and developing the activation precinct at the airport. Again, they are taking advantage of the renewed confidence and economic activity in the area. Finally I mention Mayor of Walcha, Eric Noakes, and general manager Barry Omundson. That community will be coming into the Northern Tablelands electorate in the boundary changes and I cannot wait to have them. Wherever we look around the Northern Tablelands, there is positivity and growth. I look forward to the next few years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ELLICOTT, AC, KC

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (19:11): I pay tribute to the Hon. Robert Ellicott, AC, KC, who died on 31 October aged 95. An outstanding advocate and legal mind, Bob served Australia with dignity and dedication. Born in 1927 and raised near Cobar and in Moree, Bob was the son of a shearing contractor, wool classer and grazier. He wanted to be a barrister from the age of eight. He attended Fort Street High School, boarding nearby. He completed an arts degree and attained first class honours in law at Sydney University. After articles of clerkship at Henry Davis York, he was called to the New South Wales Bar Association in 1950 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1964. From 1969 to 1973 he was the Commonwealth Solicitor-General, appearing in numerous landmark cases including the *Australia v France* nuclear test case in the International Court of Justice.

In 1974 he was elected as Liberal Federal member for Wentworth. As the local member, he was influential in the establishment of the Inner City Legal Centre. From 1975 to 1977, he was the Commonwealth Attorney-General. Bob is the only person to have served both as Commonwealth Solicitor-General and Commonwealth Attorney-General. On his watch as Attorney-General, Parliament established the Federal Court and, through the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977, revised Federal administrative law. On Bob's watch as Attorney-General, there were three constitutional amendments, including granting to ACT and Northern Territory residents the vote in referenda, allowing a State legislature to replace a senator with a member of the same political party and introducing a retirement age of 70 for Federal judges.

Bob was Commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs from 1977 to 1980, Minister for the Capital Territory from 1977 to 1980 and Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment from 1980 to 1981. As Minister for the Capital Territory, Bob promoted Canberra as the national capital and was a leading force in the construction of the High Court building. As home affairs Minister, Bob developed constitutional arrangements for some external Territories such as Norfolk Island and Christmas Island, he played a significant role in the acceptance of Aboriginal art and was a key figure in tax concessions to promote the Australian film industry.

Bob once said that the most enjoyable thing he did in politics was setting up the Australian Institute of Sport as home affairs Minister. It opened in 1981 after Australia's poor performances at the 1976 Olympics and 1978 Commonwealth Games. Bob's view was that the AIS was not to be a gold-medal factory, but rather to pursue excellence and that gold medals could be the result of that pursuit. The AIS became a centre where Australia's most promising athletes could learn, train and develop into world-class talents to represent Australia on the world stage. Of his time in politics, Bob said:

I was on the 'left wing' of the Liberal Party, if there is such a thing. I tried to be a true liberal, if I could.

In 1981 Bob was appointed as a judge of the Federal Court. In 1983 he returned to private practice. Bob resigned from the bench, in part, because he did not wish to shut himself out of participating in public issues and public debate in a way that he did not think it was proper for a serving judge. He was a doyen of the bar, whom I met in 1991. He had an extraordinarily broad practice across public and commercial law and in international law. At a celebration of Bob's then 50 years at the bar in 2000, the Hon. Roger Gyles, AO, KC, said:

Although his knowledge of many areas of the law is without peer (I do not include the rules of evidence in that comment), his real skill is advocacy in the broad sense. He has a great instinct for the point of a case, and then sets about shaping it to his vision—in preparation, in court, in interlocutory proceedings and at the final hearing. He then sets about selling his vision. Whether against him or as a judge (and as his junior), you know to fasten your seat belt when Ellicott fixes his blue eyes on the judge and his tone of voice suggests both the Methodist lay preacher and the honest tiller of the soil.

At the same time as practising at the private bar, Bob played an important role in sports law and administration, including as a judge of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, a member of the IAAF Arbitration Panel, and the patron of Gymnastics Australia. As a significant figure in the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association, Bob was awarded the Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee in 2006. Bob was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2016 for his contribution to sports administration.

Until she passed away in 2020, Bob's loving wife, Colleen, was by his side, providing constant love and support. Bob is now reunited with the love of his life. All who knew Bob remember him as someone who was gentle, kind and fundamentally decent. Vale, Bob Ellicott. We will probably never see again his likes as a stellar all-rounder in the law, in politics and in broader public life.

HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI HOSPITAL

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (19:17): Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital has a long history of caring for our residents, and I am so pleased with the new state-of-the-art facility we have today. Hornsby is a community of engaged citizens, inspired by notions of service, volunteerism and care for one another. On so many occasions, those endeavours have coalesced around the desire to see better health services. The hospital has always had the benefit of active voices on behalf of the dedicated doctors, nurses and

other staff who work at the hospital. It can be traced back to the hospital's very origins. A dedicated band of community leaders, councillors and philanthropists first put the concept on the map after World War I.

In 1929 one of those pioneers, Thomas E. Rofe, first made a donation towards acquisition of the original site. Whilst the State Government committed £15,000 to the new hospital, the rest was derived through local hospital auxiliaries. They each raised what they could—sometimes £20, sometimes £200. They forged ahead even through the period of the Great Depression, determined to give this community the hospital it deserved. Councillor Rofe donated another £1,500 along the way and, for good measure, stormed out of a meeting with the then Minister for Health who had proposed the fit-out be done cheaply. Fortunately, Minister Hazzard and I enjoy a stronger and more collegial relationship.

Ten years of hard work paid dividends when the hospital was opened in August 1933, with the first patient coming from as far away as Ourimbah. In the years since, the bond between the community and our hospital has only strengthened. More funds were raised after a fire substantially damaged the hospital in 1935 and they pressed on to see a children's ward opened in 1943. In the 1960s, Hornsby Hospital's Pink Ladies was established—and they remain enthusiastic volunteers to this day. In 1996, when the former Government wanted to close or downgrade the hospital, the community rallied again. They were led by my predecessor as the member for Hornsby, Judy Hopwood, who had an extraordinary devotion to the residents of our area. Her efforts, along with the passion and resilience of thousands of people who joined the cause, saved the hospital from closure.

When I was elected as the member for Hornsby in 2011, I knew I had a special obligation to honour the legacy I was inheriting. At the time, the physical infrastructure was appalling. Staff were expected to put out buckets and towels on the floor every time it rained. Doctors and nurses were tripping over power cords on the floor of operating theatres because of the faulty electrical system. Critically ill patients had to share the intensive care unit with possums. I made it my mission to secure a commitment of \$50 million to start the phased redevelopment of the hospital. We quickly secured the funding, but I promised that I would work with the community to fight for much more.

Over the past decade our Government has invested \$440 million into Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. Funding of \$121 million went into the STAR building. In 2013 a dedicated mental health unit was completed, following a \$33.6 million investment. In 2018 a new car park with more than 500 spaces was opened. Now we are witnessing the benefits of the \$265 million investment to complete the stage two redevelopment. The new six-storey clinical services building and other improvements delivered as part of stage two will provide significantly improved health services and experiences for patients and their loved ones. It will ensure the hardworking team of medical professionals and support staff can carry out their duties in a world-class facility.

Along this journey, I have seen many heroes emerge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been kept safe thanks to the extraordinary contribution of the frontline staff who work in our hospital. I have had the privilege of working in partnership with Dr Richard Harris and Dr Pip Middleton, among others. They have always displayed wise counsel, firm convictions and a sense of purpose when it comes to the needs of the hospital. They were frank about their expectations but endlessly generous in the time and support they gave me as we fought to expand the breadth and quality of health care services provided. I cannot thank them enough.

The persistence of those leaders of the medical workforce and the community at large means we now have a hospital that is world-class. It serves an area of approximately 300,000 people. Each year around 40,000 people use the emergency department. It welcomes 1,200 new babies each year through the birthing unit—including my own son, Tom. The hospital is also home to one of the largest solar installations on a healthcare facility in Australia. The 865-kilowatt solar installation saves the local health district around \$250,000 and reduces carbon emissions by 900 tonnes every year. We can have enormous pride in knowing the vision of the workforce and the community to have a world-class hospital on our doorstep has come to fruition. We can take comfort in knowing this hospital—our hospital—will be central to the health care of our residents for decades to come.

Community Recognition Notices

GOLDEN HEART CHARITY

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I am proud to acknowledge the important work of the Golden Heart Charity fundraising appeal to support Bankstown Hospital. On 12 November, the three organisations that comprise Golden Heart – the Vietnamese Medical Association, The Australasian Dragon Business Association, and the Lions Club of Western Sydney and Sydney North West – fundraised over \$200,000 to support the purchase of a Revolix Hybrid Thulium Laser machine for Bankstown Hospital, which is used for soft tissue surgery and lithotripsy. The Bankstown community is incredibly fortunate to have a group like Golden Heart coordinate the upgrade of hospital equipment to make sure that our community can access the healthcare services they need. In 2019, Golden Heart fundraised \$107,000 to purchase a MCG Plethysmograph at Bankstown Hospital and in

2018 the group purchased a \$106,000 Orthoscan Machine for Fairfield Hospital. Golden Heart has also regularly supported relief appeals during floods and fires, and even fundraised to support refugee communities in Thailand. Golden Heart is an incredible charity group and I want to place on the record my appreciation to Dr Vinh Binh Lieu OAM, President of the Vietnamese-Australian Medical Association, for his tireless work in supporting the Bankstown community through Golden Heart.

BANKSTOWN SPORTS STRIKERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I want to congratulate Bankstown Sports Strikers Football Club on a successful 2022 football season. The Strikers managed to overcome many obstacles this season, none more so than the fact that their fields were closed for nearly 4 months. Despite this challenge, Strikers managed to field one of the highest participation rates in all of the Bankstown Association, with strong growth in female participation. The Strikers junior girls team jerseys this year featured a pink stripe, with \$2 donated to the McGrath Foundation for every goal scored. The Club managed to donate over \$1000 after scoring 500 incredible goals! Overall, 6 teams made it into Grand Finals with the U17/18 Ladies winning the Premiership. Men's Premier League won both the Minor Premiership and Club Championship, and the U15 Boys went on to make the Grand Final of the NSW Champions of Champions – a huge feat for local Bankstown football! I acknowledge Bankstown Sports Strikers Football Club President John Dacciaro, Treasurer Andrew Skaltsounis, Secretary Mark Merlino, as well as the coaches, players and volunteers, and congratulate the club on a successful season.

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS NPL WOMENS

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—Bankstown City Lions Football Club had their best ever season on record in the 2022 NSW NPL Women's Competition. The Club has grown tremendously over the past decade in Football NSW Women's Competitions. From their first season in only 2013, Bankstown City Lions is now one of the leading Clubs in our State, giving opportunities for local girls to develop their football skills at the semi-professional level, and enabling girls and women in Bankstown to progress into the A-League Women's or the Matildas such as Mary Fowler, who played for Bankstown. Under the leadership of Club Treasurer, Women's Convenor and Charles Valentine Medal winner Denise Hinton, Bankstown finished 6th this season and were only 1 win short of a finals place. The Club's football department is led by Matt Constatini and Paul Constatini whose professionalism played a key role in making Bankstown have their best ever finish in NSW Women's competitions. The future looks bright at Bankstown City Lions NPL Women's. The junior teams look strong for 2023 and I believe that the Club will challenge for the NPL Women's title next year. It is an exciting time for women's football in Bankstown.

HIGHLANDS SINFONIA

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Highlands Sinfonia is an orchestral group in my community that has been playing wonderful music since 2001. The group was founded by violinist Patsy Gordon with the purpose of playing concerts in addition to fundraising for charity. This purpose was realised right from the group's inception, as the Sinfonia donated the proceeds from their inaugural show to Anglicare. The group has evolved into 28 members, with strings, tympani, wood-wind and brass instruments. They provide music and a subsequent light lunch on four Friday mornings throughout the year at St Jude's Church in Bowral. The group's most recent performance, held on the 9th of September, was an orchestral celebration of the group itself and the Southern Highlands. The original composition 'Highlands Idyll', written by Titus Grenyer, was debuted. The piece was commissioned by Heather Fiare, a Bowral local, who commissioned the work in honour of her late father, Tom- a founding member of the Sinfonia. Additionally, the piece 'Bowral Gallop' was played. The late Mike Butcher composed this piece to reflect life in the Southern Highlands, specifically the Bowral Raceday. My thanks are given to Highlands Sinfonia for their enriching music and charitable work.

BISTRO SOCIALE AWARDED

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Congratulations to the Bowral restaurant, Bistro Sociale, for their recent award of Best Non-Alcoholic Drink List at the Australian Wine List of the Year Awards. The restaurant's sommelier, Ben Shephard, is also to be congratulated for his role in the restaurant's award. This was the first time Bistro Sociale entered the awards, impressively taking the prize due to its extensive Australian and international non-alcoholic wines, beers, ciders, mocktails and spirits. The national award has a detailed list of judging criteria, with judges assessing the price, the ability of the non-alcoholic drinks to be paired with food and its quality. Bistro Sociale's strong focus on providing non-alcoholic beverages for its patrons is to be commended. Living and going out in regional areas requires even more drinking responsibility and consideration, as driving is the primary method of transportation. In having such an array of non-alcoholic beverages, the restaurant is ensuring designated drivers and those who do not drink are also not socially excluded.

CAROLE-ANNE PRIEST

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Congratulations to Carole- Anne Priest for being awarded the Wollondilly Women in Business [WWIB] Woman of the Year 2022. Carole-Anne is a founding director of the business Imalia, which is a financial and insurance services provider. The business has a strong ethos of empowering women by providing financial support, advice and services. Carole-Anne is an accomplished director, CEO and award-winning lawyer who is also passionate about giving back to those who are less fortunate. Even during the stresses of law school, Carole-Anne was volunteering in a soup kitchen. To this day, the WWIB Woman of the Year provides pro bono legal advice for disadvantaged women. Carole-Anne's compassion does not extend only to humans. She has rescued nearly 30 animals that live with her on her acreage within the Wollondilly electorate. I congratulate and thank Carole-Anne for her life-long service to helping others.

U TURN THE WHEEL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I commend the U Turn the Wheel program for improving road safety for around 50,000 young drivers. The U Turn the Wheel program is a one-day in-school program targeting year 11 students, initially in the Sutherland Shire and now expanded across to the St George area. It presents to approximately 3,500 students per year, charging a modest \$10 per student. It has presented to around 50,000 young drivers since its inception in 2004. U Turn the Wheel was founded and is led by Martin Tabone of Caringbah Rotary Club and operates in conjunction with local Rotary Clubs. Experts talk to students about the issues facing young drivers. For example, local highway patrol police officers address law enforcement and substance abuse, paramedics talk about horrific consequences, driving instructors address distractions like mobile phones, and NRMA representatives address about how to look for a safe car. There has been a 59 per cent decrease in the Shire between 2007-2019 for 17-20 year-old drivers involved in casualty crashes involving serious injury, a decrease which U Turn the Wheel team considers it has influenced.

KAL GLANZNIG

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Kal Glanznig who was selected as a youth representative at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference [COP27] in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Kal was one of two Australian youth delegates who were chosen to attend COP27 as part of the United Nations' Emerging Leaders Program. Kal is a strong youth and environmental advocate. He was the 2020 Sutherland Shire Young Citizen of the Year for his involvement in the Plastic Free Cronulla initiative. In partnership with the Cronulla Chamber of Commerce, Kal encouraged local businesses and offices to become plastic free. In 2021, Kal was selected for the Youth Advisory Council for World Oceans Day and awarded one of two 2021 Unibank Leaders Scholarships. The United Nations' Emerging Leaders Program is an excellent opportunity for Kal to engage with global like-minded peers and advocates. Kal attended several key sessions that include world leaders and individuals impacted by climate change. Kal hopes that he can share this knowledge through speaking and workshop opportunities when he returns. I look forward to hearing about the outcomes Kal has helped achieve from the Emerging Leaders Program.

SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I commend the members of the Shire Woodworking Club who handcrafted 430 wooden toys and 11 crocheted rugs for the Randwick Children's Hospital this October. Over several months, members crafted Halloween themed toys such as fairy houses, Halloween cut-outs, tugboats, planes, guitars, and 23 room name plaques. The Club even made a green screen stage for the children to perform puppet videos which are broadcast across the hospital wards by 'Captain Starlight.' The club's next delivery will be at Christmas which they hope will bring joy and excitement for children at the Hospital. I want to acknowledge not only the club's donation of toys to Randwick Children's Hospital, but also their dedication to supporting a range of community causes over many years. I recognise among others the following recently re-elected executive committee members for their contribution to the club and local community: president Ian Rudd, vice-president Malcolm Armstrong, treasurer Alan Ritchie, secretary Graham Ethell, and ordinary members Roger Dixon, David Edwards, and Maurice Smith.

NARELLE CLAY – SOUTHERN YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I congratulate and thank Narelle Clay, and the entire team at Southern Youth and Family Service, for their relentless work in helping disadvantaged youth, including those at risk of homelessness. Narelle has been at the helm of Southern Youth and Family Services since the 1980's, where it has grown from a small youth refuge to the large multi-faceted organisation it is today. Narelle is passionate about her local community, including the local Dharawal indigenous community, advocating on policy and advising Government on programs and structural changes that will make a real difference to the lives of young

people and their families. I thank Narelle for her lifetime of dedication to such a wonderful cause, the youth of this Nation.

RE-LOVE FOUNDATION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—On 1 November 2022 I had the pleasure of meeting with the Re-Love Foundation and their team to learn more about their work. Re-Love is an environmental charity, borne out of a critical need to provide immediate assistance to people in crisis so that they can establish a home. Their main source of supply comes from rescuing furniture and other goods from companies and the community to distribute to people in need. Through their work, they've rescued approximately 1,750 tonnes of furniture from landfill. Over the years they have forged partnerships with leading companies to support their work. One of the most exceptional aspects is that they are in essence, a free shop, with no cost, no red tape, and no delay service when people in our community are experiencing hardship. They can provide people with everything needed to make a house a home. Charity is an ingrained part of our culture, and I am proud to see such a successful not-for-profit that has excelled in this area. I congratulate co-founders Renuka Fernando, Ben Stammer, and their team on their achievements and wish them many more fruitful and rewarding years to come.

STAR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT FACILITY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—On 24 October I had the pleasure of visiting the Star Scientific Research, Development and Deployment Facility in Berkeley Vale with my colleagues, David Mehan and David Harris. Star Scientific is a private research and development company pioneering breakthrough technology including converting hydrogen into heat without combustion – the Hydrogen Energy Release Optimiser, or HERO. This work is critical in ensuring that NSW is an energy superpower, sourcing energy from a diverse array of sources and harnessing the potential of new jobs based here in NSW. To that end, the company is also actively engaged with the industry on the Central Coast including Central Coast Industry Connect, the Central Coast Food Hydrogen Cluster, the Sustainability Association and Gosford-Erina Chamber of Commerce. As Shadow Minister for Energy I very much appreciated the opportunity to tour the facility and be briefed on the cutting edge work Star Scientific is undertaking in this field. My thanks to David Mehan for organising the visit and to Star Scientific for hosting us.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PUNCHBOWL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—Since its opening in 1922, Punchbowl Public School has educated the people of Punchbowl and the surrounding suburbs. It is a much-loved institution in the community. With high-quality education and community engagement it has long served our thriving area. I was honoured to join the school community for their Centenary Birthday. 100 years of education, 100 years of community engagement and 100 years of making a difference to our society. It was great to see so many current and past staff and students come together and celebrate an amazing milestone. From a smoking ceremony to amazing artwork the day was filled with joy and nostalgia. Alumni of Punchbowl have gone on to be great local lawyers, doctors and teachers, and even some rugby league players. Some are teachers at Punchbowl Public. As a former Principal at Punchbowl Boys High my relationship with the school and appreciation of its value is longstanding. I want to thank Principal Donna McGeary, the teachers, staff, and families which make Punchbowl Public School such a successful community-based school. I look forward to celebrating future anniversaries with a much-loved institution.

THE NAKED FLORIST

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The Newcastle-based flower magicians at The Naked Florist were recognised at the 2022 Hunter Local Business Awards, receiving the gong for Outstanding Florist. From their base of operations in Cardiff Heights, Ashleigh Palmowski and her team travel to wherever their clients need them. With a focus on sustainability, they source local Australian stems, forage for fresh foliage and find unique, textured pieces to bring colour palettes and design dreams to life and ensure that no two arrangements are ever the same. The Naked Florist team promise that they'll never dye, bleach, or preserve a bloom. The testimonials from clients posted on The Naked Florist website attest to Ashleigh's vision, commitment and talent. Ashleigh encourages consumers to make sure they look into who they are purchasing from and whether their practices align with their values, and urges that they consider sustainability in their decisions. Now, that's advice we can all live by!

PROFESSOR BRETT NIXON

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Professor Brett Nixon is the Director of the HMRI Infertility and Reproduction Program, a Senior Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, co-Director of the University of Newcastle's Priority Research Centre for Reproductive Science, and is the 2022 winner of the Hunter Medical Research Institute's Award for Research Excellence. This is HMRI's premier award recognising the achievements of an outstanding researcher and research leader who has made a

sustained contribution to research that improves the health and wellbeing of the broader community. Professor Nixon's research focuses on the decline in male fertility, only ten per cent of which is thought to be related to genetic mutation. The rest is thought to be environmental, and this is Brett's area of investigation. His research has a broad application for the diagnosis of sperm dysfunction, and the development of novel therapeutic intervention strategies to alleviate the issue of male infertility and address the needs of children that may result. My congratulations to Professor Nixon on his well-deserved recognition and my thanks for his outstanding work.

DOCTOR MICHELLE KENNEDY

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Doctor Michelle Kennedy is an NHMRC early-career researcher, partnering with Aboriginal communities to place the power in their hands and address priority areas to improve Indigenous health. Dr Kennedy is a Wiradjuri woman who has grown up on Worrimi country, and brings 16 years of experience working with Aboriginal communities and Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing to the health research space to deliver health research that is appropriate, engaging and meaningful for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This commitment and expertise has been recognised with the HMRI Award for Early-Career Research, which helps to support professional development, raise awareness and acknowledge the work of talented early-career researchers at a critical time in their working and researching lives. Doctor Kennedy is the Assistant Dean Indigenous Strategy and Leadership for the College of Health Medicine and Wellbeing at the University of Newcastle, the Executive Manager of Research and Knowledge Translation at the Lowitja Institute and the Vice President Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander for the Public Health Association. My congratulations to Doctor Kennedy on her well-deserved recognition and my thanks for her outstanding work.

DARREN ARTHUR

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—After 29 years of service to the Warren Shire Council, Darren has decided to hang the hat up and enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Darren joined the team at Warren Shire Council in 1993 as treasurer, after starting his career as an administration Cadet at Wakool Shire Council. Darren then went on to becoming responsible for managing the council's computer system as the IT manager, before finding a passion in finance in 1998 where he took on the executive role of Divisional Manager Finance and Administration. Darren has been a valued member of the shire council and the community. I thank Darren for his years of dedication to the Warren Shire and wish him all the best in his retirement.

PAMELA HARRIS

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—After 50 years of service to the Baradine Multi-Purpose Health Service, Pamela has decided to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Pam commenced employment at the Baradine Subsidiary Hospital and has seen many changes and improvements during her years of service. The team at Baradine MPS including past staff, family and friends, came together to give Pam a lovely retirement celebration. She will be missed. Pam has been a valued member of the Baradine MPS and the community. I thank Pam for her years of service and dedication to the Baradine community and wish her all the best in her retirement.

MAUREEN O'DONNELL

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—It is with great sadness that I advise this house of the passing of Wilyakali Elder and Maari Ma Board Chairperson Maureen O'Donnell on 6 November 2022 in Broken Hill. Mrs O'Donnell was part of the Aboriginal Health Service's Board since its inception and was appointed Chairperson fourteen years ago. During this time, she oversaw its Chronic Disease Strategy, the establishment of Maari Ma's Primary Health Care Service in Broken Hill and Balranald and the significant expansion of service delivery across Wilcannia, Menindee and Balranald. Mrs O'Donnell fought for many years to have the Barkindji people recognised as the traditional owners of the land. This was recognised in 2015 when the Barkandji Native Title claim # 8 was awarded. Mrs O'Donnell was an inspiring advocate for health, land rights, housing and equality for all first nations people. She was hardworking and forthright. She will be remembered right across the Western Region for her willingness to share her knowledge and culture, to improve the lives of the next generation. I extend my sympathy to Mrs O'Donnell's family. They have lost their Matriarch and we have lost a respected champion for Aboriginal rights.

ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL HORSE RIDERS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I congratulate the equestrian riders of St Columba Anglican School Port Macquarie on their achievements in the Inter-school Horse Extravaganza Tamworth. I want to particularly commend Aneka Vaughan (Year 11) Reserve Champion Show Jumping, Elle McCarthy (Year 3) Winner Show Jumping and Audrey Littler (Year 1) who secured a fifth place in Sporting. Other team members included Pearl Littler (Year 4) and Jessica Magann (Year 10) and I commend them for their efforts and participation. The Extravaganza attracted over 500 riders in various age groups competing over four days in a range of disciplines including show jumping, dressage, show riding, sporting and eventing. Inter-school

competitions promote sportsmanship, educating young athletes in horsemanship and horse management and providing a competition environment. Congratulations to Team Manager Bronwyn Magann on the performance of these young riders.

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise students Luke Aguilar, Cameron Grigg, Remy Bucton and Adam Plant from St Columba Anglican School Port Macquarie for receiving well deserved accolades at the Science Teachers Association of NSW [STANSW] Young Scientist Awards held online from 16th-19th November 2022. The STANSW Young Scientist Awards are celebrated on an annual basis acknowledging exemplary skills in scientific investigations, technological innovations and mathematical inquiries from K-12 across NSW. Now in its 30th year, the program encourages students to investigate real-world problems through STEM based creative solutions. I congratulate Year 12 student Adam Plant for placing first in the Working Technologically: Innovation and Engineering Design category. I also applaud students Luke Aguilar and Cameron Grigg for winning the sponsored AARNet Communications Award. Last but certainly by no means least, I commend Year 10 student Remy Bucton for securing third prize honours in the Year 9-10 division for chemistry. Each student has worked exceptionally hard to achieve honours at the Young Scientist Awards. Increasing your knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM] is a worthwhile investment in a student's education which opens the doors to exciting career opportunities. Congratulations!

HUNTER SCHOOLS MTD COMPETITION

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I applaud the sensational efforts of Beau and Juno Hall from Lake Cathie Public School for competing in the Hunter Schools Mountain Bike Team Events on Saturday 5 November 2022. Beau and Juno Hall recently represented Lake Cathie Public School in the Hunter Schools MTB rally in Taree taking home two first places and a third place against a tough field of performers from up and down the east coast. Juno braved the tough conditions of the course with grit and determination to finish a commendable third place in the Under 9 girls Funduro. Meanwhile her brother Beau competed in two events, dominating the track in both the Funduro and Gravity Enduro tournaments to win first place in each circuit. Overall Beau placed a worthy fifth against a majority of older contenders aged between 12 to 17 years. A wonderful achievement by two rising stars of the MTB circuit, I congratulate Beau and Juno Hall for working and training exceptionally hard to place well at the Hunter Schools Mountain Bike Team Events.

INCREDIBLE RESCUE FROM OCEAN BEACH SLSC

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Today I would like to recognise the skill and commitment of Ocean Beach surf lifesavers recently demonstrated when a 65-year-old club member had collapsed on the shoreline. This is a highly confronting situation to be faced with, but lifesavers on scene rose to the occasion. Performing 15 rounds of CPR, and shocking the patient twice with a defibrillator, the older gentleman was stabilised and transported to Gosford Hospital by ambulance services. He was conscious, breathing and talking. Fortunately, the patient is now in a stable condition and on the road to recovery. I have the highest commendation for those on scene who, as a result of tireless training, had the knowledge and clarity of mind to manage the medical incident and achieve a positive outcome. Incidents such as this are a testament to the importance of lifesavers who keep our community safe. Their degree of professionalism, high standard of training, and cooperation as a team ensured a successful outcome. I offer my sincerest gratitude to the lifesavers present; your dedication and generosity of time is appreciated by the whole community, and as we have seen, truly does save lives.

AUSTRALIAN MEN'S NETBALL COACH NERIDA STEWART

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Today I would like to celebrate the success of Central Coast super-coach, Nerida Stewart. An ex-Swift player herself, Nerida has led Australia's Men's Netball side to victory since her appointment. Stewart knows what it takes to dominate netball. The team have been going from strength to strength under Nerida's coaching. Her training prowess backed by experience and physiological understanding has the team smashing expectations. Recently, the Australian Men's Netball Team claimed both the international test series the Trans-Tasman Cup, and the Sydney Trial. These fantastic achievements were ahead of their participation in the team's first-ever World Netball event – "The Fast Fives". While New Zealand took out the Grand Final, Nerida's Aussies were impressive Runner's Up. This rounds out their international campaign for 2022, and I think we can all agree it has been a huge success. The coaching expertise of Nerida Stewart has led our netballers to victory on a world-stage. Congratulations to players, and a huge thank you to the supportive network who enables the team to perform at their best. And of course, an extra special congratulation is due to the Central Coast's very own Nerida Stewart.

PETER WILSON

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge Peter Wilson of Belmont on winning Community Colleges Australia's [CCA] inaugural Community Education Trainer of the Year Award. The Community Education Trainer of the Year Award celebrates the work and underlines the importance of Australian adult and community education [ACE] trainers and teachers. Trainers are the "cutting edge" of ACE education and training, as they support and facilitate increased student confidence and learning, bringing to bear their own substantial life, industry, teaching and other professional experience. Peter works at Central Coast Community College, as a Trade Trainer (Metal Fabrication and Welding). He has a diverse background in the fabrication industry, having worked primarily in the ship building and defence industries. He is a dedicated and talented trainer who leads with his heart and has worked tirelessly with community groups to develop and deliver customised programs to meet student needs. Peter should be extremely proud of this achievement, and I am glad that his efforts were acknowledged at last month's CCA Conference Dinner in Sydney. I congratulate Peter on winning the Community Education Trainer of the Year Award. I also thank him for supplying Central Coast students with essential skills and knowledge.

ALAN VALE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge Alan Vale of the Doyalson Wyee Sub-Branch, who recently received his 50 Year Membership Certificate from the Returned and Services League of Australia New South Wales Branch. The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL Australia) was established over 100 years ago to improve the supports available for those returning from the First World War. Now, RSL Australia has grown to be the country's largest ex-service organisation, operating through a federated structure of State and Territory Branches and 1,135 Sub-Branches, and representing approximately 150,000 members. Alan has demonstrated continuous dedication to both the Doyalson Wyee Sub-Branch and greater RSL Australia over the past 50 years, always getting involved in activities and events. 50 years of membership is an impressive achievement that Alan should be extremely proud of. I congratulate Alan on achieving 50 years of cumulative service as a member of the League and thank him for his service.

SWANSEA SURF SHOP

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Swansea Surf Shop on celebrating its 20th year of trade earlier this month. Shop owners Daryl and Sharon have worked extremely hard over the past two decades to make Swansea Surf Shop one of the most popular retail stores in the local community. Not only do locals regularly drop into the shop to make purchases, but also tourists who often visit the region to check out Lake Macquarie's beautiful beaches and waterways. We all know how challenging operating a small business can be, especially over the past couple of years. That is why Daryl and Sharon should be extremely proud of reaching this milestone. I congratulate Swansea Surf Shop on 20 years of trading. I also thank Daryl and Sharon for the great contribution they have made to the community through their business.

PAUL THOMAS OF DENILQUIN

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Paul Thomas of Denilquin for his extraordinary work championing and supporting amputees. Paul became a below knee amputee in 2013, and has been a volunteer support person for "Limbs 4 Life" for the past 8 years. Paul continues to empower and advocate for amputees by becoming a member of the non-profit organisation's National Council recently, advocating for much needed change for people with a disability, and aims to ease the challenges experienced by those with a disability. Paul also volunteers as senior deputy of aviation at the Rural Fire Service's Mid Murray Support Brigade. Paul provides tremendous support and guidance to other amputees through Limbs 4 Life Australia, and is known for using his sense of humour to provide inspiration and show others that amputation does not need to hold anyone back. On behalf of the people of the Murray electorate I wish to congratulate and thank Paul for his compassion and inspiration for the community.

ELLEN TOWNSEND

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Ellen Townsend of the Boyd County for her extraordinary work as a volunteer for the NSW Rural Fire Service RFS for 61 years. Ellen has been a volunteer with the RFS since 1960 and held the position of Boyd Brigade Deputy Captain for 52 years. Ellen was then Brigade Permit Officer from 2007 to 2013, becoming very well known across the district for her role in radio operations. Ellen has initiated many new checks and processes for ensuring the safety and smooth operation of the units such as reoccurring radio checks and a 'phone tree process' for when fires start in the local area ensuring everyone knows what to do. Ellen has always been particularly supportive of new members, passing on her vast knowledge. Ellen has been inducted in the NSW Hidden Treasures Honour Roll and is a

worthy recipient of the Long Service Medal 5th Clasp. On behalf of the people of the Murray electorate I wish to congratulate and thank Ellen for her dedication and work with the RFS and the community.

DUNOON PRIMARY WINS GREEN INNOVATION AWARDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the wonderful school community at Dunoon Primary School for their excellent work at the finals of Green Innovation Awards held this year at the Whitebrook Theatre at Southern Cross University. Dunoon entered two teams this year. The first tackling fast fashion was called Wearables and the second named Bush Babies used Indigenous knowledge and local bushfoods to create a healthy, localised alternative to baby food. After a fantastic effort from both teams The Wearables team won the Primary competition. The event brought together the finalists from over 200 schools in the region, across all 7 Local Government Areas [LGAs] for judging their environmental projects. There were 8 finalist teams in the Whitebrook Theatre, with 5 Primary Schools and 3 High schools coming together to pitch their innovative, regenerative ideas for a sustainable future, a future of hope with solutions to combat waste, climate change, including the subsequent weather events and protect the environment. I congratulate Dunoon School and thank them for leading our community on sustaining our environment for the future.

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT PRIMEX CASINO

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate PRIMEX Chief Executive Officer Bruce Wright and his entire team on another fantastic PRIMEX this year. As a premier agriculture event in not just the Northern Rivers but NSW this year's successful PRIMEX was an important step in our recovery, rebuild and reimagining of our communities going forward. People from across the country come to PRIMEX to exhibit, buy agricultural products, have experiences of the agriculture industry, be up to date with the latest developments and science in the agriculture industry and also catch up with friends and clients old and new. I particularly thank the sponsors including naming rights sponsor NORCO, Local Land Services, BCU, Southern Cross University, Meat and Livestock Australia, HXR, TAFE, Richmond Valley Council, QCL, The Land, Lismore Toyota, Red Energy, Lismore App and Beef Central. PRIMEX is all about securing the future of agriculture and celebrating what our country communities have to offer. I congratulate them on a great year and wish them well for the future.

BENVOLENT SOCIETY YOUTH WELLBEING PROGRAM TENTERFIELD HIGH

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate Tenterfield High School students Amelia, Shelby, Mitch, Nariah and Alexia on their involvement in the Benevolent Society Youth Wellbeing Program. The Tenterfield Youth Wellbeing Program is an early intervention program for young people in Tenterfield. The program focused on wellbeing to improve physical and mental health for teenagers/young adults (12 -17 years). The aim of this program is to directly focus on improving wellbeing (both physical and mental) by; enhancing opportunities for social engagement and community development, increasing connectivity (accessing digital options) and capacity building to indirectly contribute to work readiness by increasing wellbeing for employability. Benevolent Society Chief Executive Office Lin Hatfield Dodds visited the students in October and remarked to staff and students how impressive the students were. In particular how talented and enthusiastic they were. I congratulate all involved and thank the students for not only representing Tenterfield High School well but also being leaders in their community.

ACCESS ABLE CONNECTIONS

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Grafton business, Access Able Connections, who were named the Most Outstanding Disability Support Care Provider in Australia, at the recently held 2022 Enablement Awards held in Sydney. This wonderful business has been in business since 2017 and provides personalised support services to residents throughout the local area. Company Director, Cameron Monaghan, is proud of the professionalism of his dedicated team, and he has been invited to go to London to share their success on the international stage. I wish Cameron and his team every success for the future.

REECE DOBBIN

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Reece Dobbin who was recently named the DHL Lifeguard of the Year. Reece has been a lifeguard for 5 years as well as working at Maclean High School as a teacher's aid. Reece, who has also been a lifeguard at Byron Bay and Lennox Head, has been involved in a number of rescues and the community owes its gratitude to the selfless lifeguards, like Reece, who are prepared to volunteer their time to ensure we are all kept safe in the surf. Well done Reece, and thank you.

MACLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—It is always great to share good news stories and this one is no exception. A very proud special education teacher from Maclean High School reached out to me to let me

know that four of her male students Nigalla Carriage, Joeden Carriage, Correy Boon and Eric Parkes recently entered into a statewide inclusive ten pin bowling competition run by the NSW School Sports Unit for students with disability. The team of four performed exceptionally well at the event in September and placed third out of all the high schools on the North Coast from Coffs Harbour to Tweed Heads. They went on to compete at the state titles held in Sydney recently, with Jamal Hippi stepping in to replace one of the boys unable to attend. They competed against 30 other secondary schools and came 10th in the state which is a remarkable achievement. Their teacher, Emma Webber said the boys, all aged between 14-16 years, were thrilled to be travelling to the state's capital to take part in such an exciting competition and she couldn't be prouder. I join with the community in congratulating the boys on their achievement and wish them well into the future.

MOIRA MCGINITY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Moira McGinity from Bungonia. Ms McGinity is proudly known as the founder of the Bungonia and District Historical Society. This passion and a willingness to relate to likeminded people within the community Ms McGinity started to complete research into Bungonia's history. This in many ways enticed others interest about their family histories and to participate in tours which were started to share the township's history and recognise landmarks, which have now seen twenty-seven signs erected along a historic walkway. Ms McGinity has now been formally recognised for her work by the Goulburn Mulwaree Council, being one of the first recipients to receive the Goulburn Mulwaree Award for her extensive service to the community. I sincerely congratulate and acknowledge the work of Ms McGinity to bring to life the history of Bungonia.

BROCK CHUDLEIGH

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Mr Brock Chudleigh of Crookwell. Mr Chudleigh, a young Yuin man and is a Crookwell High School student who was selected to undertake a piece of art to have installed in the new Clinical Services building at the Goulburn Base Hospital. Mr Chudleigh's artwork is an impressive piece, which is situated on a five point five-metre-high steel exterior staircase, portraying, and paying homage to the rich cultural history of the region reflecting a river between Aboriginal people and the animals and their movements, allowing the land to recuperate and paying their respect to it, knowing how important it is to them. This tribute to First Nation peoples, and to Mr Chudleigh as an artist has inspired him to continue his art and to continue to learn more about his culture. I congratulate Mr Chudleigh on his creativity as an artist and the acknowledgement, pride and respect demonstrated through his art to his First Nation people's culture.

HENRY FULTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith)—I offer my congratulations to Henry Fulton Public School as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Established in 1997 with an initial enrolment of 128 students the school has grown, changed and thrived to become a contemporary centre of learning, with outstanding programs and resources. Significant in every program and initiative is the close partnership and collaboration between children, parents, staff, the wider community and other local schools. The school has been led by three school principals since its establishment and is currently under the leadership of Ms Grace Palamara. The school currently has 266 students. The school badge depicts the old schoolhouse used by Rev Henry Fulton who was a teacher, clergyman, farmer, and magistrate in the local area. It has been worn with pride by students over the school's twenty five years of providing quality teaching and learning. Henry Fulton Public School's motto is 'Learning Together'. The school's students have proudly lived up to this motto and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so, well into the future. Again, many congratulations to Henry Fulton Public School on your 25th Anniversary

100 YEARS OF ILLABO SHOW

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I extend a huge congratulations to past and present members of the Illabo Show Society on their fantastic achievement of reaching 100 years of the Illabo Show. Held this year on 8 October the show was bigger and better than ever. After 2 years of uncertainty attendees were invited to partake in the many wonderful events on offer. From dogs, horses and sheep to cars, entertainment, and fireworks there was something for everyone. I would like to thank the current show committee comprising of President Simon Muller, Immediate Past Present Don Pratt, Vice President's Messrs Jenny Thompson, John Hopkins and Tim Pratt, and Treasurer Gerard Ryan. A massive thank you is also given to the executive committee, patron, stewards, working committee and the many sponsors. Without the generous support of the local community many local shows and events would not be possible. Congratulations once again on the success of your 100th Illabo Show. I am incredibly sorry I was unable to attend and look forward to making it to your 101st Show next year.

NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP FOR NICOLE LOGG

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I extend a massive congratulations to Barmedman livestock nutritionist and farmer, Nicole Logg, on being awarded a Nuffield Scholarship. Nicole is one of nineteen emerging leaders from Australian agriculture who has been awarded this prestigious scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation, Nicole will investigate nutritional options for supplementing sheep effectively. The scholarship includes a \$30,000 bursary to spend on research and travel. To visit, learn from and collaborate with some of the world's leading agricultural businesses and research institutions. Nicole is curious about how supplements can go beyond just energy and protein, making the most of nutrition to improve productivity. Nicole's scholarship will see her travel to other nations with significant sheep industries – such as New Zealand, UK, Argentina, Uruguay, and Spain—investigating how supplements are being used abroad to improve animal health, reduce stress and provide better data for decision-making. Nicole is hoping that her studies will create a simple way for farmers to better understand what they have naturally in their pastures and available feed resources, and what they may be deficient in during different seasonal periods. Congratulations again Nicole and I wish you all the best in your studies.

COOLAMON MEN'S SHED

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I had the privilege to recently visit the members of the Coolamon Men's Shed to see firsthand the incredible work that these individuals are creating to help their local community and learn about all the interesting plans these members have for their Shed. There are currently 28 active and inactive members enrolled in the Coolamon Men's Shed all coming and working together on a weekly basis to do odd jobs, refurbish old furniture and create masterpieces. The current members comprise of Marcel Baur, Thomas Bourke, Bill Brabander, Barry Brill, Alan Cain, Peter Condon, Stephen Davis, Andre DeHaan, Robert Deighton, Michael Fairweath, Ray Foley, John Franklin, Barrie Holden, Derek Harwin, Henk Hulsman, Ian Jennings, Colin Lucock, Frank Majury, Robert Moss, Anthony O'Reilly, Garth Perkin, Wayne Pearse, Darren Peters, Rob Smith, Albert Suidgeest, Andrew Veigel, Bob Thompson and Bruce Wooten. It was a great pleasure to visit these men to present them with funding, share in some morning tea and learn of their visions for the future. I wish to thank the Coolamon Men's Shed again for hosting me and I look forward to my next visit.

INNER WEST NEIGHBOUR AID

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—For 30 years, Inner West Neighbour Aid has provided invaluable support to older people, people with disability and carers within our local community. Since its establishment in 1992, the organisation has dedicated its services to igniting community spirit. To best support seniors and people with disability in leading active, social and independent lives, Inner West Neighbour Aid works to facilitate long term relationships. These connections empower people to share their knowledge and experiences. The Neighbour Aid runs programs and provides services that prioritise building wellness around the home, as well as developing confidence while out and about. Even though there is only a small team of staff working for the organisation, with two-hundred dedicated volunteers who kindly give their time and skills, they are able to support seven-hundred people living across the Inner West. I recognise the work of all the wonderful staff and volunteers at the Inner West Neighbour Aid. I also extend my congratulations to Social Support Coordinator, Esther Tigchelaar for fostering such a welcoming environment.

PETERSHAM PARK GRANDSTAND RENAME

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I thank the Randwick Petersham Cricket Club for hosting the spectacular Petersham Park Community Day on Sunday 6 November, and unveiling the newly renamed Hughes family-Dudley Seddon Memorial Grandstand. After the completion of its much-needed upgrades, our Inner West Council decided to rename Petersham Park's grandstand to better recognise the historical legacy of the grounds. The name of the grandstand originally recognised Dudley Seddon who played cricket for Petersham from 1915 to 1943. This new addition serves to acknowledge the integral role of the Hughes family in the Petersham Cricket Club's history. As players, administrators and volunteers, their involvement spanned sixty-four years. The Hughes family left an absolutely remarkable legacy. As a cricket icon in the Petersham area, Noel Hughes was a Life Member of Petersham Marrickville cricket and passed this passion onto his sons, Gary, Mark, and Graeme. In 2000, Noel and his wife, Patricia, were awarded the Australian Sports Medal by the Governor-General. In 2010, they were again both honoured with Cricket Australia's 50 Years' Service Medal. Thank you to our Randy Petes and to all the brilliant local clubs that came together in the name of cricket!

FLOUR MILL'S INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I thank the team at Flour Mill Markets and the Summer Hill Little BIG House for collaborating to organise the International Food Festival night market. On 28 October, Summer

Hill residents and attendees from across Sydney were treated to an extra special edition of the much beloved Flour Mill Markets. Celebrating cultures from all corners of the globe, the market hosted stalls with more than 20 incredible food options and platformed some of Sydney's finest chefs and creators. Summer Hill's Temperance Society bar was definitely a star of the night, serving up some cracking cocktails to complement some phenomenal food. Market goers found themselves dancing to the sounds of the Con Soul Ensemble at this year's final Little BIG Gig. It is safe to say that this eight-piece powerhouse blew everyone away with their groovy melodies. It was a night of family friendly fun attracting hundreds to our wonderful suburb. Thank you to organiser, Andrew Chesterton, and the team at the Flour Mill Markets, and to the Little BIG House for connecting Summer Hill to an abundance of unique tastes from all around our world.

DIWALI

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was delighted join BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir devotees to celebrate Diwali this year at Rosehill on 27 October 2022. Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The festival of Annakut Puja, popularly known as Govardhan Puja, is a religiously significant aspect of 5-day Diwali festival. Annakut, as the name suggests, means mountain of food. It is a festival dedicated to Lord Krishna. Diwali this year was especially memorable with BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir setting a new record for world's largest eggless cake in the form of a traditional mandir. It was made by over 60 volunteers and was 3 metres wide, 2.4 metres tall and weighed over a tonne. 315kg flour, 162kg icing sugar, 140kg fondant, 81kg butter and 60kg ganache were used to make the 3,850 different pieces on the cake. The cake was part of 850 Annakut food items that were prepared as bhog (offering) and shared after Diwali prayers, in the presence of senior BAPS sadhu, Pujya Doctor Swamiji. Thank you for the kind invitation to attend and I send my wishes that this Diwali marks the start of a happy and prosperous year.

PARRAMATTA COLLEGE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I would like to thank the staff of Parramatta College for recently meeting to discuss "Summer Skills Program for the Youth", a free summer skills program they are offering to our local community. The program is designed for young people who have left school and want to learn new skills for in-demand jobs. The program helps young people explore different options to learn valuable skills and set them up for job readiness in areas such as the beauty industry, health and community services, retail, business administration and hospital etc. Parramatta College has been at the forefront of community education in the region since 1986. They are for social purpose (not-for-profit), a Registered Training Organisation and a member of Community Colleges Australia. They focus not only on quality education for all, but also on ensuring that our training is accessible. The College has a strong reputation in the community and I know some of my own staff have taken on various courses in previous years. I thank Mervyn Virueda, Marketing and Programs Manager, for briefing me about the campaign.

SOMALI AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION [SACA]

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I had the pleasure of being invited to and speaking at the Multi-cultural Youth Employment and Careers expo organised by the Somali Australian Community Association [SACA] of New South Wales. One of the main objectives of SACA is to engage with youth by providing the opportunity to have access to study and jobs information. The group is keen for their youth to have access to the best information to ensure a successful future for Somalis in NSW. I was honoured to attend the SACA's first career expo. It was an important initiative to ensure the Somali Youth have access to information and advice that will guide them and provide information about study and career pathways. Other objectives of the organisation is to engage with Somali Youth by organising sports activities, tournaments and recreational camps. The activities are immensely enjoyed by the youth and families, they help reduce isolation, remind people of activities they previously enjoyed in Somalia and help keep youth out of trouble by providing regular organised activities. I commend Ms Maryam Omar, president of SACA NSW on her efforts in putting this event together and wish her all the best for future endeavours.

PROFESSOR BRETT NIXON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—A huge congratulations to Charlestown resident and cutting-edge researcher Professor Brett Nixon on being named 2022 Hunter Medical Research Institute Researcher of the Year. Announced in front of a 300-strong crowd of friends, families, HMRI staff and supporters at the NEX in Newcastle, the HMRI Researcher of the Year Awards honour the best overall researcher, mid-career researcher, early career researcher and research team. Professor Nixon was recognised for his research which focuses on genetic and environmental factors that impact sperm quality. Professor Nixon's career began in 1995, when he undertook a PhD at the University of Newcastle, which was completed in Canberra at the Invasive Animal CRC. The four-year course of study centred on figuring out ways to sterilise foxes, rabbits and mice, combatting

the scourge of invasive species in Australia. Now a member of the HMRI Pregnancy and Reproduction team, Professor Nixon has been called an "investigator of indomitable spirit". Congratulations once again!

DR. NICOLE NATHAN

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—A huge congratulations to Charlestown resident and research team leader Dr Nicole Nathan for leading the Physically Active Children in Education [PACE] team to clinch the 2022 Hunter Medical Research Institute Research Team Excellence Award. Announced in front of a 300-strong crowd of friends, families, HMRI staff and supporters at the NEX in Newcastle, the HMRI Researcher of the Year Awards honour the best overall researcher, mid-career researcher, early career researcher and research team. Dr Nathan specialises in implementation science in health policy, and has worked across multiple Hunter New England health programs and projects. The PACE program aims to improve the delivery of physical activity by teachers in primary schools, and Dr Nathan's wide-ranging experience and expertise has helped her to ensure that the program is going from strength to strength. It's important researchers and policymakers are able to take their know-how and make real and measurable changes within the community, and the PACE program is doing exactly that—it is the only such program in the world to have delivered empirical results. Congratulations to Dr Nathan and her team.

SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY WINNERS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Congratulations to the schools in the Charlestown electorate striving to improve their school's environmental sustainability. A produce-rich vegetable garden, an advanced bin system, energy-saving LED lights and waste-free lunches are just a few of the measures making Garden Suburb Public School a sustainability winner. The students were recognised as the winner of the overall Primary School category at the recent Lake Macquarie School Environment Awards. Among the innovations the students at Garden Suburb have introduced are five bin collection points for Return and Earn, green waste, recycling, soft plastics and general waste. The students are doing everything they can to make sure the least amount of material ends up in landfill. St Mary's Catholic High School won the Overall High School category in recognition for students' efforts in planting 1000 trees, shrubs and grasses with Landcare's school program. They also implemented drink bottle stations, rainwater tanks and LED lights, and a new bin system. Twenty-one schools entered this year's School Environment Awards Program. Thank you to all the students who are finding innovative ways to make a difference. It is fantastic to see so many schools engaged in developing sustainable practices.

FERGUS FITZSIMONS - CENTACARE NENW CEO

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the tireless efforts and achievements of Centacare New England North West former Chief Executive Officer Fergus Fitzsimons, who recently stepped down from his position after dedicating his life to this celebrated organisation. The NENW division was established in 2001 by the Catholic Armidale Diocese to make a positive difference in people's lives. For Fergus that has meant concentrating on youth and the mental health of rural Australians. Fergus has overseen centres including Tamworth, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Moree, Inverell, Glen Innes and Walgett. He will be missed by colleagues, staff and the many whose lives have been impacted by this compassionate and dedicated man. Sensitive to the impact of our current times on his staff, Fergus asked them to recount their successes of the year. He was surprised to learn that they felt they had made little difference, unaware of the huge difference they were making in their clients' lives. Which to me expresses the CEO's success in equipping Centacare's counsellors with the capacity to change lives as a natural part of their day. I congratulate Fergus on his successful tenure as CEO of Centacare NENW and wish him well in the future.

GEOFF LEECH - BINGARA NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Bingara SES Unit member Geoff Leech for his commitment to voluntary service and the local community. Geoff was recently awarded his SES Long Service Certificate and his Long Service Medal, both well earned for bringing his skills that would be invaluable in both local and out-of-area rescues and clean-ups. Having earned a Level Two Floodwater Certificate Geoff has been called to assist in floodwaters and train others while his adept use of the chainsaw makes for quick clearance of debris. Geoff is a valuable and popular team player and his award ceremony was attended by distinguished guests as well as local residents and members from the Bingara SES unit. However, there would be many unnamed people whose lives have been saved who would have wanted to be in attendance to congratulate this special man. I congratulate Geoff for earning his Long Service Certificate and Long Service Medal. I commend Geoff for his dedication and commitment to serving the people of NSW in their times of need and often desperation.

BILL MUNRO BIDS FAREWELL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Bill Munro, former Owner, and Pharmacist of Glen Innes Timbs Pharmacy of 42 years who has decided it is time to retire. Bill and wife Moira

moved to Glen Innes in 1980 with three children under five after a job opportunity presented itself by the legendary Pat Timbs after working in Armidale for eight years. What was supposed to be a three-month stint turned out to be a staggering 42 years. Three children turned into six, all grown up, 14 grandchildren and the whole town for a family. Bill was one of the original community pharmacists who went beyond what was often expected in his profession, giving to those in need, day or night. Bill said his best memories are "just being able to help people". Bill's legacy of pharmacy service will continue with proud new owner and Pharmacist, Dimity Newsome, which will make her the sixth owner in its 143-year history. I congratulate Bill and Moira for their many years of serving the Glen Innes community. I commend Bill for his work ethic, integrity, and dedication to his staff, customers and the community and wish him and Moira a happy and enjoyable retirement.

NSW ART EXPRESS 2023

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Art Express is an annual series of exhibitions of exemplary artworks created by NSW visual arts students for their HSC. I want to acknowledge Lola from Queenwood School, who has received a nomination for consideration in the 2023 Art Express showcase for her Visual Arts major work. Lola's work titled 'Looks can be deceiving' challenges how we perceive and judge family based on appearance. Inspired by Lucian Freud, Lola explored the gaze to indicate a feeling of disconnection when you are reminded of your lack of family resemblance. I congratulate Lola on this nomination and wish her the best of luck with the selection process. I also want to make a special mention to all our local HSC students who have finished their exams and are excitedly awaiting their results. We wish you the best of luck and all the very best for your plans for the future, wherever they may take you.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—October marked the 40th anniversary of the Women and Arts Festival, first started in 1982 as part of an NSW Government initiative to highlight women's contributions to the arts. For Sydney's northern region, a voluntary committee of more than 20 local women, led by coordinator Jennifer Isaacs, organised a program of events. These included over 25 workshops, exhibitions, performances, and events covering visual arts and crafts, Aboriginal arts, food, dance, literature, photography, and film. Many of North Sydney's community spaces were utilised for these events, with more than 300 women in attendance. This major event in North Sydney was completing the mural – 'heaven' on the wall of Stanton Library in September of 1982 by Bronwen Bassett, Jenny Pitty, and Katy O'Conner. The success of the Women and Arts Festival led to the formation of the North Sydney Women and Arts Group, and today North Sydney continues to offer a wide variety of arts and cultural events, the pinnacle of which is the biennial North Sydney Art Prize.

MOSMAN LOCAL PAUL TAVUZZI – A SPECIAL DAY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—We introduced the Seniors' Stories writing competition in 2013 as a way of recognising and valuing the experiences of NSW seniors and building connections between the young and old. This latest volume celebrates the differences among us, with this year's authors writing about diversity in immediate families, in their heritage, among friends, work colleagues, cultures, food travels, plant life, celebrations, sport, birdlife, and much more. I want to acknowledge Mosman local Paul Tavuzzi, whose story A Special Day is featured in this year's volume. A remarkably detailed tale that intertwines the Australian story of diversity with a rich immersion of various food and drinks. Congratulations, Paul, on having your account published in this year's volume. I know that your family will be very proud. I want to acknowledge all of this year's contributors to the NSW Seniors Stories, and I encourage everyone who hasn't read any of these stories to do so. Whatever your age, I hope this beautiful collection of short stories can inspire you.

ALISON MEGARRITY

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I wish to recognise Alison Megarrity who tragically passed away recently. Alison was a colleague of mine, representing the electorate of Menai in this place, an electorate adjacent to the one that I represent from 1999 to 2011. Prior to this, she was a Councillor of the City of Liverpool between 1994 and 1999. I served with her on that Council in 1994 and 1995. I had been delighted to be part of the 1994 campaign that first saw her elected to the Council. I have fond memories of a celebratory lunch of Liverpool in 1999 after her first election to Parliament. Alison will be fondly remembered by colleagues such as myself and by many of the people she so enthusiastically represented. My sympathies go to her husband Robert and her two sons.

LAURA STAPLETON

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Ms Laura Stapleton. Ms Stapleton is employed at the Goulburn Academy of Early Learning, which provides a learning environment for children from birth to five years. The Goulburn Academy believe all children have a right of belonging, being and becoming. Ms Stapleton was competitive in her submission, being selected from a

sizeable field of talented applicants to become a recipient of a scholarship to complete her higher education studies in early childcare. The scholarship will provide the opportunity for Ms Stapleton to increase her knowledge and further understanding of early childhood learning environments, which in turn will benefit and open gateways for children to learn and develop in environments that are conducive to their needs. I congratulate Ms Stapleton on her commitment to education, her receipt of the scholarship and I wish her every success with her career pathway and studies.

VALE GARRY MCCOMB

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—I wish to remember Garry McComb, who recently passed away aged 74. Garry was born in Brisbane, 4 May 1948. He studied Vet Science at University of Queensland after he fell in love with animals as a child after visiting a property in Western Queensland, in particular large animals. Garry and wife Margie moved to Queanbeyan in 1978 and bought into the Yass Road Veterinary Surgery in 1980 which they ran till 2005. They chose the Monaro due to the variety of animals they could work with: cattle, sheep and horses. Garry was well known around Queanbeyan as the best of the best of vet surgeons and was always a phone call away for broken legs, snake bites and the odd cow giving birth. His next love was a piece of paradise, 'Narrambla.' 200 acres of property off Captains Flat Road. Garry and Margie ran cattle, merinos, boar goats and it was only 10 minutes from the surgery. Garry McComb was a very special member of the Queanbeyan community. Garry is survived by wife Margie, he was father to Ben and Katrina and devoted Grandad of Lachlan, Reuben, Xander, Lily and Jasper.

VALE FRANK PRIHODA

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—I wish to remember Frank Prihoda, who recently passed aged 101. A Thredbo icon and Australia's oldest Olympian when he competed in the 1956 Winter Olympics as an alpine downhill skier, representing Australia in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Frank was born on Thursday 8 July 1921, in the city of Prague in Czechoslovakia. Fleeing his native homeland, Frank bravely emigrated to Australia in 1948 and made the Monaro his home. Falling in love with Australia's alpine area, he went on to start one of Thredbo's very first ski-lodge businesses and was integral in developing skiing in Thredbo. For Frank, Thredbo was a family affair with his own ski run named recently as 'Frank's Face' and the nearby, 'Sasha's Schuss', named after his sister. We can't forget 'Karel's T Bar', named after his brother-in-law, Sasha's husband Karel. Sasha established the ski lodge, 'Sasha's' which later became the famous 'Black Bear Inn' after Frank took over ownership – it was known for Schnapps and Austrian cuisine. Frank more recently was known for his many years running Thredbo's gift shop 'Franks Shop', which was open for 27 years. Frank was a much-loved alpine icon. He loved Australia, he loved Thredbo.

BUNGENDORE ROTARY ON METEORIC RISE

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—Community based organisations are the backbone of every single community across NSW and the sleepy village of Bungendore is no exception. The Bungendore Rotary Club has been part of the fabric of the village for nearly two decades and now they have been recognised as the fastest growing Rotary Club in the South Pacific. Volunteering and community service is part of what it is to be Australian, helping those less fortunate than us, or suffering at the hands of natural disaster or the tribulations of life. Those who answer the call are special and need to be commended. The Bungendore Rotary Club between 2021 and 2022 welcomed 13 new volunteers, the largest single rise in volunteers in a Rotary Club across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the rest of the South Pacific Region. This is by no means an easy feat for any volunteer organisation. The Rotary Club of Bungendore has worked extremely hard giving back to their community in a number of ways, including providing breakfast for local students for example. I thank the Bungendore Rotary Club members and President Sue Glover for their tireless work including recruiting new volunteers.

KENTLYN

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—It is impossible to understand the level of bravery and the amount of sacrifices made by Rural Fire Service members unless you speak to them yourself. I've said it many times before but it takes a special type of person to run towards an emergency, and not from it. We are fortunate in Campbelltown to have several RFS units located throughout the community. Each one does an incredible job. However, I would like to specifically acknowledge Kentlyn RFS today. Like many of the RFS stations in Campbelltown, Kentlyn RFS is surrounded by bushland – an ever-present reminder of what can one day be picturesque, yet another day catastrophic. Kentlyn RFS has only been open for 10 years. In fact, the new station was officially opened in June 2012 at a cost of \$600,000. Given the work the team has embarked on since that day, it seems like a very small price to pay for such an important station. I have been fortunate to visit the station and its members over the years. Congratulations to Kentlyn RFS on its 10th anniversary this year. No doubt the dedicated team will achieve much more in the years to come as well.

GRASSLAND POULTRY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—I would like to Congratulate Bryan and Kim Kiss of Grassland Poultry on recently taking out the "From the Paddock" category at the "Delicious Harvey Norman Produce Awards 2022". Bryan and Kim believe that the best produce comes from the best environment; one that is clean, regenerated, nourished, and sustainably farmed. By breeding, hatching, raising and processing on-farm, the team at Grassland Poultry can carefully control every single aspect of what they do and can know for sure that it's been done according to their ethics and philosophy. I recently had the opportunity to see this firsthand – the chickens living their best lives out in the pasture, free to go where they please and forage to their hearts content under the watchful eye of the Maremmas. The Kiss' heritage-bred, pasture-raised and on-farm processed chickens has won them Delicious Awards in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. To take out another category this year is testament to their dedication to providing the best tasting, healthiest produce available. Congratulations again to Bryan, Kim and the team, I look forward to seeing the 2023 Award for your amazing produce.

BERYL HARTLEY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—Narromine is renowned across the globe for its world-class gliding – and a lot of that is down to people like Beryl Hartley. Beryl has achieved a lot since she "married into gliding" in 1965! She was the first female president of the Gliding Federation of Australia [GFA], and helped Narromine secure major international events, including the 2015 junior world gliding championships, and the 37th world gliding championships which are set to land at the Narromine aerodrome in December 2023. Beryl's work has been recognised with GFA Life Membership and the Iggulden Award, as well as Fédération Aéronautique Internationale [FAI] Pelagia Majewska medal. Most recently, Beryl was honoured with the FAI's prestigious Paul Tissandier Diploma, awarded each year to those who have served the cause of aviation, especially sporting aviation. Whether it's helping with hangarage or seeking government support, Beryl is a highly experienced event organiser and has shown amazing dedication, not only to gliding but to air sports generally through her many hours of service on various committees. Congratulations Beryl – the Narromine region is lucky to have you!

MOHAMED HAGE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I congratulate Mohamed Hage, who was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to Australian-Arab business, trade and investment relations. Born to Lebanese Muslim migrants, Mohamed is an active member of the St George community and involved himself in local Arabic culture from an early age. His passion lies in fostering healthy relations, including trade and investment, between Australia and the Middle Eastern region. These relations positively impact many sectors throughout Australia and the Middle East, including education, health, aviation, agriculture and food, infrastructure and finance. It is so important to support the growing Arabic population within the St George area and people like Mr Hage make that possible. I would like to once again thank Mohamed for the fantastic work he does in supporting our multicultural community and congratulate him on receiving this award. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

FOREST RANGERS TRIVIA NIGHT

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Mr Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, grassroots sport has always been a big part of my local community and it is something I support wholeheartedly. Therefore, I was pleased to be invited to the Forest Rangers Trivia Night to support all the fantastic work they do for sport in our community. It was great to see some familiar faces on the night and I enjoyed delivering a short speech. Forest Rangers Football Club is particularly important to me and my family as my son, James, has played for the club for several years. Watching him on the weekend at games always puts a smile on my face. Grassroots soccer provides people across the State with incredible opportunities, keeping them fit, healthy and involved. I'd like to thank the President of the Club, Con Sorras as well as the Vice President, Matt Spanko, club Secretary, Tracey Alex and the Treasurer, Tina Webb. The night looked like a smashing success, and it wouldn't be possible without the countless volunteering hours that you all put in. I look forward to supporting the club at future events.

ST GEORGE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I thank the St George Basketball Association for hosting me at a recent game, where I enjoyed good company and good basketball whilst watching the Saints team play a fantastic game. For more than 40 years, the St George Basketball Association has provided youth throughout the local area the opportunity to develop their basketball skills and make lifelong friends. The organisation is run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteers, and they host

a range of Basketball comps in the local area. I had the opportunity to witness some serious local talent and even shot some hoops myself. Local grassroots sport is so important to support as it paves the way for the next generation to keep fit, have fun with their mates and overall, get involved. I'd like to thank the President of the St George Basketball Association, Ray Barbi, for his warmth and for making me feel incredibly welcome. I look forward to visiting again soon and hope to see some star players one day on the big screen, representing our State and country in this wonderful sport.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY GIRRAWEEEN – FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Pleasure to visit St Anthony's Primary School Girraween on Wednesday 9th November 2022 to officially open their new "Gumal" (Friendship) Garden' playground. I am very pleased that this new playground was funded by the Prospect Electorate Community Building Partnership Grant 2021. This new playground, complete with a slide and small climbing frame, will improve the break time for children, with improved recreational facilities. It was great to be there for the school assembly where there was a beautiful opening liturgy. There was also an amazing smoking ceremony, blessing this new Friendship Garden playground. I acknowledge Julie Waddell and Joshua Sly from the Jarra Indigenous Education Unit, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, who did a fantastic job teaching the school children about their ancient traditions. It was also great to catch up with Linda Ducksbury, Head of School, Santa Sophia Catholic College, the former Principal, who initiated the plans for the Friendship Garden. Thank you to Trish Reilly, Principal and Patrick Cairns, Assistant Principal for inviting me and Linda to open this new playground. St Anthony's students will love this new playground. I look forward to visiting again soon.

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION – SMITHFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—It was an honour to attend the Smithfield RSL Sub-Branch commemoration of Remembrance Day at McCarthy Memorial Park, Smithfield on Friday 11th November 2022. I was joined by Chris Bowen MP, the Member for McMahon, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, who delivered a very moving speech. My Parliamentary Colleague Guy Zangari MP was also in attendance, as well as Fairfield City Councillor George Barcha, and Janice Corio AM, MBE, former Federal Member for Prospect and State Member for Smithfield. Remembrance Day is a day marking the end of WWI, 105 years ago on the 11th November 1918. Throughout the duration of WWI, 416,809 Australians enlisted to serve their nation. Over 60,000 ANZACS made the ultimate sacrifice in service to Australia. Many endured horrific conditions in the trenches of the Western Front, the Middle East, and at Gallipoli, with many returning home with serious injuries and PTSD. They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. Lest we forget.

JAMES CHAN OAM – THANK YOU

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I would like to pay tribute to Mr James Chan and to thank him for his many years of friendship and support throughout my tenure. As Chairman of the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society [ACBS], James has dedicated much of his life here in Australia to promoting the Chinese culture and keeping Chinese traditions alive for the future for Chinese youth here in Australia. His work with the ACBS and the Mingyue Lay Temple has cemented his role as a champion of Chinese culture and traditions and I have been delighted to be a part of it all and share with our Chinese community the wonder and brilliance of Chinese festivities here in Australia. James' work with the ABCS has also involved humanitarian efforts such as raising funds for Fairfield Hospital and for affected communities of the recent floods. I thank James for his hard work for the local community over the years and for being a great friend and supporter. Thank you, James.

MR ANDY FAVOLORO – THANK YOU

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—In one of my last Community Recognition Statements as the Member for Fairfield, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Andy Favoloro, President of Southern Districts Soccer Football Association Inc. [SDSFA] and to thank him for his many years of support over my time as the Member for Fairfield. Andy has been recognised for his outstanding service to Football spanning over thirty years. A local Guildford resident, Andy first became actively involved in football in 1996 when his sons started playing football at Patrician Brothers Soccer Club. His passion and commitment for the sport has never faltered and he remains a tireless champion of the game, nurturing the dreams young players who love the game just as much as he does. As patron of SDSFA, I thank Andy for his long-standing commitment to the game and to SDSFA. I also thank Andy for his personal friendship and support over the twelve years of my tenure. Thank you, Andy.

MR JOE KAKOZ AND MRS RASHA DANIEL – THANK YOU

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—In one of my last Community Recognition Notices as the Member for Fairfield, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs Rasha Daniel and her husband, Mr Joe Kakoz and to thank them for their continuing support and friendship. Joe and Rasha have been strong community advocates for

many years and assisted the Fairfield community immeasurably with dedication to the mission to help others. Rasha's efforts with Food Angel throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have been outstanding and I thank her for the assistance she offered the Fairfield community throughout this challenging time. Joe and Rasha have also assisted with the settlement of new migrants and I appreciate everything they have done for the vulnerable new additions to our community. I thank Joe and Rasha for their friendship and support over the years I have been the Member for Fairfield. Thank you, Joe and Rasha.

GLORIA GREEN – WORKING FOR MILLERS FOREST FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—I acknowledge and thank Gloria Green, for over 50 years of service to the Millers Forest community. Gloria has made an enormous contribution to this important rural community, ensuring that the needs and concerns of people in our rural communities are always front and centre for all levels of Government. Gloria has volunteered with the Millers Forest – Duckenfield Rural Watch since it was formed in 1992, as founding Secretary and then President since 2007. Rural Watch plays a major role in keeping people connected and informed during times of emergency, proving support in times of loss and sharing the many successes and milestones of community members. Gloria has helped to secure grants for The Popular Hall, home to Millers Forest Progress Association – a vital community asset. Gloria is a life member of the Millers Forest Public School P&C, with five generations of her family attending the school, and volunteered at Maitland High School and Maitland Grossman canteens. Gloria has been Secretary of Maitland Branch of the Northern NSW Federation of Justice of the Peace for many years. Thank you Gloria for your great and ongoing contribution!

AN "UNTRACEABLE" FOUND! THANKS TO JOHN GILLAM & YVONNE FLETCHER

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—At Lochinvar Public School's Remembrance Day service this year, a special presentation was made to the family of a soldier whose medals were never issued as his family was untraceable - until now. The School was part of the 'Find Them, Remember Them: Creating Citizens Historians' program which attempts to locate family who are the rightful recipients of the medals. Thanks to the incredible research and encouragement of Legends & Lessons author/historians John Gillam & Yvonne Fletcher who wrote the book on "The Untraceables", Quade Hoover, Roydon Smith, Jessica Ratjens and Charlie Nielsen spent countless hours researching and found Private Crowley's great-grandnephew, 105 years after his death. Private Crowley is no longer simply a name among many on a war memorial. The students have created a living memorial in their school and managed to do what the Department of Defence and researchers couldn't. Well done!

FRANK GARMENT 50 YEARS' SERVICE JP CELEBRATED

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Last week I had the pleasure of honouring Frank Garment of East Maitland during a special ceremony to celebrate NSW Justice of the Peace who have given 50 years of service to the community. Frank became a JP when he started at the Tamworth Branch of the Rural State Bank. Frank and his JP services moved around Rural NSW – from Cobar to Coonabarabran, Mudgee to Molong before finally settling in East Maitland. JP's are often there at the most significant times of our lives. They 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. It is an honourable calling. Frank, I imagine all the times you were called upon to offer your JP services. It is truly a selfless act, a sizeable sacrifice of your time and effort. Congratulations on reaching this milestone and thank you for the service you continue to provide our community.

DONNA STANLEY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Ms Donna Stanley, of Orange. Donna is the acting executive director for Aboriginal health and wellbeing for Western NSW Local Health District and assisted in leading a model of care for Aboriginal people during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Donna's work was recognised and was recently awarded the 2022 Australian Mental Health Prize in the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander category. The award recognises outstanding mental health leadership. Donna has dedicated decades to addressing mental illness and support of those afflicted within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities. Donna has been regularly called upon to interpret issues of grief, loss and trauma which were common to Aboriginal people arriving at hospital in acute distress. I congratulate Donna on her decades of dedicated professional work in responding the mental health needs of the Aboriginal community, her pivotal role in the COVID-19 pandemic and on receiving the recent award. Well done.

GOLF HUMANS CANCER FUNDRAISING SQUAD

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the members of the Golf Humans cancer fundraising squad – Beau Baddock, Richard Learmonth, Ben Castellaro, Matt Jones, Don Aboud, Sonny Day, Lan Snowden and Sam Powell. The squad is comprised of eight mates who will take part in Cancer Council's The Longest Day cancer fundraising event. The team members are fundraising as they prepare to undertake a golfing marathon, involving the group playing 72 holes in the one day – the equivalent of four consecutive full rounds of

golf! The local event will take place at the Duntryleague Golf Club course on 12th December 2022. The Golf Humans fundraising team aim to raise more than \$20,000 to go towards cancer research, prevention programs and support services. The team have already raised more than \$10,000 and are well on the way to achieving the fundraising element of their goal. I congratulate the members of the Golf Humans cancer fundraising squad on their initiative and wish them well for their marathon golfing day.

ROBIN HOOD HOTEL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the Robin Hood Hotel at Orange. Last month at the 2022 AHA NSW Awards for Excellence, the Robin Hood Hotel was awarded the Best Regional Casual Dining Western. The Robin Hood Hotel is a popular local hotel, which is attractive to families who benefit from a large space for dining, comfortable setting, all-weather children's playground and a friendly atmosphere. The Robin Hood Hotel is increasingly popular with visitors to the district, which is an asset to the many attractions which draw tourists to the colour city. I congratulate the managers and staff of the Robin Hood Hotel for their hard work in delivering a fantastic family-friendly service for the community of Orange, and on receiving this award which reflects their consistently high level of dining service. Well done.

HANDS OFF GLEBE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the ongoing work of Hands Off Glebe, an organisation that has for many years fought to protect public housing and heritage in our community. Hands Off Glebe has played a crucial role in defending public housing in the Balmain Electorate from sell-off and winning better treatment for residents. Their recent work on 82 Wentworth Park Rd and the Franklyn Street complex highlights why it is so important for our communities to come together for safe, healthy and connected public housing for all. I would particularly like to acknowledge Dennis Doherty, Hannah Middleton, Emily Bullock, David Watson, Susan Copeland, Kathy Kang and Julie Brackenreg for their tremendous leadership and passionate advocacy for Glebe. I commend to the House their wonderful work in the local area and thank Hands Off Glebe for making our community a better place.

NORTON STREET ITALIAN FESTA

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the community groups and local businesses that recently came together for the Norton Street Italian Festa, a truly special celebration of the Italian community in Leichhardt and the Inner West. I have been involved with the Festa for several years and have been continually impressed by the passion and professionalism of the team. Festa plays a valuable role in the local community as an authentic celebration of the Italian culture that underpins Leichhardt's local heritage. I want to particularly acknowledge the Leichhardt & Annandale Business Chamber and its President Mark Chapman, Co.As.It and its General Manager Thomas Camporeale and President Lorenzo Fazzini, All Souls Anglican Church Leichhardt and its Minister David O'Mara and all the volunteers who made me so welcome, HopeforOllie, Leichhardt Men's Shed, Italian Bilingual School, Rachele and Patrick O'Reilly, Impact Events and Exhibitions as well as all the local businesses and performers involved. Through their collaborative dedication they have ensured the ongoing success of this iconic local community event. I look forward to continued involvement with the Festa and wish the team every success for creating memorable events in the future.

YUM ARTISAN CREATIONS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Yum Artisan Creations, in Glenmore Park for being the 2022 finalist for the Penrith local business awards in the Home-Based Business category. Throughout COVID, a number of home-based businesses sprung to life as people adapted to the rapidly evolving business landscape. Businesses like Yum Artisan Creations are important small businesses that exist right across our nation contributing to the economy and providing jobs. To be a finalist in the local business awards is a great achievement and I commend Yum Artisan Creations on achieving this outcome.

ROSE EIBNER, TIANA SHANKARAN AND JESSICA STURGISS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Rose Eibner, Tiana Shankaran and Jessica Sturgiss in Year 10 at Emmaus Catholic College who received the Colin Shepherd Memorial Scholarship from the St Mary's RSL Sub-branch. To achieve this scholarship, students must submit a piece of work on a wide variety of topics relating to the Australian Defence Force, Veterans, and conflict. Works can be in the form of visual displays, essays, poems, and research presentations. Rose, Tiana, and Jessica submitted a piece to do with Australian Experiences of War. They were supported by teachers Ms Nevin, Ms Curran, and Mr Hammond. It is so important to remember and reflect upon the sacrifice that Australian men and women have made for our nation. I want to thank Rose, Tiana and Jessica for making their submission and I congratulate them on this incredible achievement.

BEGA VALLEY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS BEN MUNRO & NAOMI WHITE

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—Congratulations to Far South Coast physiotherapists Mr Ben Munro and Ms Naomi White on their recent national recognition for their efforts and contributions in the area of hand and upper limb therapy. The special recognition formed part of the Australian Hand Therapy Association's national conference held recently in Sydney, where Mr Munro was officially welcomed as an accredited hand therapist. Formal accreditation, like in most fields of study, takes hours of dedication and commitment with Mr Munro completing a rigorous program that required more than 300 hours of advanced upper limb training and 3600 hours of clinical practice. Ms White was also personally recognised during the conference for her continued contribution to the field as well as being recognised as one of the founding members of this specialisation and association 40 years ago. Ms White also acted as a mentor to Mr Munro throughout his journey to accreditation, with Ben highlighting the importance of her support throughout their five-year program. It's a pleasure to see Ben and Naomi's hard work recognised at the national level and I thank them for continuing to provide these services for our local community.

MR CAMERON VAZZOLER

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—Only two months ago I was attending the Group 16 Premiership Rugby Grandfinal in Bega, on the home ground of the Bega Roosters and watched Mr Cameron Vazzoler captain his team to victory. Two months later and a shock diagnosis of a very rare neurological disorder has meant Mr Vazzoler is now facing a long road to recovery. Cameron was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome otherwise known as GBS which is a rare disorder where the body's immune system attacks the nerves, resulting in often severe muscle weakness as the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and breaks down the body. Sadly, there is no cure for Guillain-Barre syndrome, but two types of treatments can speed recovery and reduce the severity of the illness. I'd like to thank the South Coast Group 7 and Group 16 football community for their support and by helping raise funds for Cameron's recovery. A GoFundMe page has been set up for Mr Vazzoler by the community and has already raised over 35 thousand dollars. I wish Cameron all the best on his path to recovery and provide my thanks to the Rugby League community for everything they are doing to help support him.

MS KIMBERLEY BROWN

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to recognise and congratulate on behalf of the Bega electorate Ms Kimberley Brown who has organised Merimbula's Walk 4 Brain Cancer this coming Sunday, November 20. Members of the community are invited to make an impact and raise awareness towards brain cancer by getting in tutus and joining 31-year-old Kimberley to help raise awareness and funds to support Brain cancer research. Ms Brown was sadly diagnosed with an incurable disease called Anaplastic Pleomorphic Xanthoastrocytoma two years ago and was only given two years to live. Despite the diagnosis, Ms Brown's positive and bubbly attitude towards life inspired her to help others, with this 2km 'tutus 4 tumours' raising money to go towards the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation - a leading Australian cancer organisation whose mission is to help improve brain cancer survival and vision to ultimately find a cure. All members of the community are invited to participate in the walk and are encouraged to bring out their tutus or yellow attires to match Ms Brown's favourite flower - the sunflower. I wish to commend Ms Brown her on her bravery and inspiring kindness and encourage the community to get behind her noble cause.

GLENAEON RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to congratulate the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School in Castlecrag for staging a fantastic art show and family fair from 4-6 November. Hosted by the school's parent community, the fair offered a weekend of wholesome family fun and great entertainment. Special attractions included artisan stalls brimming with unique hand-crafted goods, live entertainment, delicious food and coffee. The family fair was also an opportunity for visitors to find out more about the valued benefits of a Steiner education and to meet the school's teachers and staff. Founded in 1957, Glenaeon is an independent, co-educational school catering for children from Preschool through to Year 12. The school embraces the Steiner philosophy of education, derived from the insights of the Austrian-born philosopher, scientist, artist and educator, Rudolf Steiner. I was delighted to attend the fair and see first hand the vibrant community spirit on display. Glenaeon contributes to the rich diversity of schools in Willoughby and I again commend the school and local community for hosting a great family fair.

ROTARY CLUB OF CHATSWOOD-ROSEVILLE - PHOENIX HOUSE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to commend the Rotary Club of Chatswood-Roseville for its recent fundraising breakfast for Phoenix House. It was a privilege for me to be at the Breakfast this Tuesday 15 November at Norths Cammeray. Chatswood-Roseville Rotary are great supporters of charities and their

support for Phoenix House is yet another example. Phoenix House is located in Crows Nest in my electorate and provides an alternative education for youths between 14 to 24 for whom normal education pathways are not suitable. As an alternative, Phoenix House provides support programs to more than 500 young people each year to help them realise their dreams and aspirations, unlock their potential, achieve their goals and transform their lives. Recognising this need, the aim of the breakfast was to promote and create awareness of Phoenix House among businesses and other organisations in the Lower North Shore. The breakfast featured a motivational speaker and panel of people whose lives have been changed by Phoenix House. Thank you to the leaders of both local community organisations for making this event happen. I once again congratulate Chatswood-Roseville Rotary for this initiative.

NAREMBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I recognise and commend the Naremburn Chamber of Commerce for its important work in promoting the interests of local businesses and of the community of Naremburn. This lower north shore suburb is a vibrant part of the Willoughby electorate and its small yet dynamic shopping strip along Willoughby Road is a hub of activity. This is in no small part due to the Chamber's advocacy and ideas to activate, improve and enhance the area. The success of the local family-owned businesses and their resilience through the pandemic are one legacy of which the Chamber can be proud. I am particularly grateful for the leadership of Robert Forsyth of Forsyth Cafe, Naremburn, a local icon, as well as the executive committee with whom I've met. Thank you to all Chamber members, volunteers and supporters who strive to support small businesses and serve their local community in Naremburn. I look forward to continuing to work with the Naremburn Chamber of Commerce on improving our local area.

WORKSHOPS THIS MONTH AS PART OF NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the New South Wales Parliament congratulates local Kiama resident Clayton Comber, the owner of local small business Bouquiniste Bookstore and author of two books, *Shooting Stars* and *100 Remarkable Feats of Xander Maze*. Clayton is one of four writers to lead workshops at Kiama and Gerringong libraries this month as part of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) – where people world-wide take on the challenge to write 50,000 words of a new novel. Clayton's was the first workshop held on Tuesday 8th November 2022. The workshop series is designed to inspire and support you, wherever you are on your writing journey, beginner or more experienced. Another workshop presenter, Dr Jonica Newby, is a TV and film journalist who has written for many years. Dr Jonica Newby 'Writing creative non-fiction' Tuesday 29th November, Kiama Library, 4-5pm. Another presenter is Meredith Jaffé is hosting a workshop on Tuesday 15th November, Kiama Library, 4-5pm. Also Dr Kate Forsyth 'Bringing history to life' Thursday 24th November, Gerringong Library 4-5pm. I congratulate and thank each of the workshop presenters for being part of such a worthwhile initiative.

MARGARET BOWCHER AND MALCOLM WARD

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I pay tribute to my parents Margaret Bowcher and Malcolm Ward for their tireless volunteer community service. As a former Minister for Volunteering, but more importantly as their son, I am proud of their contribution. My mum started the Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra in 2000 which has grown and given so many local youth their artistic kick-start. Mum has continued to make significant contributions not only as a music teacher but through her volunteer work with the Albatross Musical Theatre Company and the Shoalhaven City Concert Band. From playing for older folk in nursing homes through to helping countless musicians and performers, my mother's dedication to the local arts community is second to none. My dad has also been a lifelong volunteer. He was an active participant in Gerringong Apex. His work and passion as a member of Lions International is incredible. Dad has been critical in raising funds from everything from the Wollongong floods, kids with disabilities such as the Heart-Walker project and has helped establish Lions Clubs from Minnamurra to Cairns. He was also responsible for the establishment of a statute on The Esplanade, Cairns, to celebrate the service of Lions International in Australia.

THE MAN WALKS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the New South Wales Parliament congratulates local resident Mark Burns who three and a half years ago took a morning walk around the lighthouse and thought it would be good to do it with some mates. Now there are 82 Man Walks happening weekly around Australia and three overseas, in Dublin, Niagara and Derby. A board of local men with diverse business and professional skills and experiences has been assembled to take the organisation to this next level. Man Walk is just about to embark on a health and wellbeing survey to get some objective measure of how the weekly walks are helping with mood, self-esteem and fitness. On International Men's Day this Saturday 19th November, seven combined Walks have been organised around Australia. Walkers from our region will gather at Shell Cove. There will be a BBQ,

featuring the special Man Walk Snags from Jamberoo Butchers made from beef, bacon and beer. Details of International Mens Day event: Saturday 19th November 2022, Shell Cove Marina, 7am.

GLEN OP DEN BROUW

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to congratulate Mr Glen Op Den Brouw for receiving an Officer of the Order of Liverpool Award at this year's Order of Liverpool Awards Ceremony. Glen was recognised for his dedication in raising public awareness and interest in Liverpool's history. He is a long-term member of the Liverpool Genealogy Society and the City of Liverpool and District Historical Society and has served as vice president and president over the past 9 years. Thanks to Glen's efforts, is the long and proud history and heritage of the Liverpool region more accessible and engaging to the public. He has helped curate various displays at Liverpool Regional Museum, Liverpool City Library, TAFE NSW, Westfield Liverpool and Collingwood House. Glen is also a proud member of the City of Liverpool Brass Band and the Liverpool Art Society. I again offer my congratulations to Glen for receiving this recognition and thank him for his dedication to preserving the history of our local area.

NSW AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR VISITS PRESTONS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge Prestons Public School who recently had a visit from Professor Veena Sahajwalla, this year's NSW Australian of the Year. School parent, Ms Duksha Hearne, entered a competition which offered the prize of a visit to a school, which she thought would be a great opportunity for the school community to engage in science. To make the most of the opportunity, the school organised a Science Fair that would be judged by Professor Sahajwalla. Stage 4 students from Years 4, 5 and 6 were asked to create and present a practical science experiment illustrating the scientific method. Projects included volcanoes, a balloon car, electromagnetic train and more. After awarding the winners, students heard from Professor Sahajwalla about her the work her team is doing at the SMaRT entre producing a new generation of green materials. This includes creating steel and ceramics from waste products such as plastics and glass. Thank you again to Ms Hearne and congratulations to Prestons Public School for winning this opportunity and I commend them for making the most of this opportunity.

LIVERPOOL EAGLES JAFC

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to recognise members of Liverpool Eagles Junior Australian Football Club who were recognised at the Club's Special Appreciation Club Service Awards. Mr Craig Gambin, of Casula, was a recipient of an Appreciation Award for his work as a Committee Member, Ground Manager, Clubhouse Maintenance and Service work. He has performed the Ground Manager role for 6 years and fixes any spot repairs and maintenance around Peter Miller Park. Mr Mark Thomaidis, of Casula, was also a recipient of an Appreciation Award for his work as a Committee Member and Under 11's Assistant Coach. He has coached for two years and has developed a great team. He has also been pivotal in including parents and guardians to be actively involved in the Club and the team and has given them the opportunity to co-coach. Congratulations to both Mr Gambin and Mr Thomaidis for this recognition. I'd also like to congratulate Liverpool Eagles for another successful season.

ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN HURSTVILLE

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—St George's Anglican Church in Hurstville staged a second-hand market on 24 September, which helped raise \$3,500 for the Anglican Relief and Development Fund Australia to use for flood victims in Pakistan; more than 1,290 people including 453 children have lost their lives and another 1,600 injured. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said Pakistan was witnessing the worst flooding in its history. St George's Church grounds were bustling with the sale of books, toys, technology, clothing, collectibles and sporting goods, along with a sausage sizzle and coffee cart. Hundreds of people came out looking for a bargain. Reverend Dr Brian Tung, senior minister at St George's thanked the community and the Georges River Council for their support. Georges River mayor, Nick Katris, said many of the items for sale at low prices would have helped people going through difficult times. I would like to thank everyone involved in organising the market and also everyone who attended. Sending my best wishes to the Pakistani flood victims and hoping they are able to rebuild their communities as a matter of urgency.

BEZZINA HOUSE

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—St George Hospital's Bezzina House seeks fundraising support – Bezzina House, situated across from St George Hospital's Cancer Care Centre, provides accommodation for cancer patients who travel to the public hospital at Kogarah for treatment. Purpose built in 1998, it was designed as a place where people from rural and inter-state areas can comfortably stay during their hospital visits. The facility is named after builder Michael Bezzina, who invested his time and money to help build the lodge on the corner of Short and Gray Street. It has 15 self-contained rooms, a community area, laundry, outdoor garden

area and on-site parking. Patients can stay from one night up to an extended period of several months, depending on their needs. Bezzina House also provides accommodation for family members of ICU patients who have been airlifted from country NSW. Bezzina House is self-funded, and raises revenue from its nightly room cost and donations. Currently 10 of the rooms need updating; they're very well used and are in need of a face lift. We thank the Bezzina House staff for being so welcoming to those needing support during such a difficult time. Donations are welcomed to keep Bezzina House thriving.

BEXLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 135TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—Are this year having opened in 1887 as a one teacher school after prominent community members successfully petitioned the government, after a previous failed attempt. After the building was extended in 1892, a separate Infants Department was erected in 1917. Property was acquired by the Department of Education on the other side of Forest Road with additional buildings constructed in 1924 and 1934. A Safety Patrol consisting of five boys carrying a long stick bearing a red flag with the word STOP was established and continued until an overhead bridge was built in 1953. The two school sites were amalgamated in 1995. The school students and teachers all crossed the bridge in a parade to the eastern side of Forest Road. Novelist Christina Stead attended Bexley School completing her primary school education in 1915. Olympic gymnast and local artist, Bruce Sharp visited the school on the 125th Anniversary to speak to students about his school-day recollections. Ron Rathbone who served as Mayor and Councillor on Rockdale City Council was a teacher at Bexley Primary School for twenty-four years and is acknowledged for his publications on the history of the school and local area.

PITTWATER CREATIVES

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)—Pittwater's stunning natural environment is a creative muse for many in our community. Thank you to the creatives of Pittwater for your role in inspiring others. It is fantastic as we come out of the Pandemic to be able to reconnect with each other at wonderful events across Pittwater. To the pop-up galleries, local creative hubs, Eramboo, arts and culture events like at Bookoccino, Pittwater Artist Trail, photographers, orchestras, poets. To the writers and artists that evocatively capture our thoughts and aspirations. To the musicians who provide that perfect atmosphere at dinner on a night out with family and friends. Thank you, all of you, for the delight and richness of experience that sharing your talent brings to our community.

PITTWATER LIBERAL PARTY

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)—I acknowledge the members of Pittwater's Liberal Party Branches for their contribution to our community. There are too many to mention and this list is by no means exhaustive. Thank you to all members – including Stephen, Elizabeth and Amanda Choularton, Ant Gleeson, Dale and Angela Cohen, Wendy Starkie, Daniel Hill, Warwick and Pauline Plunkett, David and Karin Hand, Geoff and Tina Hodgkinson, Philip Longley, Phil Richardson, and the two candidates who have nominated for preselection as Liberal candidates for Pittwater, Rory Amon and Claire Longley. Thank you for your contribution, encouragement and support as party members, Branch Presidents, and Office Bearers. And most importantly, thank you for your role in supporting democracy in our community.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)—The experience of the Great War continues to leave an indelible impact on our community and its institutions. The bottle green and white associated with so many of Mona Vale's sporting clubs and schools echoes the Colours of the 36th Battalion of Australian Infantry, the unit that the men of Mona Vale invariably joined as volunteers in World War I. Their names are immortalised on the War Memorial at the junction of Pittwater and Barrenjoey Roads. We must never forget the sacrifice of service men and women – past and present – in securing the freedoms that we enjoy today. Recent wars are a stark reminder that the battles of veterans can linger long after a deployment. Thank you to our local RSL Sub-Branched for your important role in helping to support local veterans as they transition to new livelihoods in our community following their military service. Our local surf clubs exemplify many of the attributes of our Anzac forebears – thank you also to the many volunteers in Pittwater who are up at the crack of dawn every weekend to nurture the physical and mental wellbeing of our community.

JANICE LEPHERD - SENIORS' STORIES AUTHOR

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I would like to congratulate Janice Lepherd for having her story published in Seniors Stories volume 8. The volume contains the top 100 stories written by Seniors. This year's theme is Celebrating Diversity which includes 12 stories appearing in 11 different languages. The stories are an important avenue to build lasting connections between the elderly and young. I thank Janice for sharing her story,

her journey. Her story titled 'Chalk and Cheese' is rich in valuable lessons. It is a story that shares the challenges of people who migrate to Australia and talks of the opportunity and quality of life that can be lived. I thank Janice for sharing her story and providing wise and timeless advice.

BARRAMURRA PUBLIC SCHOOL – ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I would like to congratulate Sophie and Antonio for being recognised at the 2022 Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards. It is important that we take great initiative in recognising our students' hard work and effort. Education is a ticket to the world, enabling students, and those alike, to utilise every opportunity available. Well done and congratulations to Sophie for receiving the award for Achievement in Literacy. Well done and congratulations to Antonio for receiving the award for Leadership, Citizenship and Community Service. I wish you every success moving forward. Well done to Barramurra Public School for curating a fantastic environment that enables students to learn and develop their skills and talents.

CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL – ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I would like to congratulate Emily and Ben for being recognised at the 2022 Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards. It is important that we take great initiative in recognising our students' hard work and effort. Education is a ticket to the world, enabling students, and those alike, to utilise every opportunity available. Well done and congratulations to Emily for receiving the award for Courage, Culture and Commitment. Well done and congratulations to Ben for receiving the award for Courage, Culture and Commitment. I wish you every success moving forward. Well done to Camden High School for curating a fantastic environment that enables students to learn and develop their skills and talents.

MIRANDA MAGPIES FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the Miranda Magpies Football Club on receiving the Sutherland Shire Football Association's Stan Ellis Memorial Cup which is awarded to the Club with the best overall performance in the women's competitions. The 2022 season saw the Miranda Magpies Football Club's Women's Premier League team finish as Minor Premiers and the Senior Women H's team finish third. Such a strong performance would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the incredible players. I recognise the Magpies Women's Premier League team of Lily Baldwin, Nicole Banning, Jessica Beale, Zoe Benjamin, Zoe Cox, Bridget Fallah, Courtney Fooks, Alana Humphries, Alice Mitchell, Sally Mulheron, Tiarne Murphy, Ashleigh Regan, Molly Towell, Victoria Tripi, Claudia Tripi, Brittney Vanderhart, Emma Whawell and Coach Costas Niahos. I also acknowledge the Senior Women's H team players of Rebecca Abrook, Jessica Allan, Sonja Baker, Keely Barrett, Karen Blanchette, Robyn Curness, Alicia Del Core, Natalie Dubois, Sarah Evans, Angelique Genas, Katelynn Govan, Amanda Goyen, Tanya Head, Kellie Hogan, Megan Hogan, Joanne Milburn, Emma Moxon, Amber Smith, Fiona Towell, Emily Towell, Alicia Tripodi, Coach Joe Blanchette and Manager John Hogan. I commend the Miranda Magpies Football Club on their investment into women's football.

SYLVANIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL BIG BAND TOUR

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the talented students and staff from Sylvania Heights Public School who participated in the 'Big Band Tour' across the Sutherland Shire and St George areas mid-September. The 'Big Band Tour' brought together more than 90 young musicians from Years 4-6 as a musical ensemble that performed a series of six concerts at schools across two days. This exciting initiative was funded through the NSW Minister's Arts Recovery Program which diverted funds from the 2021 NSW Schools Spectacular to revive arts programs following the COVID-19 pandemic and provide a welcome injection of funds into arts education. I recognise the talented students from Sylvania Heights Public School who showcased their musical prowess. I commend Jakob Tahan, Tahlia Rakuraku, Claire Ma, Annabel Wong, Lucy Vertigan and Georgio Leris for ably performing for their peers. I also commend Principal Clint White and Band Coordinator James Jarick for their efforts in applying for this grant and coordinating the program. Congratulations to these talented students and staff on their participation in 'The Big Band Tour'.

ROTARY PASSPORT CLUB OF SYLVANIA WATERS

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the Rotary Passport Club of Sylvania Waters for the important role they play creating opportunities for professionals to use their vocational skills for our community. Founded in 2020, the Rotary Passport Club of Sylvania Waters was the first Passport Rotary Club to receive a Charter in New South Wales and encourages members to be engaged in ways that fit within their family, work and life commitments. In this time, the Club has undertaken a number of charitable projects such as the donation of 89 boxes of non-perishable food items to flood ravaged Lismore, the donation of 50 premature baby wraps to the Westmead Children's Hospital neo-natal ward and the donation and installation of a Peace Pole at Taren Point Public School. I recognise the Club's committee members for their dedication in facilitating these incredibly important community initiatives. I recognise Maureen Fry, Anyes McLean, Pragati Rana, Thomas Fry, Thomas

Ward and Shelby Clark. I commend Rotary Passport Club of Sylvania Waters members for their efforts and extend my best wishes for the future.

DR MARK LIDWILL

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier)—I had the privilege of unveiling the first blue plaque as part of the NSW Government Blue Plaque heritage programme. This plaque was installed in the memory of Dr Mark Lidwill (1878-1968) at his former home at now Arden Anglican School on Beecroft Road. I was joined by the Mayor of Hornsby Shire, Phillip Ruddock AM, the Principal of Arden School, Justin Beckett and Justin Littlemore the great-great grandson of Dr Lidwill. Dr Lidwill is credited as the inventor of the first pacemaker, a device that has since saved the lives of many around the world. He was also an expert in the field of anesthetics and held posts at Sydney University and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The Mark Cowley Lidwill Foundation was established to promote and support research in cardiac electrophysiology. Thank you to the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust for Dr Lidwill's nomination and I encourage other community groups and local historians to nominate other important local figures.

CARLINGFORD COUGARS

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier)—The Carlingford Cougars formed in 1966 at the behest of the principal of St Gerards, Carlingford, Sister Le Merci. Over the last 56 years, the Cougars Club, originally named St Gerards, have achieved outstanding results. The Carlingford Cougars are an exceptional club that instils the values of sportsmanship vital in shaping lasting life lessons for young people. Their fair-go ethos ensures that Cougars learn not only how to excel on the rugby pitch but also the deeper teachings of fair play, discipline and teamwork. From rearing future NRL stars, the Carlingford Cougars are everything a local sports club should be. I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Cougar's home ground and spoke with President Damien Mackay, parents and players about their plans for the club and its rich history. I am also happy to see that the club are looking to field a Girl's Rugby League Team for next year. Thank you to Damien and the Carlingford Cougars for having me down and letting me dust off my passing game. I certainly look forward to cheering you on next season.

CARLINGFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier)—I recently had the opportunity to visit a great community establishment in Carlingford Sports and Recreation Club. Community sport is an integral part of any local area. Their 3 bowling greens are a real attraction for local bowls enthusiast. I enjoyed the tour of the grounds and speaking with club's committee on their future plans for the club and their ongoing community service. I especially pleased to see the new children's playground that was recently constructed with funds from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership. Thank you to team at Carlingford Sports and Rec Club for the work you do in our community. I look forward to visiting again soon.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:25 until
Thursday 17 November 2022 at 9:30.**