



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Wednesday 21 December 2022**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Wednesday 21 December 2022**

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

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

## *Announcements*

### **FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**The SPEAKER (12:05):** I welcome all members. The Legislative Assembly is meeting outside the traditional Chamber for the second time, with the first time being when proceedings were held in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House in November 2021. For the benefit of members, I confirm that there is no difficulty in conducting proceedings outside the Chamber. The proclamation by which the Government calls the House to meet at the opening of the session calls on the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to come together to assemble for the dispatch of business within the premises known as Parliament House. Indeed, we are doing that today.

Under Standing Order 47 I have received a request from the Government that the House meet at an earlier time than set down on the adjournment. I was satisfied with that request. I set down this date and time and communicated that to all members. The same conventions, the same standing orders and procedures, and the same arrangements that apply in the Chamber will apply in this place. A number of adjustments will be specified in a motion to be considered by the House.

Members are able to make contributions to debate from either of the two lecterns at either side of the table. Members are permitted to seek the call or raise a point of order from their seat. Divisions will operate as follows. To vote, members must enter the Macquarie Room from the main doors at the southern entrance and record their vote with the corresponding teller. Once their vote is recorded, members must then proceed along the table on the right-hand side of the room or the left-hand side of the room and exit the Macquarie Room via the door at the northern end of the room. I hope that is clear. Let us make it work as best as we can under difficult circumstances.

## *Bills*

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (ENFORCEMENT POWERS) BILL 2022**

**CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COERCIVE CONTROL) BILL 2022**

**ANIMAL RESEARCH AMENDMENT (RIGHT TO RELEASE) BILL 2022**

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

**ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

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

**CRIMES AMENDMENT (PROTECTION OF CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAWYERS) BILL 2022**

**PORT OF NEWCASTLE (EXTINGUISHMENT OF LIABILITY) BILL 2022**

**DISTRICT COURT AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

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

**PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**GOVERNMENT SECTOR AUDIT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**GOVERNMENT SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**INTEGRITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**MOTOR ACCIDENT INJURIES AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**POINT TO POINT TRANSPORT (TAXIS AND HIRE VEHICLES) AMENDMENT BILL 2022**



**NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY BILL 2022****Assent**

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

*Documents***AGEING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 28 of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019, I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission for the year ended 30 June 2022, received out of session on 21 November 2022. I order that the report be printed.

**OMBUDSMAN****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, Audit Report: Summary of Public Interest Disclosure Audits of 6 Local Councils*, dated 21 November 2022, received out of session on 21 November 2022.
- (2) Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Oversight of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, Annual Report 2021-22*, dated 9 December 2022, received out of session on 9 December 2022.

I order that the reports be printed.

**CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 34F of the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Report of the NSW Child Death Review Team entitled *Effects of perinatal conditions and local area socioeconomic status on early childhood mortality in New South Wales: linked data analyses – Main Report*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 9 December 2022.
- (2) Report of the NSW Child Death Review Team entitled *Effects of perinatal conditions and local area socioeconomic status on early childhood mortality in New South Wales: linked data analyses – Summary Report*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 9 December 2022.

I order that the reports be printed.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 142 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Report of the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Annual Report 2021-2022 Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 13 December 2022.
- (2) Supplementary report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Operation Kurumba*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 13 December 2022.
- (3) Addendum to the report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Operation Kurumba*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 13 December 2022.

I order that the reports be printed.

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

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 16 of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2021, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of Custodial Services entitled *Inspection of 24-Hour Court Cell Complexes, Amber Laurel Correctional Centre and Kariong Intake and Transit Centre*, dated December 2022, received out of session on 14 December 2022. I order that the report be printed.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM**

### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 101K of the Coroners Act 2009, I announce receipt of the report of the New South Wales Domestic Violence Death Review Team for 2019-2021, received out of session on 19 December 2022. I order that the report be printed.

### AUDITOR-GENERAL

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 52B of the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt by the Clerk of the following reports:

- (1) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Premier and Cabinet 2022*, dated 24 November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 24 November 2022.
- (2) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Customer Service 2022*, dated 30 November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 30 November 2022.
- (3) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Education 2022*, dated 6 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 6 December 2022.
- (4) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Health 2022*, dated 7 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 7 December 2022.
- (5) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *New South Wales COVID-19 vaccine rollout*, dated 7 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 7 December 2022.
- (6) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Regional NSW 2022*, dated 8 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 8 December 2022.
- (7) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Development applications: assessment and determination stages*, dated 12 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 12 December 2022.
- (8) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Stronger Communities 2022*, dated 13 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 13 December 2022.
- (9) Special Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Members additional entitlements 2021*, dated 16 December 2021, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 16 December 2022.
- (10) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Planning and Environment 2022*, dated 15 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 15 December 2022.
- (11) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Enterprise, Investment and Trade 2022*, dated 19 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 19 December 2022.
- (12) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Internal controls and governance 2022*, dated 20 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 20 December 2022.
- (13) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Coordination of the response to COVID-19 (June to November 2021)*, dated 20 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 20 December 2022.
- (14) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Transport and Infrastructure 2022*, dated 21 December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 21 December 2022.

### INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of the following reports:

- (1) Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *Annual Compliance Report, Energy network operator compliance during 2020-21*, dated October 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 29 November 2022.
- (2) Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *Monitoring the NSW retail gas market 2021-2022 - Information Paper*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 20 December 2022.
- (3) Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *Monitoring NSW energy retail markets 2021-2022 - Final Report*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 20 December 2022.

### RESILIENCE NSW

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 140 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, I announce receipt by the Clerk of the report of Resilience NSW entitled *NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report: Implementation of the NSW Government's response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry: Reporting Period July to September 2022*, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 29 November 2022.

#### Committees

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of the following reports:

- (1) Report No. 3/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters entitled *Adequacy of the funding allocation of the NSW Electoral Commission for the 2023 State General Election*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 23 November 2022.
- (2) Report No. 2/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters entitled *Caps on third-party campaigners' electoral expenditure in s29(11) and s35 of the Electoral Funding Act 2018*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 23 November 2022.

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

#### Government Response

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of the Government's response to report No. 2/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 25 November 2022.

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 3/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure entitled *Emission free modes of public transport*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 30 November 2022.

### COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION AND THE CRIME COMMISSION

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 3/57 of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission entitled *2022 review of the annual and other reports of oversight agencies*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 1 December 2022.

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 3/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General entitled *Fifteenth General Meeting with the Valuer General*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 7 December 2022.

### COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 6/57 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled *Child protection and social services system*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 7 December 2022.

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 4/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Speed limits and road safety in regional NSW*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 8 December 2022.

#### Documents

### OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 433 of the Local Government Act 1993, I announce receipt by the Clerk of the investigation report of the Office of Local Government entitled *Murray River Council's Support for an Ethanol Plant at Moama*, dated November 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 13 December 2022.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 68A of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 6/57 of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Review of aspects of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 15 December 2022.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt by the Clerk of report No. 4/57 of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics entitled *Review of the Code of Conduct for Members*, dated December 2022, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 16 December 2022.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following petitions signed by fewer than 500 persons have been lodged for presentation:

**Gardens of Stone Horseriders**

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly ensure legal inclusion for horseback riders in Gardens of Stone eco tourism park, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

**Penrith Showground**

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly save Penrith Showground, received from **Ms Julia Finn**.

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

**Gundry Solar Farm**

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly stop Gundry Solar Farm, received from **Mrs Wendy Tuckerman**.

**Central Coast Council**

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call for elections for the Central Coast Council, received from **Mr David Mehan**.

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

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

The Hon. James Griffin—South Head National Park—lodged 19 October 2022 (Mr Alex Greenwich)

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Canterbury Hospital—lodged 18 October 2022 (Ms Sophie Cotsis)

The Hon. Dugald Saunders—Jervis Bay Cruise Ships—lodged 19 October 2022 (Mrs Shelley Hancock)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Medowie Public High School—lodged 10 November 2022 (Ms Kate Washington)

The Hon. Anthony Roberts—Wakefield Park Raceway—lodged 8 November 2022 (Ms Julia Finn)

The Hon. Anthony Roberts—Central West Pumped Hydro Project—lodged 8 November 2022 (Mr Paul Toole)

The Hon. David Elliott—Pymont and Ultimo Public Transport—lodged 15 November 2022 (Mr Alex Greenwich)

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

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended this sitting day to provide that any references within the standing and sessional orders to the "Chamber" apply to the Macquarie Room and references to the "Chamber side doors" refer to the Macquarie Room door which exits onto the lift lobby.

**Motion agreed to.**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** I move:

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

- (1) Permit the moving of a condolence motion without notice by the Premier with five-minute contributions by the following members: Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Premier, member for Wollongong, and two others unspecified.
- (2) Provide for the following routine of business at this sitting:
  - (a) moving of a Special Adjournment motion,
  - (b) Government business,
  - (c) the House to rise until the ringing of a long bell to permit the consideration of any messages from the Legislative Council regarding Government business, and
  - (d) the House to adjourn without motion.
- (3) Permit the introduction without notice and passage through all stages at this sitting of the Energy and Utilities Administration (Amendment) Bill 2022.
- (4) Provide for the following speaking time limits for debate on the Energy and Utilities Administration (Amendment) Bill 2022:
  - (a) In the second reading debate:
    - (i) Premier or Minister deputed – 15 minutes,
    - (ii) Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed – 15 minutes,
    - (iii) any other member – 10 minutes without extension, and
    - (iv) reply – 15 minutes.
- (5) Provide that at 1.45 p.m. any remaining questions regarding the Energy and Utilities Administration (Amendment) Bill 2022, including Consideration in Detail if amendments have been circulated, be put forthwith without debate.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Motions*

**WIEAMBILLA SHOOTINGS**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (12:14):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Extends to the families, friends and colleagues of Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold of the Queensland Police Service, the deep sympathy of members of the Legislative Assembly for the loss sustained by the deaths of Constables McCrow and Arnold in their line of duty on 12 December 2022.
- (2) Further extends its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Mr Alan Dare, who also lost his life in the terrible events of 12 December 2022.

When I think of the grieving families and loved ones who are mourning Rachel, Matthew and Alan at this time, my heart breaks. That sentiment is shared by people across this State and around the nation. No-one—no parent, no sibling, no spouse, no friend—should ever have to suffer the grief of having a loved one taken away so cruelly. It is truly incomprehensible. This morning in Queensland thousands have gathered to farewell the departed. We join with them in offering our heartfelt sorrow, sympathy and steadfast support in this time of unspeakable grief. Constable Matthew Arnold was 26 years old. It has not yet been three years since he was sworn in as a policeman. Constable Rachel McCrow was just 29 years old. She was sworn in only a year and a half ago.

In the course of their posting to the community of Tara so early in their careers, Matthew and Rachel endeared themselves to the town. They worked with students at local schools and preschools. Their smiling faces were familiar to shoppers in the town centre. In a short time they had become a cheery part of the fabric of Tara. The impression they made is echoed throughout their young lives: friendly, dedicated, enthusiastic, kind and deeply devoted to family and friends. These are the memories now flooding in from heartbroken old school friends, past colleagues, community groups where they served and people who loved them. On Monday 12 December, following a missing persons lead from our own police service in New South Wales, they set out for

what should have been a routine and uneventful day in a long and fulfilling career. Instead, what they encountered was an act of senseless and inexplicable violence.

Alan Dare was 58 years old, the quintessential Aussie neighbour. Along with another neighbour, Mr Victor Lewis, Alan sensed danger and rushed to help. In the tragic events that unfolded, the lives of Matthew, Rachel and Alan were cruelly taken too soon. Alan is survived by his beloved wife, Kerry. Their life together was cut short one day shy of their twenty-sixth wedding anniversary. The horrifying events on 12 December 2022 offer us a sombre reminder that evil is real, that those who give themselves over to its grip are a threat to the lives of others and the security and peace of Australian society, and that a brave, generous and honourable few choose to make it their life's work to protect the many from the evil in our midst.

Just days before this terrible tragedy New South Wales congratulated 151 new probationary constables from Class 356, the Goulburn Police Academy's final graduating class of 2022. Like Matthew and Rachel, they answered a call to serve their fellow citizens in a way that few others do. To join the police force is to dedicate yourself to the ultimate form of public service. It is because of their service every day that the rest of us are able to enjoy the security, prosperity and peace that define the Australian way of life. Our police officers know that they will enter harm's way, and in times like these that reality is more confronting. But today, tomorrow and every day they still choose to serve and to be out there protecting the people of our nation. For that we are eternally grateful. As we mourn the tragic deaths of Matthew and Rachel, let us resolve to offer our brave policemen and policewomen more steadfast support than ever and never take their service for granted. It is our hope that the generosity of spirit with which Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow served, and with which Mr Alan Dare rushed to help, may provide some comfort to the grieving in this harrowing time. They served with honour. May they rest in peace.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (12:19):** On behalf of NSW Labor, I offer my deep condolences to the families and loved ones of the two police constables killed in Wieambilla last Monday. This morning thousands of Queenslanders gathered at a memorial service to pay their respects to constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold, just 29 and 26 respectively. Members of the Queensland Police Service said farewell to their fallen colleagues with a full guard of honour—a fitting tribute to the two young officers with their whole lives ahead of them, ambushed and murdered while in the service of their State and in the service of their communities.

On the morning of 12 December, I had the same reaction as millions of Australians when I heard the news of the murder of those two young police officers by a cruel ambush—that it was a coup against the police and a coup against the State. Three murderous, cowardly individuals gunned them down. Their police colleagues constables Kelly Brough and Randall Kirk were also caught in the gunfight. Fortunately they managed to escape and call for help. As the Premier said, neighbour Alan Dare was also shot dead during the horrific ambush. A service will be held for Mr Dare later this week, but we take this opportunity to extend our condolences to his family and loved ones.

Both young officers had recently graduated from the police academy; Constable Arnold graduated from it in 2020 and Constable McCrow in 2021. That those two young officers could have chosen literally any job or profession in the world and yet chose to be police officers—a dangerous and at times difficult job that placed them in harm's way—is a tribute to them and their families, who no doubt instilled in them a sense of duty to the public. Families of police go through a special anxiety and grief the day after their graduation from that same academy, and that is the fear their loved ones will not come home. Whether they have been in the force for 30 years or 18 months, like Constable Rachel McCrow, we think of the families of all police in Australia today.

It is important that members of this House record our revulsion at a dangerous ideology that would see public health messages, safety and basic science weaponised by a dangerous element in society. I am afraid this shocking crime will sink into the depths of conspiracy theory at some point. For that reason, if for no other, it is important that this House acknowledges that this was a vicious crime, that the officers were at the property because they cared about nothing more than the welfare of the people in that house, that they were going there for no purpose but to make sure that they were okay, that they approached the house out of duty and care, and that they were killed because of it.

It is a sad reality that every day is a dangerous day for police. There is no distinction between a welfare check and an armed siege. Police do not know the circumstances that are waiting for them; they do not know the potential trouble that could befall them. We acknowledge that risk today. We respect the job police do, putting themselves in danger to keep us safe, and we thank them for it. This is an appropriate and sincere gesture from the New South Wales Parliament, and today New South Wales stands with Queensland.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (12:23):** Two young Queensland police officers went to work last week and did not come home. The horrific ambush and execution of Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold shocked

us all. My heart breaks for their families and their friends, robbed of precious time with two people they held dearest; for their colleagues, the officers who went in as a team of four and emerged as just two; for the officers who rushed into the line of fire in the vain hope of saving them and who ultimately risked their lives to return them to their families; for the officers at Tara, missing their familiar faces around the station; and for every police officer and their family right across the country, feeling their deaths so acutely and facing the harsh realities of the inherent dangers of the job.

In the past year I have been a proud witness to the graduation of about a thousand recruits from the NSW Police Academy. I have watched as they have marched onto the parade ground and marched off to a new career protecting their communities—officers just like Constable McCrow, who graduated in Queensland only 18 months ago; and Constable Keely Brough, who graduated just eight weeks ago and was incredibly lucky to escape last week's shooting with her life.

Officer Camron Dixon, a young Queensland recruit, had just finished polishing his boots and readying his dress uniform for his own graduation day when the horrible news came in. In a letter that he penned to his fallen colleagues, he noted:

Your loss has caused untold devastation.

But it has also motivated us to do everything in our power to keep each other safe, not only out on the road, but back at station, too.

Constable James Pegg, now at Ingham station, wrote:

Our collective distress has, however, been channelled into a higher resolve – to role model your strength, determination and drive to help others.

The decision to become a police officer is admirable and selfless. They have made it their job to run towards danger when the natural instinct would be to run the other way. Tragically, as happened at Wieambilla, some days they do not come home.

Last week the sails of the Sydney Opera House were lit blue in remembrance of those two brave officers. It was a poignant image, a comparatively small gesture for the tremendous sacrifice made. Thousands of people around the country responded in social media posts with two blue hearts, one for each fallen officer. Yesterday I checked in with Queensland police Minister Mark Ryan, who I know has been overwhelmed by the show of support for their force. Thousands gathered at the memorial service for constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold in Brisbane today, among them the New South Wales Police Commissioner, Karen Webb; our deputy commissioners; and officers from along the border, including the Tweed. Thousands more watched from offices, homes and stations around the country.

Right around the country, people have paid tribute to not only the two officers lost but also everyone who puts on a police uniform each day. I have heard of so many acts of kindness and gratitude, from New South Wales officers raising money for their families to members of the public expressing their thanks to officers out on the beat. We should never lose sight of the bravery it takes to serve or the gratitude they deserve for what they do. As Minister for Police, I offer my deepest condolences to the families of Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold and to the family of Alan Dare, a civilian who went to the aid of his neighbour and died. I know they will dearly miss their faces around the dinner table this Christmas. We hold them in our hearts, and we thank them for their service.

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (12:27):** I join the Premier, the NSW Labor leader, the Deputy Premier and all members of this place in conveying my deepest condolences and those of my community to the families, friends and colleagues of constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold. I also extend my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mr Alan Dare, an innocent neighbour killed while simply trying to help. I appreciate that the Premier has taken up the suggestion to move this condolence motion before us today.

As reports of the incident on 12 December filtered out of Western Downs in Queensland, there was a spontaneous outpouring of grief for those killed and injured. It has particularly struck many serving and retired police officers and other first responders who I have spoken to about those tragic events. The mindless violence has shocked communities the length and breadth of New South Wales and beyond, and it is a stark reminder of what our police face every day and on every shift. They risk their lives to keep the rest of us from harm. The young officers and their colleagues, dedicated to the task of serving the community, did not know that they were walking into anything other than a routine operation. Before Monday many people would not have heard of Wieambilla, near Chinchilla and Tara, but few are likely to forget it. As Queensland Police Commissioner Caroll said, the officers did not stand a chance.

We hear of shootings happening overseas too often, and we are thankful that we do not deal with similar situations with similar regularity in Australia. But that does not diminish the impact that a single event like the Wieambilla shootings can have on communities throughout Australia. Regional and rural communities across the

country are just as tight-knit as the police family. Locals have been shocked by the senselessness of what has taken place. Many are likely wondering how they did not see the problem earlier and how a neighbouring home and property became a fortress, but they are more likely continuing to wonder how and why.

Police officers and their families understand the risks they face. They live with danger on every shift, yet they face it anyway. Policing is a tough but noble profession. It is done by people who put on a uniform each day and set out with the simple objective of keeping people safe to create better communities, build bonds and relationships, and provide an incredible level of public service. Today New South Wales mourns with everyone who has gathered in Brisbane and at community sites throughout Queensland for the memorial service to honour Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold. Our sympathy is with their families. Our hope is for a speedy recovery of Constable Kirk and that an event like the Wieambilla shooting does not happen again. Parliamentarians across Australia have a duty to examine the circumstances and examine where we can work across the Chamber and across borders to address any shortcomings that may exist in laws and processes that need to be improved.

In mourning the lost, we should also not forget the bravery of the 16 officers who formed an extraction team to rescue their mates. Knowing what had already happened, the officers did not wait for the special emergency response team. Instead, they drove into danger under fire just in case their fellow officers were still alive and they could get them out. That is true bravery. That is the calibre of police officers protecting our communities every day. It is the calibre of police officers I would be happy to have protect Wollongong. When we gather on 29 September 2023 for National Police Remembrance Day our thoughts will be with the police officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and also now with Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold. Their names will be added to a memorial but not forgotten. They, along with Alan Dare, have paid the ultimate tragic price of the loss of their lives.

It is fitting that at this special sitting of the New South Wales Parliament we pay our respects to the officers killed and injured in the line of duty during the events of 12 December 2022, and to Mr Dare. We acknowledge and thank them for their service. We mourn their loss. We extend our sympathies to police across the country who are feeling the impact of the events in Queensland. We thank the men and women of the NSW Police Force who will take to the streets today to do their jobs to keep us safe. We hope that they all return home at the end of today's shift and every other shift to be with their loved ones. We hope and pray that Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold, along with Mr Dare, now rest in peace.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

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

*Business of the House*

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: BILLS**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (12:33):** I move:

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

- (1) Permit the introduction without notice and passage through all stages at this sitting following Government business of the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Rent Bidding and Bond Transfer) Bill 2022.
- (2) Provide that at 2.00 p.m. any remaining questions regarding that bill, including Consideration in Detail if amendments have been circulated, be put forthwith without debate.

This extraordinary sitting of Parliament has been called to deal with the crisis in the country's energy market. That crisis demands that members of the New South Wales Parliament act to provide relief from soaring energy prices. But we have an opportunity today to deal with more than one crisis. After all, everyone else in New South Wales is working; why can't we as well? The bill deals with the crisis in the State's rental housing market. It is a crisis of soaring rents fuelled by unethical market practices. We can pass legislation today to ban rent bidding. We can also introduce a portable bond for renters. There is no excuse for inaction. We are in the Parliament today and the legislation is ready. We can do it.

One in three New South Wales households rent their home. Consider how dire the situation is. In 2011 just 11 per cent of households paid more than 30 per cent of their income in rent. Today that number has tripled to 35 per cent. That means one-third of all rental households are now experiencing acute economic stress. In Sydney, rents for units have increased by nearly 15 per cent over the past 12 months, which is the steepest rise in the shortest period ever recorded. Houses in Sydney have the same story, with an annual rental increase of 14 per cent since 2009. Sydney is now the most expensive city in Australia to rent a unit and the second most expensive to rent a house.



Rising rents are not just a problem for Sydney. Over the past five years rents have gone up 40 per cent in Albury, 47 per cent in Cessnock, 50 per cent in the Bega Valley, 50 per cent in Coffs Harbour, 53 per cent in Lismore, 59 per cent in the Upper Hunter, and a staggering 67 per cent in Forbes. Renters have been ignored by the Government for the past 12 years, and they have been left to fend for themselves and left to fall behind. They are literally the forgotten people of the Liberals and The Nationals in this State. If the Coalition will not put proper legislation in place for renters, then NSW Labor will, starting with this bill.

The legislation deals with two of the most pressing issues facing the renting community. The first is rent bidding, which has increased at a time of historically high rents and record low vacancies. I acknowledge the Government has attempted to address the problem by an amendment to the Property and Stock Agents Regulation. However, the Government knows that regulation only applies to the conduct of real estate agents. Since 30 per cent of properties are leased directly from landlords, secret rent bidding will continue to flourish in our State's rental market, even with the Government's regulatory change, which I understand has been bogged down and delayed. If we want to close the door on secret rent bidding in New South Wales, then we should close it completely. That is what the bill will do.

The second reform proposed in the bill is the creation of an online transferrable bond scheme. Tenants should be able to apply to have an existing rental bond transferred directly across as the security for another vacancy and another tenancy. The reform will ease the pressure on household budgets, which are already stretched to breaking point by large increases in rent and inflation, and tolls and taxes, and whatever else the Liberals and The Nationals can throw up in the next few weeks. Under the bill, landlords will still be able to make a claim against the rental bond and no owners will be left out of pocket from the changes.

The bill contains commonsense solutions to the problems faced by renters. We can deliver the reforms right now. I can think of no greater Christmas present to the nearly one million people in New South Wales who have to rent their home. We are in the Parliament; we are sitting. The Government has ripped up the New South Wales Parliament, but we have managed to make it. There is no reason why we cannot walk and chew gum at the same time. Let us move two pieces of legislation to put downward pressure on the households of New South Wales before Christmas.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I ask members to act with a little bit more decorum.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport) (12:38):** The Government opposes this political grandstanding by the Opposition. We are in the Parliament for one reason, and that is to deal with a bill off the back of a national agreement brought by the Federal Labor Government. We do so in circumstances where both Houses are not even able to sit in their ordinary places and have to share this room consecutively, and yet in those circumstances the Labor Leader of the Opposition wants to add his bill to the agenda.

I understand that the bill may amend rental legislation or propose rental legislation. But, of course, while the Leader of the Opposition was so intent on grandstanding about this matter he forgot to send a copy of the bill to the Government until 30 minutes before we started to sit this morning. If it is so important, one would have thought that he would have shared the legislation in the ordinary course so that the Government could consider it. We are not going to allow bad legislation to go through this House through bad process and in the absence of consultation by Labor with the Government.

The bill—as I apprehend it from what fell from the Leader of the Opposition—seems to deal with matters that are already being dealt with by the Government. Earlier this month the Government prohibited unsolicited rent bidding. The Government is in the course of implementing a bond rollover scheme that would allow renters to avoid having to fund two bonds at the same time when they move between rental properties, and the Government has just completed public consultation on the reforms we introduced to provide better protection for renters that are leaving domestic violence situations and with regard to pets in rental properties. But, again, the Government has been given virtually no notice of this legislation, contrary to the normal conventions of this place. Labor has not given the issue the consideration it deserves. It is an issue that may have wideranging, unintended consequences if we do not get it right. Shoehorning it in the manner proposed will not allow us to deal with it properly.

The Government commits, however, to ensuring that there will be consultation, as a priority, on other rent reforms in the next term of Parliament. This is not about the merits or otherwise of Labor's bill; it is all about the principle that members be given the opportunity to properly consider matters before them and the procedures in place to facilitate that. What is proposed by Labor today is not democracy. It is not good government. Indeed, it is not even good opposition. The Leader of the Opposition promised a 100-day plan when he became leader last

year. He forgot to do that, and he has clearly forgotten to do any policy since he has been the Leader of the Opposition. The Government opposes a suspension of standing orders to allow the passing of this legislation.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:42):** By leave: I offer The Greens' support for the suspension of standing orders to allow debate around the Labor Opposition's amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act dealing with portable bonds and rent bidding. We are here and we can pass legislation today. There is absolutely nothing stopping that from taking place. We can have the debate that we need to have, and if we are going to deal with the cost-of-living crisis we should be dealing with it appropriately. We know that rents are the largest part of most people's weekly budgets. I encourage members to consider whether they are more keen to tick a box and leave than they are to do the job we are being paid large amounts of money to do, which is to be here and debate legislation to ensure that we are representing the needs of our communities. I encourage everybody to support the suspension so that we can debate this bill along with the bill on the energy crisis that we are here to debate.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for North Shore is repeatedly interjecting. I call the member for North Shore to order for the first time.

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (12:43):** By leave: I find this to be an extraordinary offering from the Opposition to bring forward, as a suspension of standing orders, this bill—not because there is not some merit in addressing these issues, but because the Opposition is taking the opportunity to come in on the back of a bill that has been in the public domain in some way for quite some time. That is not the case with the bill that the Opposition is bringing before us today. I was dumbfounded when I just heard that the Government only received the bill 30 minutes ago. I acknowledge the member for Heffron, who I believe provided a copy of the bill to all crossbench members yesterday—so that gave me a bit of a heads-up on it. But I looked at the bill and the very first thing that I thought is that a matter such as this is worthy of consultation across the sector. This process does not allow for that. I have a real concern about that.

I raised the question with the Premier this morning and I asked him for a commitment that if debate on this bill did not proceed today, he would ensure that if the Coalition forms government in March it would be taken forward as a matter of urgency to a committee process where there is widespread consultation. If the Coalition is not returned in March, then we obviously have an implied commitment from the Leader of the Opposition. I think the position being brought forward is extraordinary and opportunistic. I cannot support it. I believe that it is something that needs to be addressed, but it must be addressed properly, with full consultation.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (12:46):** In reply: Thank you to The Greens for supporting this suspension. The contribution from the Manager of Government Business was extraordinary. He seems to say that the legislation is so dangerous that it has all of these unintended consequences, but also, "Don't worry about it, because we're doing exactly the same thing via regulation." Is that not extraordinary? He then goes on to say that the Labor Party has absolutely no policy except for the one that we are attempting to debate in the Parliament right now and, in those circumstances, the Government will not support it being debated.

He then goes on to say that we are not able to sit in the New South Wales parliamentary Chamber to debate legislation—we are in this ad hoc Chamber. Whose fault is that? Those on the other side of the Parliament are attempting to put recliners or something into the Legislative Assembly. It will cost \$22 million to replace all of the leather in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Government is putting in La-Z-Boy recliners so they can go to sleep in the Legislative Council—\$22 million. My understanding is that the big debate was whether it should be matte leather or sleek leather. That is what is occupying the time, effort and energy of the New South Wales Government.

Our point is really simple. The bill is about four pages. Everyone else in this State is prepared to work. The Opposition is prepared to work too. If the Government is prepared to accept these terms, we are happy to come back tomorrow under the same leave arrangements. We can assess the bill and make a decision in the best interests of the people of New South Wales. The other point is—and I think this is pretty straightforward—all that the Opposition is proposing is that the bill be debated. The Government can vote it down if they want. At the end of the day, there is no gun at Government members' heads. They can make a decision about the legislation on its merits. They can say in that debate that they do not think they have had enough time to deal with the unintended or intended consequences of the bill, that their own proposals are acceptable and that there is no need for the legislation.

The only thing the Opposition is asking for in this Chamber is time and space to debate a piece of legislation—which I expect is what the people of New South Wales have elected us to do. That is the core business of a legislator. The New South Wales election is not for another 93 days. Surely we can put aside a couple of hours to debate renters in New South Wales, given that there are about one million of them in the State and they need urgent rental relief. So this is pretty straightforward. This House—even in its ad hoc manner—should approve this suspension and we should debate this legislation. It is up to members whether or not they support the

bill at the end of the day, but the Opposition wants to put downward pressure on the costs for renters in New South Wales. I believe, come election day, the member for North Shore and all of her cohort in those parts of Sydney will have to explain to their constituents why they do not give a damn about the renters within their electorate.

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

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....18  
Noes .....24  
Majority.....6

#### AYES

Car, P  
Cotsis, S  
Dalton, H  
Dib, J  
Greenwich, A  
Harris, D

Haylen, J  
Hoenig, R  
Kamper, S  
Leong, J  
Li, J  
Minns, C

O'Neill, M (teller)  
Park, R  
Parker, J  
Saffin, J  
Scully, P  
Watson, A (teller)

#### NOES

Coure, M  
Davies, T  
Donato, P  
Elliott, D  
Evans, L  
Gibbons, M  
Griffin, J  
Henskens, A

James, T (teller)  
Lee, G  
Lindsay, W  
McGirr, J  
Perrottet, D  
Piper, G  
Preston, R  
Roberts, A

Sidgreaves, P  
Smith, N (teller)  
Stokes, R  
Taylor, M  
Toole, P  
Upton, G  
Williams, R  
Wilson, F

#### PAIRS

Anderson, K  
Ayres, S  
Bromhead, S  
Clancy, J  
Conolly, K  
Cooke, S  
Crouch, A  
Dominello, V  
Gulaptis, C  
Hancock, S  
Hazzard, B  
Kean, M  
Layzell, D  
Marshall, A  
Overall, N  
Pavey, M  
Petinos, E  
Provest, G  
Saunders, D  
Singh, G  
Tuckerman, W  
Williams, L

Catley, Y  
Chanthivong, A  
Voltz, L  
Doyle, T  
Daley, M  
Finn, J  
Warren, G  
Holland, M  
Zangari, G  
Aitchison, J  
Washington, K  
Harrison, J  
Atalla, E  
Barr, C  
Mehan, D  
Lynch, P  
Bali, S  
Tesch, L  
McDermott, H  
Lalich, N  
Crakanthorp, T  
Hornery, S

**Motion negatived.**

#### *Announcements*

**NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENT HOUSE MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION**

**The SPEAKER (13:01):** Some misinformation that has previously circulated in the public domain has now been repeated in this Chamber, which impacts on the reputation of this Parliament as an institution.

**Mr Greg Piper:** Point of order: I ask that you bring the Chamber to order. It is hard to hear your statement at the back of the Chamber. There are also many members who wish to listen to you.

**The SPEAKER:** Members will enter the Chamber quietly. I am going to read a statement that was released publicly on 13 December 2022 and sent to all members shortly thereafter:

#### **CRITICAL MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION WORK UNDERWAY AT AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST PARLIAMENT**

NSW Parliament House is undergoing critical maintenance and restoration work, ensuring the historic building is preserved for the NSW public for years to come.

After extensive consultation with the parliamentary community, including members from all political groupings, this critical work has begun across the Parliamentary precinct. It is a once in a four-year opportunity to act, during the extended parliamentary break. Work includes the restoration of the heritage 'Rum Hospital' façade – dating from the building's original use as Sydney's first public hospital – and the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly chambers.

The critical maintenance and renovation work forms part of a \$22 million allocation from the NSW Government to address an historical maintenance backlog and significant ongoing deterioration.

NSW Parliament House is the oldest legislature in Australia, and the 1816 'Rum Hospital' is the oldest surviving building in the Sydney CBD. It is the first significant remediation work performed in 40 years.

The essential running of Parliament, including committee hearings, will continue during this time.

The program of works will:

- Address extensive internal water damage and structural damage, including to both the Rum Hospital balcony and external stone columns
- Upgrade air conditioning and related measures to improve air quality and address the accumulation of dust and mould throughout the building, which will work to reduce work health and safety risks
- Repaint the building's iconic yet faded and damaged façade for the first time in 40 years
- Restore peeling wallpaper, cracked leather and worn and damaged carpet in the Parliament's historic chambers and rooms
- Provide improved accessibility.

For more information about Australia's oldest Parliament, visit [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au).

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: Mr Speaker, the statement that you have made is contrary to the order of business as provided in the standing orders.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not uphold the point of order. As Chair, I have the discretion to make an announcement, which I have exercised. The member will resume his seat.

#### *Business of the House*

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: BILLS**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (13:05):** I move:

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

- (1) After the conclusion of Government business, permit the introduction without notice and passage through all stages at this sitting of the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Rent Freeze) Bill 2022.
- (2) Provide for the following speaking time limits for the second reading debate on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Rent Freeze) Bill 2022:
  - (a) mover – 15 minutes,
  - (b) Premier or Minister deputed – 15 minutes,
  - (c) Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed – 15 minutes,
  - (d) any other member – 10 minutes without extension, and
  - (e) reply – 15 minutes.
- (3) Provide that at 3.45 p.m. any remaining questions regarding the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Rent Freeze) Bill 2022, including Consideration in Detail if amendments have been circulated, be put forthwith without debate.

Today Greens NSW are moving forward with an urgent bill to freeze rents in New South Wales by Christmas. There is a commitment across the board at a Federal and State level to address the cost-of-living crisis. Members may be interested to know that a New South Wales household on average spends 22.4 per cent of their weekly budget on housing costs and 1.9 per cent on average, meanwhile, on energy costs. We are moving this urgent bill because there is a special sitting of Parliament today, which no-one can deny is about addressing the cost-of-living

crisis in this State. If we are genuinely committed to the idea of addressing the cost-of-living crisis, then the 22 per cent of everyone's weekly budget that goes to rent costs surely has to be of a high priority. It should not just be about energy prices, which are 1.9 per cent of the weekly average budget.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics reports, the average New South Wales household spends \$2,233 a week on housing, food, health and energy costs. Of that, \$501, or 22.4 per cent, is spent on rent or other dwelling costs. If we are serious about the cost-of-living crisis, then there is only one solution to ease that pressure. That is to freeze rents in New South Wales for two years. I appreciate the concerns that have been raised by the Opposition's bill today. It put new things on the agenda that people have not been talking and thinking about. But The Greens have been pushing on rental reform for years. This is not news to us. As part of negotiations with our Federal colleagues in Canberra, The Greens put on the table an urgent call for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to join our Federal push for a rent freeze for two years to address the rental crisis. In addition, we are now trying to deliver for the people of New South Wales. That is why we are seeking to suspend standing orders to urgently freeze rents before Christmas in order to provide immediate financial relief to the millions of renters who live in New South Wales.

In the past two weeks we have seen that Federal and State governments can work together to address the cost-of-living crisis if they want to. But what we see today is an attempt to do the same thing by ticking a box. I appreciate we are moving fast. We only heard that we were sitting today on Monday. The Greens' bill would allow us to freeze rents before Christmas for two years and give people in New South Wales a pressure valve release to get through the period between now and March. Whoever forms government in March next year can bring together whatever rental platform they want to support renters in New South Wales. But the special treatment that the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government offers—which we also saw in the dark days when NSW Labor were last in government—serves the interests of big developers and big business, first and foremost, over the needs of those that are renting.

If members are serious about dealing with the cost-of-living crisis in this State, we could deliver rental reform for the people of New South Wales right now, in this very weird Chamber, by putting an immediate cap on rents and freezing them for two years as we are doing with the price of coal today. We could walk out of here knowing that, for Christmas, we were delivering on reforms that would ease the cost-of-living pressures for the people of New South Wales. If members are serious about that then we cannot just tinker around the edges with the energy price as part of people's weekly budget. Twenty-two per cent of people's weekly budget goes to housing and rental costs, and yet we see an absolute focus on the energy costs. The reforms to energy costs are necessary and essential, and The Greens back those reforms in. But let us not pretend that we will walk out of here giving the people of New South Wales a gift for Christmas—some kind of massive cost-of-living relief.

If we really wanted to give people a gift for Christmas and provide cost-of-living relief then we could immediately freeze rents in this State. I appreciate that the Government is not on board with that; I cannot imagine a Liberal-Nationals government supporting a freezing of rents. Apologies to the member of the crossbench who raised their concerns about not sharing the bill with the Government. We have not shared the bill with the Government. We hold little hope that the New South Wales Liberal Party and The Nationals will be interested in freezing rents, but if they are on board then there is a copy here and we can have a quick discussion now. NSW Labor members claim that they support renters in New South Wales. If they do then they will back The Greens' bill and freeze rents right now so we can give renters what they deserve for Christmas.

**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) (13:11):** For the reasons given previously in relation to the suspension moved by Labor, which the majority of the House opposed, the Government will be opposing this suspension.

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (13:11):** By leave: Consistent with the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition, members have a right to debate a piece of legislation. The Opposition does not oppose the suspension of standing orders but is opposed to the bill, which is not good public policy at all. After the Second World War, when there was a massive housing shortage in this State, this Parliament enacted the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act 1948 to establish a system of rent control. It created fair rents boards, provided security for tenants and limited the grounds of eviction. But members of this House knew even in 1948 that they could not freeze rents. Even with rent control, they had to provide a mechanism to make provision for rent adjustments based on increased outgoings. At the moment there are huge increases in outgoings in terms of mortgage rates for landlords.

One cannot address the situation just by enacting legislation to freeze rents. If this House is considering freezing rents and doing what it did in 1947 and 1948 to deal with one of the worst crises in housing in the twentieth century, then it cannot do so unless it sets up a regime and engages in detailed consultation. We cannot just make arbitrary decisions, as distinct from the well thought out policy that the Opposition proposed to deal

with the immediate crisis before Christmas. Helping all those people who come to see us because they are being outbid is a different question altogether. Making sure that homelessness can be dealt with prior to Christmas through an urgent bill is different to arbitrarily coming up with a bill that would freeze rents.

In the Opposition's view, the proposition is not well thought out and has not taken the history into consideration. Even if the member for Newtown believes there should be rent control, which the Opposition does not believe at this point, then there must be a mechanism. History will show us how to achieve that mechanism; it will not just be a bill to freeze rents. The Opposition would not support that, but it certainly supports the right of the member for Newtown to debate the question.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (13:14):** In reply: I really appreciate the indication from the Labor Opposition that it will support the suspension so that we can have the debate, and I welcome the opportunity to debate rent freezes. To the member for Heffron's point, the reason we need an immediate rent freeze while we debate other measures—and we may debate what those other measures would be—is that I challenge any member in this Chamber to tell me that they have not had a conversation with a renter in the past few weeks or months who has received an email or a letter in the post from their real estate agent telling them that their rent has been hiked by \$50, \$100 or \$200. Everybody is getting those letters, and we are hearing stories every day of the significant anxiety faced by people in this State, which we could solve right now by passing a rent freeze.

I absolutely agree with the member for Heffron that it is not a long-term solution, but it is an immediate measure. This House has had the experience of passing immediate emergency measures in the past couple of years in response to COVID. If members do not face the reality that we are in a rental crisis emergency right now—that people are unable to pay rent or are making decisions between paying rent and buying food for their families—and if we cannot pass immediate emergency measures then we are failing the people of New South Wales. This rent freeze bill is not a long-term solution, and more absolutely needs to be put in place. But an immediate measure is needed.

I ask every member in this Chamber whether they really think it is okay that the rental crisis currently playing out across the State continues until we meet again in May next year, or whether they want to put something urgent in place to protect people until we have a new government—whether it be the current one or a new one—which can put in a suite of long-term reforms. People who rent in New South Wales need some protection between now and May, and we can offer that right now by putting an immediate rent freeze in place. If members want to put a rent freeze in place between now and May next year, I am very open to an amendment along those lines. The Greens think it will take another two years to implement other mechanisms to deal with the immediate rental crisis.

It is important to put on record that it is absolutely clear that we could also have ended no-grounds evictions for renters by Christmas. The Labor Opposition has discussed and suggested some reforms and changes that are needed, but an end to no-grounds evictions could have been delivered. We had the numbers in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The end of no-grounds evictions could have been delivered before we even saw an end to the Liberal-Nationals Government, but the Labor Party sadly got on a unity ticket with the New South Wales Liberal Party and The Nationals and did not support our urgency motion to deal with that. I ask members not to make the same mistake now and to recognise the need to freeze rents, so that we can deliver for renters across the State of New South Wales by Christmas.

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

**The House divided.**

Ayes ..... 14  
Noes ..... 23  
Majority..... 9

#### AYES

Car, P  
Cotsis, S  
Dalton, H  
Dib, J  
Greenwich, A

Haylen, J  
Hoenig, R  
Leong, J (teller)  
O'Neill, M  
Park, R

Parker, J  
Saffin, J  
Scully, P  
Watson, A (teller)

#### NOES

Butler, R  
Coure, M

Henskens, A  
James, T (teller)

Smith, N (teller)  
Stokes, R

## NOES

Davies, T  
Donato, P  
Elliott, D  
Evans, L  
Gibbons, M  
Griffin, J

Lee, G  
McGirr, J  
Piper, G  
Preston, R  
Roberts, A  
Sidgreaves, P

Taylor, M  
Toole, P  
Upton, G  
Williams, R  
Wilson, F

## PAIRS

Anderson, K  
Ayres, S  
Bromhead, S  
Clancy, J  
Conolly, K  
Cooke, S  
Crouch, A  
Dominello, V  
Gulaptis, C  
Hancock, S  
Hazzard, B  
Kean, M  
Layzell, D  
Marshall, A  
Overall, N  
Pavey, M  
Perrottet, D  
Petinos, E  
Provest, G  
Saunders, D  
Singh, G  
Speakman, M  
Tuckerman, W  
Williams, L

Bali, S  
Chanthivong, A  
Voltz, L  
Doyle, T  
Daley, M  
Finn, J  
Warren, G  
Holland, M  
Zangari, G  
Aitchison, J  
Washington, K  
Harrison, J  
Atalla, E  
Barr, C  
Mehan, D  
Lynch, P  
Minns, C  
Harris, D  
Tesch, L  
McDermott, H  
Lalich, N  
Catley, Y  
Crakanthorp, T  
Hornery, S

**Motion negatived.**

*Adjournment***SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** I move:

That the House at its rising this day do adjourn until Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 12 noon.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***ENERGY AND UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022****First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Dominic Perrottet, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (13:30):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Energy and Utilities Administration Amendment Bill 2022 introduces temporary changes to secure energy bill savings for households and stability for businesses. As the Prime Minister said last week:

We are experiencing sustained and unprecedented pressure on global energy markets. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine is pushing energy prices to historic highs all over the world.

The conflict in Ukraine and the resulting trade sanctions imposed on Russian coal and gas have distorted the global market by limiting supply while demand remains high. This is causing extreme and unusual increases in energy bills for Australian families and businesses in every State and Territory. The Prime Minister's comments and the cooperative action taken by National Cabinet last week reflect that this is a national issue, within a much broader international context, and New South Wales is not immune.

While some components of energy bills in New South Wales remain stable—including network costs associated with the poles and wires, which increased by just 1 per cent on average across the State in 2022-23—extreme price increases in coal and gas are driving up the cost of production, which is being passed on to families and businesses. That is why National Cabinet agreed to cap the price of gas and coal used for electricity generation in the domestic energy market, as part of a national solution to bring down the cost of energy for Australian families and businesses. This bill is necessary to implement the agreed steps to be taken here in New South Wales as part of that national solution.

Let me be clear: This is not, and must not be, about politics. We have recalled Parliament in highly unusual circumstances due to the urgent need to deliver real relief to the families of New South Wales. I thank my Commonwealth and interstate counterparts and their governments, and the Leader of the Opposition, for their support in reaching this solution. The bill goes directly to the root of the problem. Put simply, it gives the Government the ability to manage the price and supply of coal by enabling the Minister for Energy to make directions regarding coal prices and supply domestically, including the introduction of a temporary price cap. Queensland is the only other State in the National Electricity Market that relies on black coal, and it will also impose a price cap as part of the National Cabinet agreement. It is my intention to declare a coal price emergency once the bill has passed, allowing the Minister to issue directions capping the price of coal sold for domestic electricity generation in New South Wales at \$125 per tonne, effective from this week until 30 June 2024.

The steps we are taking are focused solely on domestic coal supply. It is the Government's intent that directions that are issued by the Minister for Energy will only apply to the producers of thermal coal who have supplied that coal domestically to New South Wales power generators during the past three years. Importantly, the Government only intends to issue directions with respect to uncontracted coal for the domestic supply of thermal coal to power stations. We do not intend to issue directions that would break existing contracts between thermal coal suppliers and power stations. This will be dealt with via rebates to generators to ensure the effective price cap is passed through. Without this intervention, electricity prices are forecast to increase up to 56 per cent over the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, as outlined in the Commonwealth budget. This bill, along with the other elements of the national plan, is expected to result in wholesale energy prices being 32 per cent lower than forecast for next financial year. In turn, the Australian Energy Regulator's Default Market Offer is expected to be 14 percentage points lower, equivalent to a saving of around \$240 for the average New South Wales household bill next year.

Delivering this saving requires us to navigate a number of complex challenges. Our intent is to ensure that sufficient thermal coal is available for the power stations in New South Wales at the capped price to generate electricity to meet consumer demand. The Liberals and The Nationals understand that this temporary intervention would come at a significant financial cost to coal producers. This sector supports many thousands of people, both directly and indirectly, as well as keeps our State's lights on and homes and businesses working. It would be irresponsible to impose sudden restrictions on the sector in a manner which puts livelihoods at risk or undermines our secure energy supply. That is why our support for this national solution was contingent on ensuring stability in the sector and energy security for the people of New South Wales. Our solution ensures generators are supported, with the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments to jointly provide financial assistance to coal-fired power stations that have purchased coal under existing contracts at prices that exceed the price cap.

New coal supply agreements will also be eligible for financial assistance if the independent regulator agrees that genuine production costs exceed the cap, with provision for a fair margin. To be clear, the purpose of the financial assistance is to ensure security of supply and to enable power generators to pass on the saving to consumers, which they will be required to demonstrate. The New South Wales Government will also seek a heads of agreement with the coal industry on domestic coal supply volumes and prices. This mechanism may provide exemptions from the directions on coal producers where they can demonstrate they will provide thermal coal to power stations at the prices and quantities that will deliver the overarching consumer outcomes we are seeking. While we appreciate the significance of this intervention, we have worked hard to ensure that the bill will not stifle investment in New South Wales.

The bill offers decisive action in response to a unique and isolated energy challenge. Looking at the bigger picture, New South Wales will continue to lead our nation's transition to a secure, reliable and affordable renewable energy future. In recognition of the heavy lifting New South Wales is doing to secure a reliable and affordable supply of coal to the domestic energy market, the Liberals and The Nationals have negotiated for



additional Commonwealth investment in New South Wales to further secure our energy future. This includes \$4.7 billion in Commonwealth funding for transmission projects across New South Wales, and further funding for infrastructure projects. We will also shortly announce additional energy bill relief for those most in need, jointly funded with the Commonwealth, adding to the existing \$330 million a year in rebates we already provide.

When a global distortion in energy markets is caused by factors totally external to our State and our nation, the people of New South Wales do not want politics; they want practical solutions. This bill provides that practical solution, putting downward pressure on energy bills and securing substantial Commonwealth investment for our people. The reality of global circumstances means that rising energy prices will remain unavoidable in the short term. However, this Liberal-Nationals Government is willing to tackle hard problems head on, using its capacity for tough negotiation and complex problem-solving to deliver energy bill relief for the people of our State at the time they need it most.

I turn to the provisions of the bill. The bill amends the Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987 to insert schedule 3. Proposed schedule 3 contains provisions relevant to the Government's response to the coal market price emergency. I will deal with each provision in turn. The object of schedule 3 is set out in clause 1. The object of the schedule is to put downward pressure on electricity prices during coal market price emergencies by allowing for directions to be given in relation to the price and domestic supply of coal used to generate energy. Clause 2 of schedule 3 provides for relevant definitions. Clause 3 of schedule 3 enables the Premier to declare a coal market price emergency. The Premier can make a coal market price emergency declaration if satisfied it is necessary to reduce the risk that either a past or projected increase in coal price, or insufficient domestic supply of coal, will adversely affect members of the community. The bill clarifies that members of the community may be adversely affected by an increase in coal prices if the increase in coal prices contributes to, or may contribute to, an increase in electricity prices.

Clause 3 (2) removes the requirement for the Premier to consult with anyone or afford procedural fairness prior to making a declaration—a necessary inclusion, and one not made lightly, to provide legal certainty and in view of the urgent circumstances we now face. Clause 4 of schedule 3 sets the duration of a coal market price emergency declaration. Under clause 4 (a) the declaration takes effect when the order making the declaration is made or on a later date if one is specified. Clause 4 (b) provides for three ways a declaration can end: firstly, until the date specified in the order; secondly, if no date is specified, it continues in force for a period of six months from the date the declaration takes effect; or, thirdly, until an earlier day on which the Premier revokes the declaration by written order. Clause 5 requires a declaration to be published in the Gazette or on the New South Wales legislation website as soon as practicable after the order is made.

I now turn to part 3 of schedule 3 to the bill. While a coal market price emergency declaration is in force, clause 6 of the bill allows the Minister to give directions that the Minister considers reasonably necessary to respond to that coal market price emergency. It is through these directions that a price cap can be set. The directions must be given by written notice. Clause 6 (2) removes the requirement for the Minister to consult with anyone or afford procedural fairness prior to giving, amending or revoking any direction—again, a necessary inclusion to provide legal certainty and to ensure that urgent action can be taken. Clause 6 (3) sets out particular things which may be implemented by a direction. A direction may impose a price cap or different price caps on the price at which coal may be sold, offered for sale or supplied; require a person to supply, or offer to supply, coal to a particular person specified in the direction; set mandatory terms and conditions on the supply of coal, offer to supply coal, or in relation to a price cap; or impose terms and conditions on a person who purchases or acquires coal, including terms that restrict or prohibit onselling coal at a higher price.

Further particular requirements which may be implemented by a direction may be prescribed by the regulations. Clause 6 (4) describes ways in which directions may operate. Directions may operate throughout the whole of the State or in a specified part of the State. The directions may operate for a specified period, time, or occasion. The directions may apply generally or be limited by reference to exemptions or factors such as a person or class of persons, or a time, place, circumstance, condition or restriction. The directions can apply differently according to different factors of a specified kind.

Compliance with directions is mandatory. Clause 7 (1) of schedule 3 makes it an offence for failing to comply with directions without a reasonable excuse. The maximum penalty for an individual is \$110,000. For a corporation, the maximum penalty regime is based on the regime that has previously been adopted by the Commonwealth—that is, the maximum penalty is the greater of \$10 million or three times the value of the benefit the corporation and any related corporation has obtained directly or indirectly that is reasonably attributable to the commission of the offence. If that benefit is unable to be determined, the penalty is 10 per cent of the corporation's adjusted turnover during the breach turnover period for the offence.

Clause 7 (2) of schedule 3 to the bill makes it clear that it is not a reasonable excuse that complying with the direction would cause a person to be in breach of contractual obligations that were entered into on or after

National Cabinet's announcement on 9 December 2022. Clauses 8 and 9 deal with administrative matters for directions. Clause 8 enables the Minister to amend or revoke a direction with a written notice. Clause 9 requires that written notice to be published in the gazette or on the New South Wales legislation website as soon as practicable after the notice is made. Clause 9 (2) deems the notice to have been served on, or brought to the attention of, all persons to whom the notice relates or who are affected by a direction to which the notice relates.

Part 4 of schedule 3 to the bill makes provision for a regulator to be appointed. Under clause 10, the Minister must appoint the Australian Energy Regulator [AER] or the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART] as regulator, or another person prescribed by the regulations. Clause 11 sets out the primary functions of the regulator. Those functions are to ensure compliance with schedule 3, including any directions made by the Minister and any regulations made for the purposes of schedule 3. The functions of the regulator are broader than ensuring compliance and include providing advice and recommendations to the Premier or Minister on energy markets and the exercise of the Premier or Minister's functions under schedule 3.

The functions of the regulator also include entering into agreements, publishing information and making applications for injunctions, declarations or other court orders if it is done for the purpose of ensuring compliance with schedule 3. Lastly, the functions of the regulator include instituting proceedings for offences under schedule 3 or any functions conferred or imposed on the regulator under the Act, another Act or the regulations. Clause 12 provides for the regulator's independence. The regulator is not subject to the control or direction of the Premier or Minister in exercising its functions.

Part 5 allows the regulator to appoint certain persons as inspectors. Under clause 13 (1) (a), the regulator may appoint staff members of the regulator as inspectors. Under clause 13 (1) (b) and (c), members of the AER or IPART can also be appointed as inspectors. Under clause 13 (1) (d), the regulations allow for a class of persons to be prescribed as persons who can be appointed as inspectors. Clause 13 (2) requires that the inspector must be provided with a certificate of appointment and, when exercising any powers under part 5, the inspector must produce that certificate if asked.

The bill confers investigative powers on the inspectors appointed under clause 13. However, clause 14 constrains the exercise of those powers for certain purposes, including determining whether there has been compliance with or a contravention of schedule 3, regulations made for the purposes of schedule 3, or a direction under clause 5. The investigative powers may also be exercised for the purposes of obtaining information and documents for a purpose connected with the administration of schedule 3. In particular, inspectors can exercise their powers for a purpose connected with making a declaration or direction, or to determine whether a declaration or direction should be given. The investigative powers may also be used generally for administering the schedule or another purpose prescribed by the regulations.

I turn now to the investigative powers of inspectors. Under clause 15 (1) of schedule 3, an inspector may enter a premises other than a residential premises for any of the purposes in clause 14. Clause 15 (2) provides that once the inspector has lawfully entered premises, they may do anything that, in their opinion, is necessary to be done, including inspecting and examining the premises or anything at the premises; making other examinations and inquiries; taking photographs, films, audio, video or other recordings; requiring the production of accounts, records, books or other documents, and taking copies; requiring a person to answer questions or provide information; and requiring the owner or occupier of the land or place to give the inspector assistance and facilities reasonably necessary for the inspector to exercise their powers.

Clause 16 inserts a power to require a person to produce documents or information to an inspector upon receipt of a written notice. The written notice must specify the documents or information sought. Clause 16 (2) may also require a person, by written notice, to attend at a specified place and time to answer questions. Clause 16 (3) sets out the particulars for a notice, including that it must specify the way in which the document or information is to be provided and provide a reasonable time within which the document or information may be produced. When an inspector receives a document, they are entitled to take a copy of it under clause 16 (7). Clause 16 (5) contains an important provision that abrogates the privilege against self-incrimination. Many examples of a provision such as this can be found in the New South Wales statute book in other regulatory contexts. It is an important provision to ensure that the regulator is equipped with powers to obtain the information it may need to perform its functions properly. Clause 16 (5) means that a person must still comply with a requirement to provide documents, information or answers even if the document, information or answer might incriminate them.

Clause 16 (6) provides that the only way a document, information or answer is not admissible against a person is if they object at the time the document, information or answer was provided or if they were not warned that they may object to giving the document, information or answer on the grounds that it may incriminate them. Clause 17 permits an inspector to have a person accompany them in the exercise of their powers if the inspector considers that person is capable of providing assistance. Penalties apply for failing to comply with requirements

of inspectors, giving false or misleading information to an inspector, or intentionally delaying or obstructing an inspector.

Should a person refuse or fail to comply with a requirement imposed on them by an inspector without a reasonable excuse, clause 18 (1) provides that they will be subject to a maximum penalty of \$11,000. Clause 18 (2), however, provides that a person is not guilty of an offence for failing to comply with a requirement to provide records or other documents unless the person was warned that a failure to comply with the requirement is an offence. Clause 18 (3) provides that if a person knowingly gives false or misleading information to an inspector while purporting to comply with a requirement under part 4, they are also subject to a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

**Debate interrupted.**

*Business of the House*

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: SPEAKING TIMES**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit:

- (1) The Premier to complete his second reading speech on the Energy and Utilities Administration Amendment Bill 2022.
- (2) The Leader of the Opposition to speak in reply for a maximum of five minutes.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills*

**ENERGY AND UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (13:46):** Inspectors must not be intentionally delayed or obstructed and doing so attracts a maximum penalty of \$11,000 under clause 18 (4) of schedule 3. Part 6 of schedule 3 to the bill addresses miscellaneous matters. Clause 19 in part 6 imposes a duty of confidentiality on a person who was or is an inspector. That person is prohibited from disclosing information obtained in connection with the exercise of the person's functions under schedule 3 unless the disclosure is made in certain circumstances—for example, where the consent of the person is obtained. Clause 20 places a limit on the penalty amount for offences created by regulation. That amount is \$220,000 for a corporation or \$55,000 for an individual.

Clause 21 allows an inspector to issue a penalty notice in certain circumstances. Clause 22 provides that schedule 3 has effect despite anything in the Act or another Act, or judgment or order, or contract or agreement, or a deed, document, security or other instrument. Clause 23 also excludes any liability of the Crown, Premier, Minister, or person acting in execution of schedule 3 for any matter or thing done under schedule 3 where any damage, loss or injury is sustained or alleged to have been sustained. The bill includes a sunset date of 30 June 2024. It is important that the measures may be put in place long enough to ensure that the benefits flow through to people and businesses in New South Wales. They are, however, extraordinary measures that should not be in place for any longer than they are necessary.

Lastly, the bill includes savings and transitional arrangements. Those arrangements ensure that the Minister may appoint a public service employee as an inspector for a transitional period after the bill commences. That is an important provision to ensure that the information-gathering powers under the schedule may be available to be exercised as soon as possible after the enactment of the proposed schedule, and potentially prior to the appointment of the regulator. The bill commences on assent. I thank members for their cooperation and reiterate the importance of passing the bill without delay. I commend the bill to the House.

**Second Reading Debate**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (13:48):** I contribute to debate on the Energy and Utilities Administration Amendment Bill 2022. I will not speak for the full five minutes because it is important that the bill is passed and sent to the Legislative Council, as per the agreement of the House. NSW Labor supports the bill. We join the Premier in supporting the Albanese Federal Government's energy plan, which will deliver price relief to families and businesses. We support a bipartisan and Federation-wide response to the energy crisis gripping our State and the entire country. We support the Premier's decision to recall the Parliament to deal with this legislation as a matter of urgency. Intervention in the energy market is desperately needed for families whose ambitions and

budgets have been shattered by unsustainable energy price rises. It is needed for thousands of businesses whose energy input costs are sending them to the wall. It is needed by hundreds of thousands of employees whose businesses and jobs will be at risk if the bill does not pass.

While the bill does address aspects of industry, it does not address all of them, in particular steel, chemical and cement companies that rely on thermal coal for process heat as part of their production. This poses a very real risk to employment and runs the risk of higher production costs, pushing up the price of goods further down the supply chain. These concerns have been raised by stakeholders with the Opposition and, I believe, with the Government. They will continue to do so. However, that should not in any way stop the passage of this legislation to deliver price relief for households across this State.

Further, we reiterate our opposition to the privatisation of essential utilities and infrastructure in New South Wales. The reason this Parliament needs to sit at all is because the current Government privatised our electricity assets. Three more retailers are owned in part or in full by the New South Wales Government: Essential Energy is 100 per cent owned by the New South Wales Government, Ausgrid is 49 per cent owned by the New South Wales taxpayer, and Endeavour Energy is 49 per cent owned by the New South Wales Government. We have said repeatedly that we offer bipartisan support for this important legislation. It would be a wonderful opportunity for the Premier to publicly announce the end of asset recycling, privatisation, the golden key—whatever he wants to call it. That has undoubtedly put upward pressure on energy prices for businesses, communities and families across New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, I will now put the motion before the House. The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, I will now leave the chair until the ringing of a long bell.

*[The Speaker left the chair pursuant to resolution at 13:51. The House resumed at 17:08.]*

### *Announcements*

#### **MEMBER FOR HOLSWORTHY**

#### **MEMBER FOR PORT MACQUARIE**

**The SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the member for Holsworthy, who has not had an opportunity to deliver a valedictory speech today but will be leaving this place. I thank her for her service. I also acknowledge the member for Port Macquarie. Members may be aware that her husband passed away earlier this week. That information was publicly released. Our thoughts and prayers are with the member for Port Macquarie.

### *Bills*

#### **ENERGY AND UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

#### **Returned**

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

### *Announcements*

#### **57TH PARLIAMENT FINAL WORDS**

**The SPEAKER (17:08):** Before the House adjourns, I will read a closing statement, as I did when I delivered final remarks—as I thought then—as Speaker of the Parliament a few weeks ago on 17 November 2022. We are here again, sitting as the Fifty-Seventh Parliament, as a little surprise from Santa Claus right before Christmas. While the honour of sitting the closest to Christmas Day goes to the Twenty-Ninth Parliament, which sat on 23 December 1931, we have come very close. If you listened to the debate carefully today, while the division bells operated, members may also have heard the sleigh bells ringing as Santa and this House unanimously resolved to deliver a coal price cap for the good people of this State. I thank members for their

efforts, flexibility and patience in passing the Energy and Utilities Administration Amendment Bill 2022 today. It should help ease energy bill pressure for households and businesses in New South Wales.

For this special Christmas sitting, an improvised Chamber has been decorated with festive red benches and walls in what is normally known as the Macquarie Room. However, while the Legislative Assembly has been happy to share space with the Legislative Council, the grass is still greener on our side. Today is the first day that both Houses have sat in the same venue on the same day at different times, which is another historic occasion during a term of unusual events. Though I will not sit in the Speaker's chair of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, I look forward to attending the Legislative Assembly Chamber as a visitor. It will be beautifully preserved and refurbished to modern standards thanks to a much-needed renovation, extending to the original Rum Hospital. It has been my continued honour and pleasure to serve as the Speaker during the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I thank everyone across the parliamentary precinct for their valuable contributions, particularly those who facilitated the smooth operation of today's proceedings. Again, I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

#### *Community Recognition Notices*

### **ILLAWARRA SPORTS AWARDS**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—The Illawarra Sports Awards were held last week at the Fraternity Club in Fairy Meadow. These awards celebrate sport in our community, recognising achievements of athletes at a grassroots and professional level, as well as the hardworking volunteers at Illawarra clubs and associations. Sport is at the heart of our community, so I'm thrilled these awards have returned after a 10-year hiatus.

Congratulations to the 2022 Illawarra Sports Award winners: Female Athlete of the Year: Emma McKeon, Male Athlete of the Year: Alex Volkanovski, Team of the Year: Wollongong Roller Hawks, Coach of the Year: Brendan Dowler (Roller Hawks), Geoff Phillips Local Hero of the Year: Debra Banks (Special Olympics), Illawarra Mercury People's Choice Award: Luke Pople (Roller Hawks), Illawarra Academy of Sport Junior Athlete of the Year: Keira Buckpitt, Sporting Moment of the Year: Annemiek van Vleuten at the Wollongong 2022 UCI World Road Championships. It's an honour to commend recipients on this outstanding achievement. They are extremely deserving of the accolade and should be incredibly proud their accomplishments.

### **150 YEARS OF UNGARIE**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—With the 150th year of Ungarie coming to an end, I would like to recognise all the locals both past and present of the Ungarie township. With a massive congratulations going to those locals who helped make the celebrations earlier in the year memorable and enjoyable. Hundreds of visitors attended the many events on offer over the fun-filled 3-day weekend to remember the past 150 years. Starting on Friday 9 September and ending on Sunday 11 September attendees were invited to attend the Triple M afternoon of fun in Bing Wallder Park, the official launch of Lindsay Henley's "Book of Memories", open days at the Museum and Ungarie Central School, Ungarie Heritage Tours, A Devonshire tea at the CWA Hall, church services, a Bowling Club breakfast, re-screening of Henderson's movie and Chicken Run Bowls night. With a plaque, in memory of the late Jeff de Rozzario officially unveiled in the park. Ungarie is home to over 396 people. With tourists flocking to the town regularly to visit the famous attraction of the "Big Footy" celebrating the contributions the Danihers had and continue to have to AFL. 150 years, what an incredible achievement.

### **2022 CHERRY FESTIVAL**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—I had the absolute pleasure to join this year's 2022 Cherry Festival with her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW, Mayor of Hilltops Council, Cr Marg Roles, and Deputy Mayor, Cr Alison Foreman. The Days events started at the Young CWA Hall for a Vice Regal Morning Teas hosted by the NSW Governor and Young CWA, to thank the local SES Units for their extraordinary efforts throughout the course of the year. I was then honoured to attend the official opening and crowning ceremony at Anderson Park. This year there was 2 entrants for the 2022 Cherry Queen, Brianna Long who was raising money for the Mercy Care Centre in Young and Kim Evers who was raising money for the Riding for Disabled Young Branch. Both these ladies did an incredible amount of work to support their chosen charities. Brianna Long was crowned both the 2022 Cherry Queen and the 2022 Charity Queen. A massive congratulations goes to all the Cherry Festival committee members, lead by President, Caitlin Sheehan and the many Hilltops Council Staff who helped make the event the success that it was. Congratulations once again to all.

### **90 YEARS OF THE DOG ON THE TUCKERBOX**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—There are a few things that make Gundagai known to visitors. One of the most famous is

a tune by Slim Dusty, where he sings of a 'track winding back to an old-fashioned shack along the road to Gundagai.' Also on the road to Gundagai, slightly off the most beaten track, is an iconic bronze statue. This statue is of a dog sitting on top of an old tuckerbox. This wonderful little dog recently turned 90, and the community of Gundagai turned out in force to celebrate. With market stalls, entertainment, and a big tuckerbox-shaped birthday cake, the birthday party for this little icon was a fantastic tribute to the unveiling of the statue 90 years ago, which has drawn in tourists and helped put Gundagai on the map since. Congratulations to Keith Turner, Cr Abb McAlister, Cr Penny Nicholson, the Tout Family, Emcee Jim Scobie and all those special guests with ties to the iconic dog, and those who worked hard to make these celebrations so incredibly special.

#### **HARRY BURDON**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—I acknowledge Harry Burdon 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. Harry 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 Harry should be extremely proud of. I congratulate Harry on achieving 50 years of cumulative service as a member of the League and thank him for his service.

#### **HERBERT DAWSON**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—I acknowledge Herbert Dawson 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. Herbert 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 Herbert should be extremely proud of. I congratulate Herbert on achieving 50 years of cumulative service as a member of the League and thank him for his service.

#### **RAY MUNNERY**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—I acknowledge Ray Munnery 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. Ray 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 Ray should be extremely proud of. I congratulate Ray on achieving 50 years of cumulative service as a member of the League and thank him for his service.

#### **RE-LOVE**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate I thank Re-Love for supporting people in need with practical and immediate assistance to set up a home. Through donations and partnerships Re-Love rescues furniture, appliances and home essentials destined for landfill and redistributes them to families who have been impacted by domestic violence, homelessness, natural disasters and incarceration. Since 2019 Re-Love have diverted 2.5 thousand tonnes of waste from landfill. They rescue quality furniture from corporate relocations, and excess stock and seconds from retail outlets, allowing them to distribute \$12 million worth of goods into the community to date. Their dedicated volunteers provide twenty-two thousand hours of labour per year in the warehouse, delivering goods and setting up homes. Re-Love take referrals from community service organisations such as Wayside Chapel, Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre and WEAVE. People are welcomed with dignity to the Re-Love warehouse and encouraged to choose their own items to furnish their home at no cost to them.

#### **COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—I welcome funding from the Community Building Partnership to support community organisations in the Sydney electorate. This grant rounds will fund: upgrading dorm rooms at

Matthew Talbot Hostel Woolloomooloo; a new community transport bus for Holdsworth Community Centre Woollahra; upgrading kitchenettes at William Booth House Surry Hills; upgrading health facilities at Wayside Chapel Potts Point; equipment for City North Men's Shed Millers Point; a new van for PlateItForward's food donation program; a new vehicle for Bobby Goldsmith Foundation's for people with HIV/AIDS; roof repairs Australian Chinese Community Association Surry Hills; weatherproof equipment for Canice's Kitchen Rushcutters Bay. I congratulate the successful organisations and hope the funding will help them provide direct benefit to the local community and people in need.

#### **AUNTY ROSIE**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate, I share the great sadness at the passing of Aunty Rosie. Aunty Rosie, was a much loved icon of Kings Cross, and someone whose smile warmed hearts. On a personal note, I loved our frequent chats about the state of the world, and the way in which she educated me on trends in homelessness across Sydney. A memorial has been established in her honour at the Wayside Chapel, a place that always provided her with care and compassion. I thank Aunty Rose for contribution to Kings Cross, and express my condolences to her family, friends, and community. Vale Aunty Rosie

#### **JOANNE GRAHAM – KURNELL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Joanne Graham, principal of Kurnell Public School, on her promotion of cultural education at the school. Jo was recently celebrated for her excellence in Aboriginal education at the 17th Nanga Mai Awards, presented by the NSW Department of Education. Jo received the Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Education Award for her efforts to develop meaningful engagement between her school and the local Aboriginal community. Jo has developed Kurnell Public School into a culturally safe school for Aboriginal students and their families. Her commitment to "making Aboriginal education everybody's business" and "making a difference" has allowed for a deeper and more meaningful understanding of Aboriginal culture and histories at both a school and local community level. Jo's commitment to cultural education extends beyond her role as principal of Kurnell Public School. She is also the Chairwoman of the Sutherland Primary Principals' Association's Aboriginal Reference Group, a member of the NSW Department of Education's Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships Directorates' Working Party, and the lead principal of Port Hacking Network's Aboriginal Education priority. I commend Jo for her outstanding commitment to cultural education and her significant contribution to the local community.

#### **DR ELISA MOKANY**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Dr Elisa Mokany of Caringbah South for winning the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation at the 2022 Science Awards. The Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation is a prestigious national award with a prize money of \$250,000. Dr Mokany shares the award with Adjunct Professor Alison Todd for their ground-breaking molecular diagnostics technology that has been adopted worldwide. Dr Mokany and Adjunct Professor Todd are the co-founders of Speedx, a molecular diagnostics company that tackles cancer and antibiotic resistance. Speedx provides more accurate and cost-effective solutions to analysing and interpreting genetic information. This has seen the global distribution of diagnostic tests for conditions including Sars-CoV-2, cancers, and respiratory infections. Speedx also produced the first global test that detects both an STI and its antibiotic susceptibility, facilitating a 40 per cent increase in cure rates. Dr Mokany says that the prize is "recognition of our contribution to the commercialization of innovation in providing healthcare" and will help Speedx continue "to provide unique support to our country and globally". I commend Dr Mokany for her outstanding contribution to medical science and for improving the outcomes of patients around the world.

#### **ST URSULA'S COLLEGE KINGSGROVE**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—St Ursula's College Kingsgrove will offer the International Baccalaureate (IB), an alternative to the HSC, from next year, making it the first systemic Catholic school in Sydney to offer the diploma program to students. Students at the all-girls' high school will have the option of completing the IB or the HSC, giving them the opportunity to choose a pathway to university that best suits their strengths and interests. The IB delivers a globally recognised educational qualification. It focuses on critical and analytical thinking, independent learning, and is geared towards university preparation. "The IB's commitment to high quality, challenging, international education is closely tied to the philosophy we have at St Ursula's," St Ursula's Principal, Mrs Leask said. "We believe our students are well poised to undertake this internationally recognised qualification." She said it was also important to give students the choice of pursuing either the IB or the HSC in their senior years. "Experience at other schools shows that choice is important to students - they feel empowered and in control of their futures," she said. This is an exciting offering for students and one St Ursula's is proud of.

### ST GEORGE FC U20'S WOMEN'S SQUAD

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—On Sunday 25 September the St George FC U20's women's squad defeated the Northbridge Bulls to become the 20's NSW League One Champions for 2022. The 20's finished second on the table with an impressive tally of scoring 84 goals and only conceding 15 in 30 rounds of football. After completing a sensational league campaign, and defeating Gladesville Ravens in the Semi-Final, the St George women had to face the undefeated Northbridge Bulls favourites. St George's victory never looked in doubt after going ahead midway through the first half with a goal from Paris Alcon. It was a dominant display with one way traffic and two more goals in the second half through great strikes from Kyla Vanderaan and Jordy Baker with a score of 3-0 at full time. St George Football Club was founded by Hungarian immigrants in 1957 as the Budapest Club. In 1965 it was renamed as the St George - Budapest Club after merging with the St George Soccer Association in 1963. The Saints have played a crucial role in the development of Australian football. Congratulations St George FC U20's women on a fantastic win!

### BRINGING COUNTRY VALUES TO THE CITY

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—The NSW Country Women's Association marks its centenary this year and its newest branch, Georges River is proudly celebrating the association's past while presenting its new face for the future. Formed only in 2015, the Georges River branch CWA is adopting its traditional role as a country women's support network to suit the needs of those living in metropolitan Sydney. The NSW CWA was formed for country women fighting isolation and lack of health facilities. One hundred years on the fight is still the same. The CWA is excellent in providing a welcoming and nurturing environment as well as friendship and a sense of community. The CWA aims to improve conditions of women in welfare, education, health and to provide a voice for women to all levels of government. It raises funds for CWA Education Grants to go to NSW students and also supports local charities and organisations such as Share the Dignity. An exhibition celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the NSW CWA is being held at the Hurstville Museum and Gallery until Sunday, 20 November. Congratulations and well done on 100 years to the CWA – what an amazing achievement.

### STELLA MACKENZIE 1ST IN COURSE 2022 HSC

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)**—I would like to congratulate Stella Grace Sweeney Mackenzie from the Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus on receiving 1st in Course for Dance in the 2022 Higher School Certificate. I was thrilled to hear the news of Stella's achievement and want to thank the teachers of Mackellar Girls, along with her family and friends who have supported and encouraged her as well as congratulating family and friends of other young people in my electorate in this year's HSC. Congratulations again Stella on this great honour and I wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

### TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)**—I would like to congratulate the students and teachers in my electorate of Manly who on Friday 16 December have finished the 2022 school year. Following the easing of the pandemic, teachers in my electorate have worked enormously hard to re-settle students into their previous school routine, providing the very best education to their students that our wonderful schools in NSW have to offer. These past two weeks, I have enjoyed attending many End of Year School Presentations in my electorate, witnessing students receiving awards and acknowledging the fine efforts of all students. I want to thank the teachers for their continued dedication and congratulate the students for their achievements this year.

### AYAH

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)**—On Friday 16 December 2022, I attended with the Premier and community members the completion of construction ceremony of Australia's First Young Adult Hospice built in the heart of my electorate of Manly. Patients who have outgrown Bear Cottage down the road from the Hospice will be able to receive specialised care and their families much needed support as well as being able to enjoy the environs of Manly during their stay. The facility is built on land at North Head on the former Manly Hospital site and provides a wonderful connection with country by the installation of Aboriginal art inside the facility and a yarning circle outside near the bush reserve. I would like to thank the generosity of local benefactors and community members, as well as thanking the NSW Government which has enabled the hospice to be completed. I am delighted to let the Parliament know that this wonderful facility will provide care for young people from February 2023.

### BANKSTOWN WAR WIDOWS' NSW GUILD CLUB



**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I am proud to recognise the important contribution made by the Bankstown War Widows' NSW Guild Club in my local community. October 19th is recognised as War Widows Day, and I am pleased that a memorial to War Widows has been opened at Walshaw Park, Bass Hill. For many years the Bankstown War Widows Club has provided services, support and advocacy for all women and families that have been impacted by the loss of a husband in defence service. One of the biggest advocates for war widows in Bankstown and the dedication of a permanent memorial was former Bankstown War Widows Club President Norma "Pat" Holdorf, who sadly passed away in October just prior to the opening of the War Widows memorial. Mrs Holdorf was involved in the Bankstown War Widows Club since the 1990's, organising outings and trips for its members, and a tireless advocate for the cause. I extend my condolences to Mrs Holdorf's daughters Gail Marshall and Roby Batson and the members of the Bankstown War Widows Club. I hope the Club and Mrs Holdorf's family take pride that her dedication and advocacy resulted in the fantastic memorial in Bass Hill.

#### **CHESTER HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I am proud to recognise and commend Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre for its continuing efforts in supporting the local community. Since its establishment in 1969, the Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre has helped provide services across the Bankstown LGA, with a particular focus on the residents of Chester Hill, Bass Hill, Sefton and Villawood. The volunteers at the Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre do an extraordinary job in providing the broad range of services offered to local residents at the Centre. These services including youth services for 12-18 year olds at the Roundabout Youth Centre in Sefton, projects that enhance community pride and participation such as the Community Garden whereby local residents can grow their own fruits and vegetables; before and after children's care; case management, counselling, and many other services that the Bankstown Community is grateful to receive. I take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of the Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre management committee, President David Crawford, Vice President Brent Kunkler, Secretary Raymond Robb, Treasurer Philip Gray, Manger Dale Donadel, Committee Members and volunteers, and thank the executives for their service to our community.

#### **CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chester Hill High School in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. This anniversary marks not just Chester Hill High School's 60th but also the integral part the school plays within the community. Congratulations to Sajida Kazimi for being amongst the 45 recipients of the 2022 ABCN Accelerate Scholarship selected by the Scholarship Selection Panel from across Australia. She will be provided with a three-year financial and corporate mentoring support scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded to young students from low socio-economic status backgrounds to achieve their potential, through the ABCN Scholarship Foundation. I would also like to thank the Principal Mrs Maria O'Harae of Chester Hill High School, teachers, and administrative staff for their tireless work. I also acknowledge the parents and guardians of students of Chester Hill High School who have worked tirelessly throughout the last year to support our students.

#### **GRAEME ANDERSON**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—Today I would like to recognise the long-time involvement of Graeme Anderson in the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts.

With a background in construction machinery and equipment, Graeme was Director of Tutt Bryant Ltd for 30 years, chairman and Managing Director of Otis Elevator Australia for 10 years, and President of the Building Industry Specialist Contractors of Australia. Yet his passion lies in the arts. Graeme has been the external Director of the John Lamble Foundation for many years; this foundation is a major supporter of the Sydney Eisteddfod, supplying artistic grants. More locally, on the Bouddi Peninsular, Graeme was instrumental in arranging for six properties, including his own, to grant rights of way to National Parks. This means that the community has legal access from Lobster Bay to Hawkes Head peninsular which is frequently used by bushwalkers. The Honorary Treasurer for the Bouddi Foundation of the Arts, Graeme also sponsors the Graeme Anderson Award for Excellence. Graeme has always prioritised the community. With kindness and compassion, he has always acted selflessly. I would like to thank Graeme for his commitment to supporting young artists, and for his work in the Bouddi community.

#### **SLSC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR JULIE REDFERN**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—Today I would like to recognise the incredible work of Terrigal local, Julie Redfern. A member of the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club, Julie has recently been awarded Volunteer of the Year by Surf Lifesaving Central Coast.

This is an amazing, but well-deserved achievement. This season, Julie was Director of Member Services, Patrol Captain, managed club social media and a critical administrative member of the club. Her experience and leadership skills have ensured appropriate resolutions on over 10 occasions. She understands the needs of contemporary volunteers and has implemented a number of strategies to encourage community-wide participation. Partnered with her deminer, and focus on inclusivity and communication, she is an invaluable leader and role model in the Terrigal SLSC. Her work with youth, in areas of education, safety, and leadership has brought the club together; further work with local businesses has ensured a strong Terrigal community. In her current role as Director of Membership, Julie has led the club's response to COVID-19, ensuring public awareness and worked to manage a safe environment for members and the community. Thank you and congratulations Julie on this incredible, highly deserved accolade.

#### **PETER FRANKS**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Franks. Peter is the pilot and owner of National Helicopters, based in Cooranbong. Peter annually provides a flyover of a Huey for ANZAC Day commemorations. The flyover's path tracks over the Terrigal War Memorial where crowds are gathered to pay their respects to those who have served. Terrigal/Wamberal RSL Club host the ceremony and coordinate the flyover with Peter. It is an opportunity for veterans to reflect on their experiences and unite over shared memories. It has an immense emotional impact on attendees of the ceremony, bringing further dimension to the service. Kindly, Peter provides these flyover experiences free of charge. Paying respects to those who have served to protect our country is an important part of recognising our modern history. Coordination of commemorative events, and particularly emotionally engaging flyovers such as those conducted by Peter, instil deeper understanding and respect in younger generations. On behalf of the Terrigal/Wamberal RSL Club and local community, I would like to thank Peter for his generosity of time and resources. Thank you.

#### **FEEDING FRIENDS – PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—Don Barron has experienced homelessness and what its like to be hungry. He's dealt with addictions to drugs and alcohol and spent time in gaol. He understands what its like to lose contact with his family and unable to get a start in any employment. But he also wants the community to know that people with a past can change and contribute positively. Earlier this year he founded a charity named Feeding Friends to help anyone who is doing it tough. This week is Homelessness Week and Feeding Friends has been cooking a variety of hot meals to distribute to those sleeping rough or doing it tough in Broken Hill. During peak times more than 150 meals a week are served along with other items like bedding and clothing, nappies and baby food for survivors of domestic violence. Don Barron you are helping many people in your community, to have hope for a brighter future.

#### **2DRY FM**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—2Dry FM Broken Hill has been operating as a community radio station since the early 1990s. Their voluntary staff are to be commended for their commitment to the people of Broken Hill and surrounding areas, keeping them up to date with current affairs and entertained through music and talk back radio. Recently, they won the "Best New Program" at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's 2022 National Awards for "Out in the Outback." This small community driven organisation is achieving great things due to its levels of community engagement and recent appointment of a station manager. 2Dry FM is to be commended in their efforts to strive for diversity in broadcasting, and congratulations on taking home this prestigious award.

#### **VALE BRIAN POTTER**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—Broken Hill remembers one of its finest, Brian Frederick Potter who sadly passed away on 21 March 2022 at the age of 93. Brian was Broken Hill's leading funeral director, a business established by his grandfather, in July 1914. Three generations of the Potter family; Fred, Bill and Brian, built and shaped Fred J Potter & Son into Broken Hill's foremost funeral home. Brian's considerate nature brought much comfort to those who were grieving. He always contributed to his community and was an Australia Day Award recipient in 1989. Brian was an active member of the Lions Club serving several terms as President. Brian enjoyed his membership of Beefsteak and Burgundy and was a life member of the Junior Tennis Association. I extend my sincere condolences to Brian's family and know he will be missed by many.

#### **BALMAIN ELECTORATE OFFICE TEAM**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)**—Today I bring to the attention of the House the work of the Balmain Electorate Office Team: Eleanor Nurse, Ned Cutcher, Anastasia Radievska and David Lewis. Working in an Electorate Office with the community – and with us Members – is a hard job. My staff are the ones who answer the phones, respond to the thousands of emails we receive from residents, sort through public housing issues, offer

counsel and a friendly ear to people in crisis. I feel genuinely grateful to be able to rely on this team and I know that feeling is echoed by my constituents, who are full of praise for these staffers and the huge contribution that they have made to the lives of local people. The work we do in NSW Parliament and in the community is only ever as good as the work that happens behind the scenes with our staff so my heartfelt thanks to Eleanor, Ned, Anastasia and David. Merry Christmas!

#### **SEAN VAN HOVEN**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)**—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate an impressive young 13-year-old, Sean Van Hoven from Nowra who has at the age of 13 achieved his goal of being a published writer. Sean worked extremely hard towards having his book published, *Anathox: The Assemblance* is the name of his book and I encourage everyone to read it, you can find it on Amazon, Kindle and at Dymocks Nowra. Sean has continuously worked on his writing since the age of three and his inspiration comes from series such as *Lord of the Rings* and *House of the Dragon*. Sean should be extremely proud having reached his goal at such a young age. What a great achievement for Sean specially to hear that the local Dymocks in Nowra picked up his book, being able to see his book in a local store would be a great feeling. I am delighted to be able to congratulate Sean Van Hoven and I am extremely proud of this young man's commitment and hard work to achieve his goals at such a young age, I wish you all the best and I look forward to seeing more of your work in the future.

#### **RELAY FOR LIFE**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)**—Relay for Life is set to have one lucky last event held in Nowra in March 2023 with Chair member Melinda Day, Melinda has been a part of the organisation since 2004. The Relay will be held at the University of Wollongong Shoalhaven Campus. Having covid-19 push this event back and put it on hold the team thought one last relay for life event in Nowra would give the region the opportunity to celebrate the achievements the events has made in the past. The Shoalhaven has given so much energy and support to past relay for life events and its time to show up one more time, this fundraiser has proven beneficial in the past like the Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre, Transport and advocacy that benefit local families impacted by cancer. I would like to acknowledge Melinda Day and thank her for all her hard work and the support and commitment she has given to the relay for life over the years, Nowra's final relay for life will take place on March 25th, 2023, I cannot wait to hear how much of a success it is for our community.

#### **CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS II**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—For Members of Parliament, December means school presentations—and it is always wonderful to go along and help celebrate the achievements of local students. Each year, I reach out to schools in the Charlestown Electorate to nominate one student who has shown an outstanding commitment to their school community for the Jodie Harrison MP Community Service award. This year, the recipients included Bella Vaughan from Kotara South Public School; Baden Donnelly from Mount Hutton Public School; Charlotte Nixon from New Lambton South Public School; Lachlan Macadam from Redhead Public School; Lily Merrell from St Joseph's Primacy School; Abby Butler from St Paul's Primary School; Sonny Lott from Warners Bay Public School; and Tyrell Latham from Wirripaang Public School. Congratulations to all these young people on their outstanding achievements. I want to wish them and all of the hard-working teachers and school staff in the Charlestown Electorate a safe, happy and restful summer break. To those students who have graduated year 6 and are moving into high school, I wish them all the very best on their next big adventure!

#### **CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—For Members of Parliament, December means school presentations—and it is always wonderful to go along and help celebrate the achievements of local students. Each year, I reach out to schools in the Charlestown Electorate to nominate one student who has shown an outstanding commitment to their school community for the Jodie Harrison MP Community Service award. This year's recipients included Isla Williams from Cardiff High School; Isaac Elson from Hunter Sports High School; Eleanor Moore from Kotara High School; Samuel Woods from St Pius X High School; Molly Freebody from St Mary's Catholic College; Jaimie Spargo from Warners Bay High School; Lachlan Moyse from Whitebridge High School; and Brock Jennings from Alesco Senior College. Congratulations to all these young people on their outstanding achievements. I want to wish them and all of the hard-working teachers and school staff in the Charlestown Electorate a safe, happy and restful summer break. To those students who have now graduated high school and are moving onto their next big adventure, whether it be further study or embarking on their careers, I wish them all the very best!

#### **CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—For Members of Parliament, December means school presentations—and it is always wonderful to go along and help celebrate the achievements of local students. Each

year, I reach out to schools in the Charlestown Electorate to nominate one student who has shown an outstanding commitment to their school community for the Jodie Harrison MP Community Service award. This year, the recipients included Ruby Payne from Cardiff South Public School; Asher Jeffress from Charlestown East Public School; Jay Wasson from Charlestown Public School; Ruby Apps from Charlestown South Public School; Bernard Forsyth from Dudley Public School; Maya McClelland from Eleebana Public School; Lachlan Swetman from Garden Suburb Public School; and Eden Andoni from Kahibah Public School. Congratulations to all these young people on their outstanding achievements. I want to wish them and all of the hard-working teachers and school staff in the Charlestown Electorate a safe, happy and restful summer break. To those students who have graduated year 6 and are moving into high school, I wish them all the very best on their next big adventure.

#### **ST EUPHEMIA COLLEGE**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—On 2 December I joined St Euphemia College for a tour of their facilities and to see the amazing work they are achieving. The school motto, 'Striving for Excellence' radiates through the humanitarian projects the students are undertaking. I would like to congratulate the principal, Reverend Father Peter Mavrommatis, his staff, and the Board on guiding the students with their current project of turning a shipping container into a portable library with 6000 books to send to a school in Lismore that was affected by the floods. It inspires me to see young people who are passionate about not only their education but about the wider community as well. These students, with the news at their fingertips, understand on a global scale, their own potential to create change in the world. Whether they want to be doctors or teachers, learn a trade, or be a lawyer, I have no doubt these young people will be our future leaders, and it is our job to encourage them. We all come to this place to make a difference; sometimes it's simply through giving someone an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have.

#### **TENDER LOVING CARE DISABILITY SERVICES**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—It is important to remember there is much goodness in the world. I am pleased to recognise the work of Yasser Zaki, and the staff at Tender Loving Care Disability Services for the amazing work that they do for our community. In the words of Yasser Zaki: "It's not about being inclusive, it's about eliminating exclusion". As a disability support provider, Tender Loving Care provides a range of services to people living with disabilities. They are one of many community groups and individuals from across the electorate of Lakemba who step up at every opportunity to offer their support for those in need. At their end-of-year gathering, I had the opportunity to meet the staff who work hard every day to provide essential support to children, youth, and adults who live with disabilities. They define people by their abilities, not their disabilities. It is an absolute privilege to acknowledge their work as a part of this caring and supportive community. They do an amazing job paving the way to help those in our community who need it the most. On behalf of my community, I offer my deep thanks to them.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY NEW CAMPUS OPENING**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—On 8 December I was honoured to be at the Western Sydney University campus, the official opening of the newest campus at Bankstown City. This much-anticipated 18-storey, technology-rich, vertical campus comprises 26,000 square metres of state-of-the-art facilities and has been awarded a 6-Star Green Star design rating which recognises 'World Leadership' in environmentally sustainable building practices. Some of the design initiatives include the capture and re-use of rainwater, as well as innovative thermal and lighting systems and solar roof panels. This campus will open for teaching in 2023, offering nine teaching floors and a capacity for up to 10,000 students and 1000 staff. Too often, young people and others in our community looking to increase their knowledge, do not see themselves at University. Through this integrated learning approach, students will have hands-on learning opportunities with local businesses and industries, helping to strengthen their skills and enhance their employability. This new campus will be part of a new future for the community. Thank you to Canterbury-Bankstown City Council for believing in this project and to the University and all community partners for making it a reality.

#### **TED TOKARCZYK**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—Congratulations to Ted Tokarczyk for half a century of service as a Justice of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are volunteers appointed by the Governor of New South Wales and provide an invaluable service to their local community. I was so pleased to have invited to Ted to enjoy morning tea at my office to celebrate this awesome and incredible achievement. To serve his community for over fifty years is an incredible show of dedication and commitment. A huge thank you Ted for your service. The role of a Justice of the Peace is not particularly easy but it is certainly vital for the community.

#### **JODY CROSSLEY**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—Earlier this year, I had the privilege of meeting and speaking with local Author, Jody Crossley, about the publishing of her first book called *The Bear Project*. Congratulations to Jody and I am pleased to share that her book launch was held last month. *The Bear Project* is a book about grief associated with pet loss. It is an inspirational story of great love about an amazing bond between a human and a little Jack Russell named Bear. Bear was small in stature but had a larger-than-life personality and an even bigger heart. Jody hopes that her book will create awareness surrounding pet loss, particularly in workplaces. She wishes to become an advocate for pet parents and emotions that unfold when losing a beloved pet. Well done on the fantastic achievement of publishing your first book Jody. I look forward to hearing of your future successes.

#### **LUNDEN HOUSE**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to congratulate Lunden House on officially opening its doors last month in the heart of Luddenham. Lunden House is a new and exciting local destination that features a café, event space, beautiful gardens, and a water feature. It is always pleasing to see businesses spring up to offer their products or services to the local community. Small businesses make up the backbone of not only every community, but the nation's economy. Congratulations to owners Nancy and David Mamone, with daughter Estelle. I look forward to visiting in the near future to show off your new business and showcase what you have to offer.

#### **COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 2022**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—The popular NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program promotes various local community infrastructure projects, to deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes. This year the Davidson electorate received funding for 15 projects. These projects include replacing a damaged floor at East Lindfield Community Hall, improved driveway access at 2nd St Ives Scout Hall and electrical work on switchboards at two other scout halls. Funds have also gone to the Cerebral Palsy Alliance for interior and exterior painting at a St Ives respite home, and to Autism Spectrum Australia to help them purchase a bus for Aspect School, also in St Ives. Forest Kirk Uniting Church in Forestville will receive funding to make their toilets accessible for people with mobility issues, allowing them to host more events. Funds will also go to the NSW Volunteer Marine Rescue's State Communications Centre in Belrose to increase their capacity to receive and respond to calls, and the RSPCA will receive funds for a van dedicated to community education and engagement, and for animal rescues. \$400,000 has been secured for these projects from the NSW Government's 2022 Community Building Partnership Program. I commend all involved.

#### **DAVIDSON HSC STUDENTS**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—The challenges faced by schoolchildren over the past few years are well known. Obstacles in their path were many and varied, especially for students in their final school year. I am therefore pleased that the dedication and hard work of so many students and their teachers has produced some outstanding results in the 2022 HSC. In my Davidson electorate, public, private and independent schools all featured on the HSC honour roll. Killara High student Tony Yuzheng Wu, who won Gold at the 2022 Oslo Math Olympiad, excelled with marks above 90 in four subjects whilst Coco Wang and Clive Guo, also from Killara High, both obtained the maximum ATAR of 99.95. Killara High moved up 120 places to 55th in the state with 148 achievers overall. Lindfield Learning Village delivered 8 high achievers from only 26 HSC students, a ratio of 31 percent. Davidson High and St Ives High respectively produced 19 and 43 high achievers, whilst Brigantine, Masada and Covenant Christian School HSC cohorts saw 85, 24 and 27 respectively. Roseville College produced 106 high achievers. I commend all the HSC students in my electorate for their outstanding efforts and wish them well for 2023.

#### **HASSALL PARK UPGRADE**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—The proposed upgrade to Hassall Park in St Ives has been welcomed by local sporting clubs and residents, with construction expected to commence early in the financial year. Hassall Park is one of the oldest recreational areas in Ku-ring-gai and is a popular venue for local sports including cricket, soccer and rugby. It also includes a large area of natural bushland with walking trails. Ku-ring-gai Council consulted closely with residents and sporting groups to develop a comprehensive masterplan, with work beginning next year. This work includes: a new network of shared pathways for cyclists and pedestrians; new fitness equipment and park furniture; improved accessibility from the car park; a new fence and landscaping; improvements to the clubhouse including upgraded toilets; expanded cricket practice nets and LED field lighting. A \$1.2 million grant from the NSW Office of Sport will fund the major upgrades at this popular park. I commend all involved.

#### **FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE HSC STUDENTS**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—I wish to congratulate the following students who respectively achieved outstanding success in the 2022 HSC. These students, their teachers and families have much to be proud of. From Mary MacKillop Catholic College Wakeley congratulations to Suzi Coates who achieved the place of first in course in the State for Studies of Religion 1. From Cerdon College congratulations to Annalise Reynolds-Pace who achieved the place of first in the State in Italian Continuers and Italian Extension. From Fairvale High School congratulations to Daniella Youssef who was nominated and selected for the HSC Visual Arts Body of Work at the Artexpress Exhibition. From Canley Vale High School congratulations to Tran Bao Ngoc who was nominated and elected to display her Major Textiles Project at SHAPE Exhibition. An outstanding achievement by all students and I commend their efforts in the HSC studies. Well done.

#### **VALE PHILLIP WEBSTER**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—It is with much sadness that the Fairfield community comes to learn of the passing of Mr Phillip Webster. Phil was called to rest on the 8th December, 2022. Everything Phil did was large and loud. He was a friend to so many people and had a generous heart for all. Hospitality was in his DNA, he was passionate about the community and making sure people had a place to meet, drink and bite to eat, the ultimate hotelier. Richard's On The Park was his beloved local project, along with the fleet of Audrey's. Phil was much loved by all. He was a keen fisherman and enjoyed sharing his passion with his mates. I knew Phil for 27 years and spent many great times with him. Phil always treated Melissa and our children as his own and he will always be loved by us. I pass on my sincere condolences to Phil's sister Vicki and the Staff at Richard's On the Park. Phil will be sorely missed. May you catch a big Marlin upstairs, Phil. Vale Phillip Webster

#### **SHAYNA HUMANITARIAN AWARDS 2022**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—On 7 December 2022, Shayna Humanitarian Services celebrated the 2022 Humanitarian Awards with members of the local community at the Assyrian Sports and Culture Club, Fairfield Heights. Under the guidance and direction of Deacon Oliver Slewa the night also paid tribute to the main guest of honour Mrs Mariam Khamis. Mariam has been a passionate advocate for the Assyrian community for over 40 years in with her work as a journalist and radio presenter, advocating in the areas of mental health issues and domestic violence, as well as cultural and language perseverance. I was delighted to be with the Khamis family and supporters to honour the work of Mariam over the years. Congratulations Mariam on all her achievements in the Fairfield and South Western Sydney Community. The event was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the tireless work of the advocates in the community that go out every day to assist the vulnerable. The night would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship for donors. Congratulations to Shayna Humanitarian Services Inc. and Dn Oliver Slewa and volunteers for their continuing support of the local community.

#### **CHANUKAH 2022**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)**—I take this opportunity to wish the Jewish Community of NSW a Happy Chanukah. I have the great privilege of representing the majority of NSW's Jewish community who live in the Electorate of Vaucluse and have celebrated Chanukah with them over the last couple of weeks. On Sunday 19 December, I joined Dover Heights Shule for the 10th annual Chanukah in the Park celebration at Dover Heights. It was a big community event with live music and entertainment and the lighting of the giant menorah. Thanks to Rabbi Motti & Rebbetzin Esti Feldman, President Robin Lax, VP Dani Sher, Treasurer Avron Newstadt and the DHS Leadership team. The event was supported by a \$5,000 NSW Government Stronger Together Grant. On Tuesday 20 December, I also attended Chanukah @ the Bay hosted by Chabad Double Bay. It was another great community celebration with children's rides, food and a festival feel. Thanks to Rabbi Yanky and Rebbetzin Leah Berger, Rabbi Mendy Berger and GM Esther Alleck and to Cr Isabelle Shapiro OAM representing Woollahra Council. The NSW Government supported the event with \$25,000 in grants since 2016. To my local Jewish Community, I wish you a Happy Chanukah!

#### **HSC FIRST IN COURSE**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)**—I send warm congratulations to Year 12 students in the Vaucluse Electorate who received their HSC results last week. I was delighted to hear that eight students from my Electorate achieved the fantastic result of "First in Course", ranking first in the state of NSW for one or more of their HSC subjects. I congratulate: Emma Gwenaelle-Briand from Kincoppal-Rose Bay – first in Design and Technology and French Extension; Shira Dadon from Kesser Torah College – first in Classical Hebrew Continuers; Tamar Fleiderman from Rose Bay Secondary College – first in Modern Hebrew Continuers; Margot Harris from Ascham School for first in Chinese Extension; Lachlan Harris from Cranbrook School for first in Chemistry and Physics; Luke Sinden from Cranbrook School for first in Drama; Julian Zogg from Cranbrook School for first in German Beginners; and Maryjane Wootton from Reddam House for first in Information Processes and Technology. Well done to the 'First in Course' students and all of our local Year 12 students. It has been a challenging few years for

them through COVID, but they persevered. Regardless of their HSC results, they have been resilient and focussed and their future is bright!

#### **HUB 2484 - MURWILLUMBAH**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I pay tribute to Hub 2484 for their incredible community lead recovery effort. Hub 2484 has operated for the past 6 months assisting the community as first responders, and with repairs in the aftermath of the floods through the coordination of 3000+ volunteers (including ADF and SES staff) and collaborating with other stakeholders. They have built a database with extensive details of needs and connections to affected residents, and currently have over 600 people still on their books. They have distributed in excess of \$400 000 in direct financial support for basic needs, furniture and white goods, and for repair and rebuilds through qualified tradespeople. The funds for these material supports have been sourced through direct cash donations to their affiliate organisation, It Takes A Town, under auspice of the Family Centre, as well as direct donations from Murwillumbah and Mt Warning Rotary clubs, local Coles and IGA and other local businesses, and through the GIVIT donations system. I thank Hub 2484 Lead Coordinator Kerry Pritchard, Murwillumbah Volunteer Hub Founder Tom Cornish, Donations Hub Founder Diane Bauer and all volunteers for their dedication compassion and commitment to their community in recovering from these devastating floods and landslips.

#### **TYALGUM HOTEL REOPENING**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—The Tyalgum community has celebrated a great event with the reopening of the beloved Tyalgum Hotel. The Tyalgum Hotel is more than just a pub, it is a community meeting space, a hub of activity, a place to swim and a key accommodation point for visitors to the town. Tyalgum normally attracts many such visitors. Whenever I have been to Tyalgum recently people have talked to me about two things, fixing the road cut off by the landslip and bring back the pub. I thank licensee Bob East who bought the pub and for getting it back up and running. I was able to track down Bob after visiting Tyalgum and speak with him about the pub and he well understood the importance of keeping it open (an reopening before Christmas) for the community. The pub has been refurbished, upgraded but retains its country charm. The bistro is back open too doing great pub meals with local produce. They are open Wednesdays – Saturdays for lunch 12pm to 2:30 and dinner 5:30pm to 8pm and on Sundays 12pm – 3pm. I can't wait to get to Tyalgum for a beer and a meal in the new year.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LOCAL HSC STUDENTS**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—Like all of us I am quite proud of our all HSC students across the Lismore Electorate that takes in Tenterfield and Villages, Kyogle and Villages, Lismore and Villages and Murwillumbah and Tweed Valley area. In a tough year for our communities following on from the tough COVID years, our students have, against all the odds, excelled in their studies. A big shoutout to all the parents, carers, families and friends, many of whom have gone through tragedy but have done everything they can to support their young people. Our teachers, principals and school support staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty. In many cases schools were devastated by floods and it caused them to be uprooted and to have to operate in very different surroundings and areas and they and the students have coped with these major disruptions as well. These fantastic results are a credit to your skill, determination and dedication to education in our region. I am so optimistic about our future knowing that these young people will be and already are our leaders.

#### **JAMBEROO MOTORCYCLE RACER JACOB ROULSTONE**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—Today the Parliament of New South Wales congratulates Jamberoo motorcycle racer, Jacob Roulstone, who will once again be competing in two championships in 2023 as he edges closer to his goal of being a Motorcycle Grand Prix (MotoGP) world champion. The new year will see the 17-year-old rider take on the FIM JuniorGP World Championship and the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup, both for the second time. The Rookies Cup, which is known for releasing new stars into the world of Grand Prix racing, will start in Portugal in April and will end in Spain, where Jacob currently lives with his mum. The 2022 season saw Jacob change his riding style when he switched to a bigger bike and sharpened his skills in what is known as the world's toughest junior motorcycling championships. For the JuniorGP championships, Jacob believes this year he is with the right crew and environment to achieve his smaller goal of winning the Junior World Championship, which will secure a path to the World Championship.

#### **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE ILLAWARRA PRESENTATION AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—On Sunday 27 November 2022, I was honoured to attend the NSW Rural Fire Service Illawarra Presentation Awards Ceremony which was held at Tradies Helensburgh. Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the following local award recipients: Albion Park Brigade - David Bowley, Andrew Gould, Alan Gould, Hans Hornig, Tony Hurry, Derek (Dick) Johnston, Adam McCloy, Joshua

Pietrobelli, Terry Quinn, Stephen Rainey, Todd Rainey, Paul Risby, Lisa Robinson. Gerringong Brigade - Greg Ball, Aaron Cochrane, Andrew Downes, Mitchell Forrest, Andrew Sweeney, Chris Wade, Donald Watson, Shane Wicks. Illawarra Communications: Paul Adams, Alan Cousins, Peter Hill, John Parkinson. Dunmore Brigade - Ian Cox, Grahame Davis, David Green, Brian Hardy, Michael Saliba, David Bartlett. Illawarra Support Brigade - Donald Bushby, Kevin Blissett Jnr, Thomas Conboy, Carolyn Gersbach, David Hampton, Robert Hodgson, Robert Izzard, David Kirkwood, Kerin Knuckey, Kenneth Pullen, Robert Ricketts, Beau Rosser, Barry Stewart. Thank you very much to each award recipient for your dedication, hard work and enormous contributions with the NSW RFS to helping towards protecting our local communities.

### **ACKNOWLEDGING SALT CARE AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—This week, I was delighted to visit Salt Care and deliver hundreds of gifts collected as part of my annual office toy drive to support families in need across our region this Christmas. In the past, toys from our toy drive have been donated to KidzWish, the Salvation Army and the Albion Park Community Centre to name but a few. Salt Care provides a range of services to people who are homeless and in desperate need of housing. Peter Dover and his team at Salt Care have been incredible advocates for those struggling with the costs of living and in desperate need of housing. I take this opportunity to thank my local community for their extraordinary generosity and care for those less fortunate. These presents will certainly put a smile on the faces of so many children that would have otherwise gone without this Christmas. Thank you to all who gave so generously. Merry Christmas, one and all.

### **BLADE MATE LAWN CARE**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I recently had the honour of supporting an application to award Sean Mychael one of two NSW Government Community Service Awards for individuals who have substantially helped to improve the quality of life of in Maitland electorate. Sean and his wife Clayre are both Australian Army veterans and run a small family business called Blade Mate Lawn Care. Using YouTube as a platform, they started a worldwide trend of helping out neighbours and community members when they were at their lowest levels. Initially Sean posted a few videos on YouTube but it didn't take long to discover that this would become a full-time job for him. Sean now uses income from YouTube, Patreon and 'Buy Me a Coffee' to conquer some wildly overgrown yards for people who have suffered physical, mental, or financial hardship in their lives and subsequently have limited means. The jobs that Sean takes on are not easy tasks, they often involve many hours of hard labour, and in some cases days! I look forward in being able to present this prestigious and well deserved award to Sean in the New Year.

### **VALE NELL MCLEOD PYLE OAM**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—Although I recognised Nell Pyle OAM in March this year, I wish to advise the House of her passing this last week. I was honoured to attend her memorial service at Tocal with her family, and many friends and colleagues with whom she worked side by side for over 75 years to enrich the cultural life of Maitland. A founding member of the Maitland Repertory Society where she met her husband Doug, and a volunteer at Tocal Homestead, Nell's true passion was for fashion. As wardrobe mistress of the Repertory Society, Nell received many donations of clothes that were too fragile or precious to be worn night after night in the theatre. This passion has turned into a collection of over 10,000 pieces of the Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles, which is temporarily housed in the St John's Hall in High Street. In 2004, Nell was awarded the inaugural Maitland Medal for Service to the Community. In 2005 Nell was awarded the Order of Australia Medal [OAM] for "Social History through the media of writing, theatre and period fashion displays", and in 14 she was included on the Hidden Treasures Honour Role. Vale Nell.

### **RAMONA COCCO**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I recently had the honour of nominating Ramona Cocco as one of two NSW Government Community Service Awards for individuals who have substantially helped to improve the quality of life of in Maitland electorate. Ramona is a tireless campaigner in our community who has raised awareness about the notorious 'Rutherford Stink' that plagued West Maitland for more than two decades. Ramona campaigned strongly for an investigation into the pervasive foul odour that regularly emanated from the Rutherford Industrial Estate and even at times left residue on people's cars, permeating homes and causing the evacuation of businesses at times. For several years Ramona served on the Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee, and was a committed NSW EPA reporter. I joined Ramona's campaign and when Hunter Water finally cut off Australian Waste Oil Refinery from their discharge system, the Rutherford Stink stopped. Even then, Ramona continued to work with me to ensure the site was cleaned up and the polluters held to account. I look forward in being able to present this prestigious and well deserved award to Ramona in the New Year.



**RORY CLEMENTS – MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—I take this wonderful opportunity to sincerely congratulate and commend Rory Clements for receiving first place in the HSC subject Indonesian Extension and second place in Indonesian Continuers. Rory was also named Dux of Macarthur Anglican School. Such feats are incredible for a plethora of reasons. It is a true testament to the tenacity and hard work expended in order to accomplish such fantastic achievements. I have no doubt that such a work ethic and will to achieve to the highest level will enable Rory to make great contributions to our community. Such success and prosperity reflect the highest qualities and skills. I hope to see Rory continue this upward trajectory.

**STEVEN TISDALE – ELIZABETH MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—I take this wonderful opportunity to sincerely congratulate and commend Steven Tisdale for receiving third place in the HSC subject Investigating Science. Such a feat is incredible for a plethora of reasons. It is a true testament to the tenacity and hard work expended in order to accomplish such a fantastic achievement. I have no doubt that such a work ethic and will to achieve to the highest level will enable Steven to make great contributions to our community. Such success and prosperity reflect the highest qualities and skills. I hope to see Steven continue this upward trajectory, knowing that such success is the beginning of a great journey ahead.

**ISAIAH GRAY – MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—I take this wonderful opportunity to sincerely congratulate and commend Isaiah Gray for receiving third place in the HSC subject Indonesian Extension. Such a feat is incredible for a plethora of reasons. The HSC is a challenging time and often students fight hard to achieve their desired results. In that light, to achieve such fantastic results is a true testament to the tenacity and hard work expended in order to accomplish such achievements. I have no doubt that such character, work ethic, and will to achieve the highest level will enable Isaiah to make great contributions to our community. Such success and prosperity reflect the highest qualities and skills. I hope to see Isaiah continue this infinite upward trajectory and use his sharp skills and many talents for the good of all, being a beacon of light for those around him.

**OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)**—As my last community recognition statement for the 57th parliament of NSW I would like to offer my sincere thank you to the Older Women's Network of Brisbane Water. Their superb Christmas raffle raised over \$3500, bringing joy and happiness to many across our community.

The team sat in the Deepwater Plaza for days on end, delivering chats, smiles and many tickets to a very generous broad cross section of our community. The prizes were magnificent! The first prize of a beautiful necklace of Brisbane Water pearls was very generously provided by talented locals Sea Spray Jewellers. Second prize was enormous hamper of Christmas delights and goodies that will last long into the New Year. Third prize is a joyful delight thanks to Umina Beach Flowers and Gifts, Umina Hair & Beauty & Flowergirl Creations at Woy Woy.

Congratulations to all our winners, with the greatest winner of all being our fabulous Older Women's Network. These women know our local community very well, support each other through good times and bad and already planning for an even better 2023!

**MR BILL BOURKE**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I recognise and support Mr Bill Bourke. Mr Bourke who, without vested interest, is personally pursuing an investigation into noise abatement at Wakefield Park for the benefit of the facility, the Goulburn community, the wider Motorsport community. Located in Tirrannaville, within my electorate of Goulburn, Wakefield Park is a motorsport racetrack which was recently the subject of a Land and Environment Court trial over development consent. This trial resulted in operations being subject to noise restrictions, which the facilities owners have declared to be non-viable to their business. Prior to its closure, Wakefield Park brought great benefit to the region's economy with tourism, jobs, hospitality, and accommodation services, ancillary to its operations. Noise abatement and a new development application for the facility will be a tremendous step towards restoring Wakefield Park's operations and its continued use as a recreational, sports and tourism facility. I commend you Mr Bourke on your initiative and wish you every success with this project.

**MRS KERRY TEAGUE**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I recognise Mrs Kerry Teague. Mrs Teague is one of the beloved staff at the Crescent School Goulburn, where she has worked

for 20 years. Mr Speaker, the Crescent School is a specialist school which provides for the learning of students from K - 12 with physical, emotional, behavioural and intellectual disabilities. As an Administration Officer Kerry Teague has been the heartbeat of this exceptional school for many years. She has supported the educators, students and staff in almost every way you could consider, in delivering the exemplary education that the students, their families and the wider Goulburn community know the Crescent School to provide. Mrs Teague's work has in turn, I believe, improved the lives of countless children who have attended the Crescent School in recent memory. Her compassionate and comprehensive knowledge has helped open doorways for the children to develop and grow. I congratulate Mrs Teague on her commitment to education and I wish her every success for the future.

#### **STATE RECOGNITION OF THE LATE ERNIE WALKER OAM**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I recognise the late Ernie Walker OAM of Penrose in the Southern Highlands. Mr Walker passed away peacefully on the 22nd November 2022 age 106 at his home in Penrose. He lived out his last few decades with his wife Bev in the small village, where he pursued his love of horses. Mr Walker was the third last Rat of Tobruk and one of the last Kokoda veterans. Ernie enlisted in the Australian Army in 1940. He was under siege in Tobruk for 241 days. He was sent to Kokoda just 3 days after returning to Australia and he also fought in New Guinea. Mr Walker has been remembered for having a mind as 'sharp as a tack' and for being a 'straight talker'. I extend my sincere condolences to Ernie's wife Bev, his family, and friends and I thank him sincerely for his service to our country. Rest in peace Ernie Walker OAM.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE SES**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I thank Sutherland Shire SES members for their tireless work this year to help communities in times of flooding and extreme weather conditions. This year, whilst Audley, Kurnell, Woronora River and other locations in the Sutherland Shire have been impacted by flooding, high tides and extreme weather, the Sutherland Shire SES has been instrumental in providing support and assistance with the recovery of people and vehicles from flood waters. Ongoing recovery efforts have seen volunteers from Shire SES units deployed to flood impacted communities across inland NSW, such as recently at Eugowra and Forbes, to undertake crucial work including transporting essential workers such as doctors and nurses. Specialist Flood Rescue Operators from the Sutherland Shire SES have also been deployed to assist in these areas. Shire SES members were also deployed to Gunnedah as Air Observers in September and conducted crucial works gathering information, pictures, and intelligence to assist the recovery efforts. The work and service that the Sutherland Shire SES provides to the Shire is invaluable. I commend the works of Shire commander Chief Inspector John Gonzalez and his team.

#### **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.

#### **FOODBANK VISIT 2022**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—Just recently I had the privilege of attending the NSW Foodbank facility at Glendenning with my staff. The team and I visit every year, volunteering to pack food hampers who go to those in need. This year was a smashing success, with the team and I packing 241 hampers throughout the day. These hampers will be kept away especially for anyone who requires emergency assistance over the Christmas period. Supporting the work of Foodbank and other hunger relief charities is so important, especially given the increased demand for these services over the last few years. It was my absolute pleasure to support all the work they do by hosting a Foodbank briefing for Members of Parliament in November, alongside my Parliamentary Colleague, Jihad Did. I would like to thank Foodbank, their CEO John Robertson, and all the wonderful volunteers for the fantastic work they do within communities across NSW and wider-Australia. I look forward to supporting them in 2023.

#### **CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN TORCH**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—I thank Year 12 students leaders from my local area for visiting NSW Parliament House with me in November of this year. In November, I had the pleasure of welcoming student leaders from Bethany College, GRC Oatley Senior Campus, Blakehurst High School, St Ursula's College, Danebank College and Marist College Penshurst to NSW Parliament for a student leaders lunch and tour. It was fantastic to see so many talented and bright young leaders from right across the St George area who are committed to making their school and community a better place. School leaders play such an important role within their own communities, acting as role-models for others and striving to enrich the lives of their fellow students and teachers. I would also like to thank Speaker O'Dea and my colleagues in the other place Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell and Minister for Regional Health, Mental Health and Women, Bronnie Taylor for dropping by to say hello to these students.

#### **RAY WILLIAMS ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—As I do every year, I recently had the opportunity to present the Ray Williams Encouragement Award to students from each of the schools within my Electorate. This award is an opportunity to highlight particular students who try their very best, both at school and within the broader community. It is to reward hard work, persistence, respect for others and a positive attitude. This year was also an opportunity to reconnect with the school communities, including principals, teachers and parents, after two years without seeing them due to Covid. This year the award was presented to: Amelia Shelton, Kavirnah Murugan, Adam Orada, Shobhit Chadha, Jessica Stephen, Noah Camilleri, Zinat Abdullah, Ryan Dinsmore, Emma Hunt, Jordan Linfoot, Hayden Greenwood, Jonathan Dalton, Ethan Ngoy, Zoe Calder, Divit Vora, Alexander Gundic, Molly Foxall, Kasey Huang, Angad Saini, Simar Chadda, Ashton Baker, Olivia Monios, Hannah Lambert, Alexandra Tirador, Lachlan Russell, Georgia Wilk, Zahra Waqas, Belinda Francis, Luciana Salib & Irina Xiao.

#### **CASTLE HILL CWA**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I recently had the opportunity to visit the wonderful ladies of the Castle Hill Country Women's Association, who call the 'CWA Cottage' at Kenthurst their home. I was recently able to secure a \$41,000 grant for the association in order to fix their driveway, which was in a rather terrible state, with access being impossible due to the recent wet weather. This grant was part of the \$400,000 afforded to community organisations within my electorate from the NSW Community Building Partnership Fund. As well as showing me the appealing new driveway, the ladies gave me an update on all the tremendous work they do in the community including catering for charity events and raising money for charities through their sale of knitwear, baked goods and, of course, the CWA's famous Devonshire teas. Importantly, as they have always been since their inception 100 years ago, the CWA remains a social exercise for country women to mingle and check in with each other. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all in the Castle Hill Branch, I had a tremendous time meeting you all, and especial thanks to the President, Faye Brown and Secretary, Veronica Knight for extending the invitation.

#### **THE DURAL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I recently had the opportunity to visit the keen historians of The Dural and District Historical Society and talk to them about my own family history. Founded in 1984, the society hosts many regular talks from local people of interest, and has a charming collection of historic artefacts, letters and photographs. Having had ancestors settle in the Hills and Hawkesbury regions following transportation in 1788, I spoke about the Allen family, especially Robert Allen who arrived in Sydney after a 186-day passage aboard the Marquis Cornwallis, and received a Castle Hill land grant in 1814. His father-in-law Joseph Wright arrived in Australia with the First Fleet in 1788. A further ancestor was Charles Whalan who arrived with the Third Fleet in 1796 and was granted land in Prospect, Oberon and also the Hawkesbury area. Charles was appointed Sergeant of the Governors 73rd Regiment and was the Senior Orderly to Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Charles became a close personal friend of Governor Macquarie and continued to communicate with letters between the two families which are now held in the NSW State Library. I'd like to thank the society for retaining the strong links with our heritage.

#### **YOUNG HENRYS NEWTOWNER 10TH BIRTHDAY**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)**—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to acknowledge Young Henrys who celebrated their Newtowner's 10th birthday on December 10. It was a pleasure to join the Young Henrys team at their street party to mark the occasion and address the local community. Fittingly, this milestone came just days before the 160th birthday of the municipality of Newtown itself. The atmosphere at the street party was joyous and nothing short of electric, and it was clear to see how beloved Young Henrys and the Newtowner are amongst the local community. This is with good reason: over the years, Young Henrys has showcased many of the very best qualities of the Newtown electorate. Progressive, inclusive, sustainable, and always willing to try something new, the team at Young Henrys have become bonafide local legends. On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to thank the whole team at Young Henrys for their continuous efforts to

bring the community together. I'd like to particularly acknowledge Richard Adamson and Oscar McMahon on reaching this incredible milestone, and for their dedication to good, sustainable beer - and congratulations to everyone who participated in the collective tinnie crack!

#### **2022 NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)**—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate Newtown Public School 2022 student leaders on becoming representatives and playing an important role in the school community. The 2022 student leadership team are Luka Foster, Chelsea Linsley, Asher Tyler, Ava

Sellick, Thomas Scott Kicuroski, Persephone Lee, Sophia Rose Alger, Sumara Carroll and Lincoln Alger. This year the school also established the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students – to make sure that the voices of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students are heard. Taking on the responsibility of being a representative is a way of contributing to the strength and connection of our community - whether at school, in our neighbourhoods, or around the world. I congratulate the Newtown Public School student leaders on their wonderful goal for this year – for "the students at Newtown Public School to be more hopeful and optimistic about coming to school because they feel connected, to know they have a voice and that their individuality is celebrated and respected." Thank you for the impact you have had and the contribution you will continue to make to your school community and to our electorate of Newtown.

#### **RASARA**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)**—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to acknowledge Rape and Sexual Assault Research and Advocacy (RASARA) for their continued advocacy centering survivor experiences and offering expertise to reform our society and laws. This November, on the first anniversary of the passing of groundbreaking consent laws in NSW, it was an honour to join RASARA's event to explore ways to improve responses to sexual violence. I particularly thank Saxon Mullins, who I joined on the panel to discuss consent law reform and politicians' role in improving responses to sexual violence, for her insights, expertise and tireless activism. I also acknowledge the other speakers from RASARA - CEO Dr Rachael Burgin, Primary Prevent Lead Katrina Marson, and Co-Director of Research Professor, Jonathan Crowe - and Nina Funnell, from #LetUsSpeak and #JusticeShouldntHurt campaigns, and Karen Iles, Founder of for-purpose Legal and Consulting Practice Violet Co, all of whom tirelessly work to put consent reform front and centre. Thank you to these speakers for their powerful, ongoing advocacy - to all those who attended including survivors and those working on the frontlines providing support - and to RASARA for their efforts to end rape and sexual violence.

#### **SANDY POINT BOAT RAMP**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—I would like to acknowledge Sandy Point Boat Ramp which was officially opened this week. I was happy to advocate for this upgrade through the NSW Government's 'Boating Now' program and I am pleased to see it finally finished in time for residents to use this summer. This was a joint project with Sutherland Shire Council contributing \$240,745 and the NSW Government committing \$722,000. This upgrade is welcomed by the Sandy Point community, as it will provide boaters with better and safer access to the Georges River. It will also better cater for the demand, with the Georges River being a favoured location for local boaters and paddlers to enjoy. Greater ease of access for emergency services has also been improved through this upgrade which is essential. I would like to thank Sandy Point Residents Association for also advocating for this project. I look forward to seeing the community enjoy the upgraded boat ramp this summer.

#### **MINISTER MITCHELL VISIT**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—I would like to acknowledge a great visit I had recently with the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education, where we visited three local schools. Our first stop was at Holsworthy High School. The Minister and I were treated to a coffee made by some fabulous Year 12 Hospitality students on their new machine. I was happy to successfully advocate for the Premier to fund this new machine, as their previous one broke. We then visited Liverpool West Public School to see the progress of the construction and upgrades. It was fantastic to see how much has been completed, and we were able to stand in what will be the new library. Our final stop was at Lurnea High School which will soon receive new and updated air conditioning through the NSW Government's Cooler Classroom Program. This will ensure the students and staff have a much more comfortable learning environment. I'd like to again thank the Minister and the staff and students of these schools for welcoming us.

#### **PITTWATER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)**—I acknowledge all the amazing community groups that organised Christmas carol celebrations in Pittwater. The Avalon Beach Carols hosted by the Avalon Beach SLSC; the Mona Vale Carols run

by Upper Northern Beaches Rotary Club and Pittwater Uniting Church; the Narrabeen Carols led by Link Church; Carols and Lessons at St Faiths Narrabeen; and the combined Anglican Carols at Newport Anglican Church; as well as the upcoming Christmas masses at Pittwater and Narrabeen Catholic parish and Narrabeen Baptist Church. After a global pandemic that prevented us from coming together in song, it is wonderful to see a strong return to community events to celebrate the advent season and to reflect that our community is built on giving, not taking.

#### **TRANSPORT FOR NSW ACTIVE TRANSPORT TEAM**

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)**—I acknowledge Kiersten Fishburn and the amazing active transport team at Transport for NSW for their historic efforts in making our State's first active transport strategy. The strategy will create walkable and connected 15-minute neighbourhoods across NSW to increase the percentage of short trips on foot and decrease those by car. The strategy will deliver more than 1,000 kilometres of new cycleways and supporting infrastructure for continuous and connected cycling networks. We will double the number of children walking or riding to school in major centres across NSW, and aim to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 30 per cent for pedestrians and cyclists. The strategy will also modernise active transport regulation by cutting unnecessary red tape and simplifying planning and design standards. Our community is well-served by a public service team focused on democratising our public spaces by making it easier for all of us to walk, use a mobility aid, or cycle on safe, beautiful and accessible paths rather than being locked into car dependency.

#### **TRANSPORT ASSET HOLDING ENTITY OF NSW**

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)**—I acknowledge the hard-working men and women of the NSW Government's Transport Asset Holding Entity, or TAHE for short. Over the past year I have had the distinct pleasure of working with the Executive and Board of TAHE, namely Chief Executive Officer Bénédicte Colin and her team, Chair Bruce Morgan and board members Anne McDonald, Trevor Bourne and Rob Sharp. They are more than just the custodian and asset manager of our State's many rail assets, they are an innovative, progressive agency that is delivering real dividends for the people of NSW. State Owned Corporations have been established on behalf of the people of NSW, providing services critical to our economy and way of life – there is no greater dividend to share with the people than houses and homes and TAHE is now leading the nation by delivering 30 percent of development on government-owned land as affordable and social housing. I am proud to have worked with them this past year to help deliver what will be a truly transformational legacy for the people of NSW whether they are in the Northern Rivers or Redfern, and I thank all the staff at TAHE for their energy and expertise.

#### **WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)**—In less than two years advocacy organisation What Were You Wearing? have mobilised Newcastle to stand against sexual violence. Founded by Sarah Williams in 2021, What Were You Wearing? has held rallies, exhibitions, workshops and even a ball, raising awareness for the prevention of violence and support for those who have survived it. Some of these events have seen thousands of people turn out, which is testament to how wanted and how supported What Were You Wearing? are. There is an amazing team behind all of this, with Sarah Williams, Demi Parkinson, Ethan Fraser, Brendan Bourne, Amber Bullen, Gracie Pierson, Jemma O'Brien, Claudia Holt, Martina Ferrara, Darcie Cliff, Georgia Kelly, Coco Fearon, Juanita Vernon, Lauren Watson, Amelia Williams, Aleisha Bailey, Morgan Crook, and India Newton all bringing their humanity and empathy to the organisation. I am extremely proud to support What Were You Wearing?. Their drive and compassion is inspiring, and they are changing lives for the better.

#### **OCEAN LANCASTER**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)**—Congratulations to Merewether grom Ocean Lancaster, who became the under-14 national champion at Australia's junior titles in 2022. He took out the decider on North Stradbroke Island, heading into the final minute needing a 7.96. He smashed it and snared an 8.6, finishing with a total of 15.9. It capped off a very successful year for Ocean, who also won the state title and the Rip Curl GromSearch. I've no doubt this is only the start for Ocean and I look forward to following his career...all the way to the Championship Tour!

#### **THE HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)**—From little things big things grow, and that could not be more evident than at the House of Hospitality which is marking 30 years of providing accommodation to those most in need. The House began in a converted hosiery factory in Adamstown and assisted men who were recovering from alcoholism. Three decades later it has relocated to Broadmeadow, and now houses a broad range of people who are in need. Refugees, people who have fled violence, international students, people in visa limbo and many, many others, have called the House of Hospitality home. The numbers speak for themselves; more than 1200 people

have found a bed at the House over the years. The House would not be what it is without a generous and hardworking community. Spearheaded by Sister Carmel Hanson, who had the vision and the drive all that time ago, there has always been a listening ear for residents, a working bee for the site, or a donor of needed goods. There is no doubt that lives have been changed for the better because of The House of Hospitality. Thank you to all who have been involved, and congratulations on 30 years.

#### **THANK YOU HOLSWORTHY**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—It has been an honour and a privilege to serve my community in the NSW Parliament – two terms as the Member for Holsworthy and one as the Member for Menai. While unfortunately I won't be standing for the seat of Holsworthy at the upcoming election, I will continue to work within our community to ensure its future success. I have already offered to assist a few of our local charities and community organisations and look forward to being more involved with them. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has phoned, emailed or popped into the office to give me their best wishes for my future – your support means the world. I'd also like to again thank my team of Daniel Nicholls, Sophie Carlton, Faith Perryman and Zac Mitchell for being by my side and being the best advocates for our community.

My family of Kent, Audrey and Elizabeth Johns have given me the drive and love to give all I have and I thank them, and my parents Scott and Rhonda Gibbons, for their understanding and support. Thank you again to the Holsworthy and Menai Electorates for trusting me to be their voice in State Parliament.

#### **IRB SOLDIERS BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang)**—Soldiers Beach Surf Life Saving Club recently launched their new Inflatable Rescue Boat "Cliff Spong" which was named after one of their Club legends. Cliff along with two other members back in the 1970's was responsible for the promotion and development of the craft and its final acceptance as an efficient item of surf rescue equipment by Surf Life Saving Australia. A new boat sweep oar was also dedicated to Life Member John "Seagull" Edwards who recently passed away. True heroes of Surf Life Saving. IRBs are a vital part of Australian Surf Life Saving and have come along way since the first powered operated craft was developed in Queensland in 1957. I would like to acknowledge all the community groups and people who were involved in making this happen for Soldiers Beach Surf Life Saving Club. It is a great asset and another step closer for our life savers in keeping our local beach safe for the community.

#### **BROOKE HAYES**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang)**—I would like to congratulate Firefighter Brooke Hayes from our local area Toukley for being announced Deputy Captain at Fire and Rescue NSW Station 470 Toukley. During the 3 years of Brookes time with Toukley Fire and Rescue Station she has continually put her hand up for all opportunities that have come her way while consistently challenging herself with relentless focus and determination. She is highly dedicated in protecting our community by keeping it safe. In her spare time Brooke likes to surf, spend time at her local beaches and loves to read books. Brooke is receiving the recognition she deserves for her hard work and continuing commitment to the community.

#### **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT CENTRAL COAST**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang)**—Community Transport Central Coast had their official grand opening for their new facility located at Berkeley Vale. The new facility included a large shed to store vehicles and a furnished meeting room. The fleet of vehicles seat 5-18 people, including wheelchair accessible vehicles. Several board members, supporters, contributors, staff, and clients attended to celebrate the opening, finding themselves impressed with the new facility. Community Transport Central Coast goes the extra mile to make life easier for over 65s, NDIS participants and people who are transport disadvantaged. Their door-to-door transport service picks you up from your Central Coast home and takes you to anyplace on the Central Coast, or even to Sydney or Newcastle. This means that they can live independently for longer in their own home because they can stay active and be social at their own pace. Congratulations on your service for being a reliable transport for many people on the Central Coast. You are truly making a difference in the community.

#### **MOSMAN BACKING MOLONG**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Last month, the town of Molong, 30 minutes from Orange, was heavily impacted by storms and flooding. When locals in my community heard about the devastation, particularly to their local sporting and recreation infrastructure, they wanted to give back. I want to give a shout out to the Mosman Junior Rugby Club, who have a friendship with Molong Magpies Junior Rugby through a number of rugby tours, and donated \$5,000 to help in their rebuilding efforts. They will need to replace things like their balls, bags and equipment, all the way up to their fields, sheds and canteen. Mosman Hockey has also contributed to the fundraising and has an historic connection to Molong. They've donated \$1,000 to support them

to rebuild their community sport facilities and have reached out to their network to help raise more funds. With Christmas just days away, retail store Betty and Lola in Mosman is also chipping in, with stores offering gift wrapping for a donation to Molong. Thank you to these and all others who are supporting those impacted by devastating disasters. As of today, their GoFundMe is just shy of \$100,000 – let's get them to their goal.

### **MIRANDA CHRISTMAS DRAWING COMPETITION**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I acknowledge the winners of the Miranda Christmas Card Drawing Competition for 2022. Each year primary school aged students are invited to enter an electorate-wide drawing competition, with the winners to feature in my Christmas card. The year's theme was 'The Joy of Christmas' and with such talented children in the Miranda electorate, it was hard to pick just three from the hundreds of entries. I congratulate this year's winners, namely Elva Gordon of Como Public School, Sophia Bishay of Taren Point Public School and Keira O'Halloran of GyMEA North Public School. Elva's bright interpretation of this year's theme included joyous colours and the love of family to exemplify the excitement of Christmas morning. Meanwhile, Sophia took a more traditional approach and artistically depicted the significance of the birth of Jesus. Finally, Keira had some fun with the theme and drew Santa catching waves instead of riding his sleigh, which is certainly very appropriate in the Shire. I thank all students for their enthusiastic entries into this year's competition and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous 2023.

### **COMO JANNALI FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I acknowledge the Como Jannali Football Club's 35A's team on winning the Over 35 Men category at the 'Champion of Champions' tournament. Established in 1968, the Champion of Champions tournament is one of the most prestigious footballing tournaments in NSW. The 2022 competition saw participants from each football association compete against each other throughout all age categories in October. In the final of the Over 35 Men category, Como Jannali Football Club defeated North Sydney United 2-1 in the final to take home the title. I recognise the incredible players whose skill, growth and love of the game culminated in taking out the esteemed tournament. I acknowledge Joshua Bulgin, Ryan Butler, Todd Calderwood, Christopher Clarke, Mitch Cole, Damien Cutcliffe, Ryan Davies, Mark Elton, Andrew Head, Brad Heffernan, Brett Heffernan, Ben Kasnik, Andy Keep, Mathew Keep, Michael Keep, Stephen Keep, Shaun Kendrigan, Grant Macdonald, Andrew Paine, Monte Pfrengle, Matthew Pickover, Nick Reilly, Darren Reynolds, Dayne Singleton, Paul Stuart, Zeb Thornton, Ryan Wells, Mitch Wick and Dom Young. I commend the Como Jannali 35A's Champions of Champions team on their win and extend my best wishes for next season.

### **REBECCA RATHBONE**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I recognise the amazing Rebecca Rathbone of Oyster Bay who recently stepped down as Oyster Bay Public School's Parents and Citizens Association President after 5 years. With the last of her three children Tom, Lachlan and Sophie moving onto high school in 2023, Rebecca is leaving Oyster Bay Public School's P&C after 13 years. In that time, she has served as President as aforementioned, Vice President for 6 years, and for 11 years as an active member of the Art and Craft Festival Committee. Rebecca incredibly managed all of this in addition to working as a nurse in a major hospital. As President, Rebecca coordinated many events and acted as a conduit between families and the school, ensuring seamless communication throughout challenging times. She was successful in securing funding through the NSW Government to refurbish the primary school entrance and to construct a naturescape playground on the infants site. Rebecca was always an incredibly hardworking, dedicated, and talented member of the Oyster Bay community and I know she will be missed by many at the primary school. I thank Rebecca for her commitment to the Oyster Bay Public School community and extend my best wishes for the future.

### **WILL SCHONEWILLE – BINGARA COMMUNITY OP SHOP**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Mr Will Schonewille of Bingara who volunteers at the local Op Shop. Will and his wife found Bingara as a cool alternative to their residence in Lightning Ridge and decided to make Bingara their permanent home. Will is one of those individuals who finds joy in helping other people. He discovered the Bingara Community Op Shop which is an independent entity established for the town and visitors, distributing money from sales back into the community. This keeps Will busy adding community support to the onerous job of collecting and sorting incoming paraphernalia. Will said there is always something to do and seeing the smiles on people's faces keeps him happy as a volunteer. I congratulate Will on being recognised as a Bingara volunteer. I commend Will on his generous spirit and his commitment to help others.

### **KAHLIA WHALAN - WARIALDA LITTLE ATHLETICS**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Ms Kahlia Whalan as an active Warialda volunteer who has supported both Junior League and League Tag and is now the President of the Little Athletics.

Little Athletics aims to deliver inclusive community activities for everyone to compete only against themselves. It's a great program and Kahlia felt that Inverell was too far for local children to travel in order to take part. In gaining local support she was able to start a centre in Warialda. Being President means that Kahlia has many jobs to run Little Athletics and with her philosophy that everyone should have fun, she attracts needed volunteers even making it a family affair with her two eldest sons. I congratulate Kahlia on the success of Warialda Little Athletics. I commend Kahlia as an active volunteer and especially for her most recent endeavour with Little Athletics, promoting the objective of an active and healthy lifestyle.

#### **MARTIN HAZELL – 30 YEARS SERVING CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Armidale local, Mr Martin Hazell for his Christmas spirit in organising a community Christmas lunch that has continued since 1992. Mr Hazell said when he first started that he would like to do 30 festive Christmas Day lunches from the Uniting Church Hall and this year marks his 29th. His enthusiasm quickly spread inspiring volunteers, cooks, and all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds who wanted to come and share the day, growing from an initial 55 to 450! Music is encouraged, filling the air with Christmas tunes. What happens after the 30th year? Well, "the 83 year old said he'll soon be passing the mantle to a young man who has done some terrific things in the community." I congratulate Mr Hazell on the success of his Christmas lunches which has spread the Christmas message of "peace on earth good will towards men" to the Armidale community for decades. I commend Martin for his commitment to this event which has enriched the lives of so many.

#### **ARMENIAN COMMUNITY**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—I was delighted to join with members of the local Willoughby Armenian community to attend the Armenian National Committee dinner and gala night on Saturday 3 December. The evening was a great opportunity to connect further with members of the Australian Armenian community and discuss recent developments unfolding overseas. As a Member of the NSW Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group, I was pleased to welcome former Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia and founder of the Tatoyan foundation, Dr Arman Tatoyan on 1 December. I would like to thank Dr Tatoyan for the sobering update on the situation along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from attacks against the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh. I also extend my appreciation to the Speaker Jonathan O'Dea MP, Greg Soghomonian and the Armenian National Committee of Australia for arranging this visit and for their ongoing advocacy on this important issue. Willoughby has a vibrant and active Armenian community that contributes so much to our area and I am proud to stand up for our community.

#### **LOCAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—With the closure of the school year, I have had the pleasure of attending many school presentation days at schools across the Willoughby electorate. At primary and secondary schools, both public and private, it has been gratifying for me to see talented and hardworking students rewarded for their achievements. From maths and science to history and English, music and drama, sport and community service, our students have shone across all fields of endeavour. I congratulate our Year 12 HSC students for their outstanding final results. A special mention to Alexia Rigoni of Cammeraygal High School who topped the state in Aboriginal Studies. Our community is very proud of Alexia and indeed all our students who achieved their personal best. I pay tribute to our dedicated principals, teachers and parents for the invaluable support they have given students throughout their schooling journey and wish all our students the best of success in their future endeavours. Well done to all schools, students and teachers in Willoughby on a successful 2022.

#### **LOCAL SCOUTING CHRISTMAS TREES**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—Thank you to our local scouting groups for their annual Christmas Tree sales which raise funds for their tremendous work. I was pleased to purchase one from each of 1st Willoughby Scouts and 1st Northbridge Sea Scouts, the latter for the Willoughby Electorate Office. I thank in particular Melanie, Ethan, Wylie and Alfie from the Sea Scouts who visited the Electorate Office and decorated the tree, bringing Christmas cheer to all in our office. Sourced from a pine plantation, these beautiful conifers make fantastic Christmas trees that are a festive adornment to any home or office. Proceeds raised through the Scouts annual Christmas Tree sale go towards essential equipment and expenses such as life jackets, sails, tent and shed repairs – all necessary for the Scouts to undertake scouting activities throughout the year. I again commend the 1st Willoughby Scouts and 1st Northbridge Sea Scouts for this excellent fundraising initiative and all local scouting groups on the year that has been. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 17:11 until Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 12:00.**