



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Eighth Parliament
First Session**

Thursday 11 May 2023

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 11 May 2023

The Speaker (The Hon. Gregory Michael Piper) took the chair at 10:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Committees

MODERN SLAVERY COMMITTEE

Establishment and Membership

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council informing the Legislative Assembly that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

- (1) That under section 21 of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, a joint committee known as the Modern Slavery Committee be appointed.
- (2) That under section 23 (1) (a) of the Act, the committee consist of four members of the Legislative Council comprising:
 - (a) two Government members;
 - (b) one Opposition member; and
 - (c) one crossbench member.
- (3) That a message be sent acquainting the Legislative Assembly of the resolution and requesting the Legislative Assembly to appoint four of its members to serve with the members of the Legislative Council on the committee.
- (4) In addition to the provisions of Schedule 1 to the Act, unless the committee decides otherwise:
 - (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales;
 - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the committee clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration;
 - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential;
 - (d) the chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement;
 - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each;
 - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published;
 - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the committee clerk within two business days, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness;
 - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the committee clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration; and
 - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the chair.

I set down consideration of the Legislative Council message for a later hour.

Notices

PRESENTATION

[During the giving of notices of motions]

The SPEAKER: I have a concern with a notice of motion from the member for Kiama. I do not believe it is a competent motion under the standing orders. It is a matter of privilege not suddenly arising, and Standing Order 92 is explicit in that area. I invite the member for Kiama to meet with me and the Clerks after this session and we will discuss how to proceed. I rule the notice of motion from the member for Kiama out of order.

*Bills***REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023****First Reading**

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Paul Scully, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (10:20): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In this bill the Government is proceeding to legislate two revenue measures that were previously announced by the former Government in the *2022-23 Half-Yearly Review*. These measures improve fiscal sustainability, provide fairness and accommodate exceptional circumstances. Together, the measures are estimated to improve State revenue by \$195 million over the three years to 2025-26, and that amount was included in the revised estimates for the 2022-23 budget published in the half-yearly review.

I turn to the detail of the bill. First, the bill removes a concession in the amount of duty payable on the acquisition of a public landholder. In New South Wales, a public landholder is a company listed on a recognised stock exchange or a public unit trust scheme that holds land in New South Wales with a value of \$2 million or more. Recognised stock exchanges include the Australian Securities Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange, the New Zealand Exchange, a stock exchange that is a member of the World Federation of Exchanges, or any other stock exchange that is declared to be a recognised stock exchange by order of the Minister published in the Gazette. Landholder duty becomes payable by a person, including an individual or a company, when they, together with their associates, acquire a 90 per cent or more interest in a public landholder.

Under section 156 of the Duties Act 1997, the acquisition of an interest of 90 per cent or more in a public landholder, which, broadly speaking, would amount to a takeover in the case of a listed company, is currently subject to landholder duty at the concessional duty of 10 per cent of the duty that would be charged, at the general rate of duty, on the direct acquisition of the landholder's assets. In practice, this means that a person acquiring a public landholder with landholdings in New South Wales of just over \$2.1 million currently pays landholder duty of \$10,000, instead of the \$100,000 that would be payable at the full general rate. The bill removes the 10 per cent concessional duty, so that from 1 July 2023 the acquisition of a public landholder in this scenario would be required to pay the full duty of \$100,000. Removing the duty concession on the acquisition of public landholders removes an incentive to hold land in a public landholder to reduce the duty payable when the land is transferred.

Charging landholder duty on public landholders at the full general rate is consistent with arrangements in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It is also consistent with the treatment of acquisitions of interests in private landholders—that is, in a company or unit trust scheme holding \$2 million or more of land in New South Wales which does not qualify as a public landholder. Applying full duty rates to the acquisition of public landholders is estimated to increase State revenues by \$198 million over the three years to 2025-26. This measure will also improve the longer term fiscal sustainability of the budget.

The second aspect of the bill provides for an extension of time during which unoccupied land may be treated as a person's principal place of residence for land tax purposes. A landowner's principal place of residence is exempt from land tax. Currently, unoccupied land may be claimed as a principal place of residence for up to four land tax years if the owner intends to use the land as a principal place of residence, but the land is unoccupied because building works or renovations are being undertaken. If the owner fails to use and occupy the land as a principal place of residence before the end of the period of four tax years, the exemption is revoked, and the land is reassessed for land tax for the whole period.

The bill amends the Land Tax Management Act 1956 to permit the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue to increase the exemption period by up to a further two tax years in certain circumstances. To grant an extension, the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue must be satisfied that the owner cannot use and occupy the land because of a delay in the completion of building work caused primarily by exceptional circumstances beyond the owner's control and the owner could not reasonably have avoided the delay. Exceptional circumstances include unforeseen events such as trade labour and materials shortages associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill includes a provision to enable the chief commissioner to extend any such four tax years period that ended on or after 31 December 2019. That will ensure that any owner who faced delays due to exceptional circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic will have access to the extension. A property owner in exceptional

circumstances will now have up to six tax years in total to complete building or renovation work and occupy the property as a principal place of residence before being charged land tax.

The principal place of residence exemption for unoccupied land is expected to reduce land tax revenue by \$2.8 million over the three years to 2025-26. The Government believes this is a modest price to assist people in New South Wales to build their homes with certainty and accommodate genuinely exceptional circumstances in this time of uncertainty. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Addresses

CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

Address of Congratulation

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (10:27): I move:

That the following Address of Congratulation to His Majesty be adopted:

"We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, offer our sincere congratulations upon the coronation of King Charles III."

The coronation is an ancient ceremony, stretching back over a thousand years. It points to the rich history of the British Isles and the deep roots of the institution there. The institution's underlying theme of service is particularly relevant. At the ceremony itself, our nation was represented by a small cohort of outstanding individuals—men and women who showcase the very best of Australian values: our compassion, athleticism, wisdom and entrepreneurial flair.

The list includes Sydneysider Dr Daniel Nour, 2022 Young Australian of the Year. While a final year medical student at the Imperial College London, Daniel helped a man survive a seizure on the streets of London. Later, he learned the man was homeless. Upon his return to Australia, the experience inspired him to found Street Side Medics, a mobile not-for-profit that provides health care on the streets of Sydney. Daniel's story spread across the United Kingdom and Australia and is a reminder of the shared experiences and strong bonds of friendship that exist between the two countries. The coronation of the new monarch is a welcome opportunity to celebrate that great friendship today.

Charles III is no stranger to New South Wales, as my predecessor noted after the King's accession last year. Australia has shaped the life and outlook of King Charles more than any other monarch. In the early 1960s the King was an exchange student at the Timbertop school in the Victorian Alps. He visited Australia 16 times, and 15 of those were official visits as the Prince of Wales. In 2013 he set up the Prince's Trust Australia to help young people, to support veterans and to promote sustainable design. The King was ahead of his time in his commitment to sustainability and ecology. That commitment will provide a welcome focus to his leadership as nations around the world race to decarbonise their economies and address climate change.

One of the great privileges of the Westminster system that we have inherited from Britain and made our own over the past 200 years is the extent to which deep sensitivities and sharp divergences of opinion are handled peacefully and with civility. Our system of government is built on debate, persuasion, consensus building, truth-telling and accountability. We are encouraged to strive to be better and do better—for ourselves, our families and our fellow citizens. The coronation gives us the opportunity to celebrate our own democratic traditions, of which the new King is a part. As Premier of New South Wales, I congratulate the King on his coronation. I look forward to continuing the strong relationship between New South Wales and Great Britain during the reign of His Majesty King Charles III for the good of both our countries and citizens.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (10:30): I second the Premier's motion. Last Saturday 6 May hundreds of millions across the world witnessed an historic occasion: the first coronation of our monarch in seven decades. We in the Parliament of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia offer our sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Charles III. His Majesty has spent the past 71 years of his life as the heir apparent. Perhaps more than any other monarch, the King has spent his life preparing to be the sovereign. The King's late mother, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, famously proclaimed in 1947, on the day of her twenty-first birthday, "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be dedicated to your service." It is this extraordinary lifelong commitment to public service that the King now calmly carries on.

Indeed, the people of our State have had many insights into the spirit of dedication and devotion displayed by King Charles. He is no stranger to our shores. His Majesty has visited our nation 16 times, the same number of visits carried out by his mother. In 1966, as a 17-year-old, he studied at the Timbertop Campus at Geelong Grammar School in Victoria for two terms. In 1967 he was the Queen's representative at the memorial service for

Prime Minister Harold Holt. During his most recent visit in 2018, he travelled to the Gold Coast to officially open the XXI Commonwealth Games.

Here in New South Wales, he has swum with the crowds at Bondi Beach, opened a telescope at the Siding Spring Observatory at Coonabarabran, met with defence personnel just metres from here at Garden Island and visited farmers in the Riverina region. The King's genuine care for our defence personnel and his understanding of the need to conserve our environment is shown through the Australian charities with which he is associated: the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, the Returned & Services League of Australia, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, and more. In 2013 his longstanding support of charitable causes continued, with the establishment of the Prince's Trust Australia. It is through that organisation that His Majesty encourages sustainable urban development, supports Indigenous cultural heritage and health and wellbeing, encourages disaster preparedness in regional communities, helps ex-defence personnel transition into civilian jobs, and guides disadvantaged young people into jobs.

As I said in this place nine months ago on the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the monarchy is a reminder that, whatever our views on our country's constitutional arrangements, Australia is blessed by stability, relative harmony, strong democratic institutions and the rule of law. We have witnessed a seamless, peaceful and uncontested transfer of title that is so often lacking in other countries. On behalf of the Opposition, I again offer our congratulations to the King on his coronation.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (10:34): I congratulate His Majesty King Charles III upon his coronation and wish him good health during his reign. King Charles III is no stranger to Australia, as has been mentioned. When I visited Timbertop some years ago with students from Timor Leste, the people there were so proud to share their stories of when Prince Charles had been a student. Who can forget when we saw him swim at Bondi or many of his other visits here? The King is associated with a number of worthy, well-known charities that do good work in our community. Last year following the floods in Lismore and across the Northern Rivers, the Prince's Trust Australia reached out to us, particularly through Mayor of Lismore Steve Krieg. There has since been ongoing communication and support provided, which has been very welcome.

When Her Royal Highness Princess Anne was at the Royal Easter Show, she talked about her relative who lives in Lismore—her brother-in-law. That is well known in Lismore but probably not beyond that, so I just thought to put that out there as a matter of interest. Recently, two of my close friends had an audience with King Charles at Windsor Castle that was not made public until after the coronation. They were Professor Sean Turnell, who is known to Australians now but was not before, and his wife, Dr Ha Vu. Professor Sean Turnell had been wrongly incarcerated in Myanmar but was released and came home. Through friends who work in Myanmar and also through charities of King Charles III, there is a connection, which is why the King had an audience with them when they recently travelled to London. Who watched the coronation? Everybody.

Mr Michael Daley: I didn't, for the record.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: Okay, the Attorney General did not. That is on the record. But, whatever their views, I know most Australians tuned in, as did I. As an avid reader of certain women's magazines over the years, I have kept up with the royal family and royal affairs. The coronation was a right royal affair. Again, whether we are monarchists or republicans, the monarchy is part of the system of government that all members are active in. It is appropriate to move this motion in the House. Thank you.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:37): I know that my learned friend the Attorney General would not have been watching the television last Saturday. He and I have often discussed the monarchy and the virtues thereof. He has a difference of opinion on the issue. I once had the pleasure of travelling with the Attorney General, and I think even he was amazed by the robustness of the system that we saw. You cannot help but admire the pomp and ceremony that goes with a coronation.

Last year we saw an outpouring of grief after the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who acceded the throne at a very tender age. Effectively, we had only ever known one monarch in our lifetime. To lose the Queen was a bit like losing a family member. She had been such a steadfast, resilient and robust presence for so long on so many occasions. In this Chamber I recollected my experience when the Queen visited Adelaide in 1977 when I was a very young person. I remember the fervour and excitement about the Queen's visit. The same had been said about the Prince of Wales and his family when they visited Australia. The outpouring of affection for the then Prince of Wales, the late Princess of Wales and their newborn, who is now the Prince of Wales, was nothing short of astounding. I think we all admire the continuity of the system. The peaceful transition of power of the constitutional monarchy is obviously appreciated in our nation.

As the member for Lismore said, so many of us were glued to the TV. I was at an event at the North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club that evening, and people wanted to end the event expeditiously so they could get home to

watch the coronation. Again, it is not something that most people in this country have experienced. When the Queen acceded to the throne in 1947, millions of people watched that first broadcast of a coronation. Last Saturday billions of people across the globe watched the coronation of King Charles III. As the Leader of the Opposition said eloquently, the King's late mother used some salient words in 1947 when she said, "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." She did exactly that.

Admittedly, we all realise that His Majesty King Charles III has had the world's longest work experience, but he obviously had an incredible tutor in his mother and her complete dedication to defending the faith and the Commonwealth, which she swore to represent for her entire life—and did. We also cannot take for granted the importance of that position and the stability it has provided. It is an extraordinary lifelong commitment to public service that the King now calmly carries on. It was a very calm transition. Most of us have served in this place for four to eight-plus years. The member for Monaro has done it a few times. When you talk about somebody dedicating their entire life to public service, it is hard to comprehend the pressure that puts on not just the individual but the entire family unit.

As we have heard, King Charles III is no stranger to this country. He has visited our nation more than 16 times. In 1966, when he was 17 years old, he studied at Timbertop at Geelong Grammar School in Victoria for two terms. In 1967 he was the Queen's representative at the memorial of the late Prime Minister Harold Holt. During his most recent visit in 2018, he travelled to the Gold Coast to officially open the Commonwealth Games on behalf of his late mother. We remember that image of him swimming at Bondi Beach and the now famous meeting with the young lady in the bikini who came to visit the King. That is the ability of the monarch to insert itself and be a part of our psyche here in Australia. We have seen the Prince's Trust and the dedication and support it has provided to so many people.

Again, I was one of those people glued to the TV on Saturday to watch the transition from one monarch to the next. I could not help but be impressed by the ceremony, the history behind it and the dedication that King Charles III will now put into the role. We also saw the next generation, with Prince William, the Prince of Wales, standing next to his father on the way out of Westminster Abbey. For those who have not been lucky enough to see Westminster Abbey, that in itself is a piece of history. If members have the opportunity and the privilege to visit it, it is breathtaking to see 1,000 years of history, effectively. A fledgling nation like Australia has had the continuity and stability of a monarchy that has reigned for so long through some very tough times but has always supported this nation.

It will be great to see the King and his family visit Australia in the not-too-distant future. There were literally billions of people—I suspect millions of people in this country—watching history for the first time, because many of them were not born when Queen Elizabeth was sworn in in 1947. I offer my congratulations on behalf of the people of my electorate, many of whom were escaping events to go home and watch the coronation. The people of the Central Coast wish the King all the best for a very long reign. He has good genes. His father lived to 99 and his mother lived to 93, so there is nothing to say that King Charles III will not have a long, healthy and prosperous reign. As I say every morning in this Chamber, God save the King.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): Before I call the member for Heffron, I seek members' indulgence to tell my dad's story, which they might have heard before. In 1954 the Queen was visiting Australia and my dad was in the army. He was standing guard amongst other soldiers as the Queen walked past. My brothers, sisters and I heard this story all our lives. Dad reckons the Queen slowed down, looked at him, winked quickly and then moved on. There might have been a bit of embellishment there, but it was a nice story anyway. I call the member for Heffron and thank you all for listening to my story.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (10:45): I congratulate the British people on the crowning of their new monarch, King Charles III, and Queen Camilla. Almost 70 years ago, on 2 June 1953, we saw Elizabeth II crowned. Republican or not, it was a great occasion for the world to witness such a significant part of history. It was a momentous occasion that captivated the world and showcased the rich heritage and traditions that have characterised the British monarchy since 1066. The British King and Queen made a spectacular entrance. King Charles wore the Robe of State, a crimson coronation tunic and a cream silk overshirt with royal naval trousers. Queen Camilla wore ivory, silver and gold.

It was a proud moment for our magnificent city of Sydney. Sydney craftsman Jim Frecklington built the Diamond Jubilee State Coach that carried the monarch to the lavish and historic ceremony at Westminster Abbey. His first coach was the Australian State Coach, which was presented to Queen Elizabeth II as an official gift from the Australian people to mark the Australian bicentenary in 1988. It was first used in November of that year at the State opening of the British Parliament, and also at the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The Diamond Jubilee State Coach for Queen Elizabeth II was a private initiative. Although completed in 2010, the coach did not arrive in London until March 2014 due to issues with transportation funding. While watching the coronation, Jim said:

I will feel extremely proud of something that I made here on the other side of the world. It took a team of people to build it, to make something so special one can't make it all oneself. I have tried to encapsulate 100 years of the history of England in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach which I think is the reason that King Charles is very fond of that particular coach.

The coach, which was built here in Australia, contains timber sections fashioned into small varnished squares and used to decorate the interior walls and door panels. Segments were sourced from 100 historic palaces, ships and buildings, including the door from 10 Downing Street; Henry VIII's flagship, the *Mary Rose*; the Tower of London; and St Paul's Cathedral. There are also segments from Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, the Royal Yacht Britannia, HMS *Endeavour* and the Battle of Hastings; an original counterweight from Big Ben; parts of a Battle of Britain Spitfire and a Dambusters Lancaster bomber; and part of a musket ball from the Battle of Waterloo. Further articles relate to Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Joseph Banks and Florence Nightingale. It also boasts fragments of the royal box at Ascot, Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic base, Hut 6 at code-breaking centre Bletchley Park and one of Sir Edmund Hillary's Everest ladders.

In terms of those taking part, many were chosen to reflect the cultural and religious diversity of modern Britain. For the first time, the ceremony included female bishops and there was a gospel choir. Simon Abney-Hastings, an aristocrat who lives in Wangaratta in Victoria and is the fifteenth Earl of Loudoun, also took part in the ceremony, presenting the King with the great golden spurs. Along with historical rituals involving priceless coronation regalia from the crown jewels collection, which is kept in the Tower of London, new music by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber was played and Australian violin virtuoso Madeleine Easton performed.

The ceremony was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The centrepiece was the crowning of the monarch with St Edward's Crown, which weighs 2.23 kilograms and is decorated with 444 precious stones. The crowning came after the King was anointed behind a private screen—the most sacred part of the process for all monarchs—and fitted with a new ceremonial robe. Other priceless pieces used in the ceremony included an orb, representing the world under Christ; a sceptre, representing earthly power; and a sceptre with a dove, representing spiritual authority exercised chiefly in mercy. A ring encrusted with rubies and sapphires was presented to the King, representing the faithful marriage of the monarch to the British people.

Outside the church, which has hosted all British coronations for the past nine centuries, more than 1.2 million people gathered along The Mall and royal parks, turning the streets of London into a party zone. Many had umbrellas and waterproof ponchos to ward off the famous British drizzle. Earlier, they had lined the streets 20 deep to watch the King and Queen make their way to Westminster Abbey. As the British national anthem was being played by marching bands, the crowd joined in with a rousing rendition. More than 5,000 troops, including 39 Australian defence personnel, took part in the parade. Following the two-hour service, the newly crowned King and Queen made their way back to Buckingham Palace, followed by members of the royal family travelling in carriages.

Australia's military was not just on the ground with King Charles as part of the coronation procession; it was also overhead in the scaled-back Buckingham Palace fly-past. Two Aussie airmen took part in the jaw-dropping moment after the ceremony when aircraft fly past the newly crowned King and Queen on the palace balcony. This is a longstanding relationship that allows Aussies to serve on secondment with certain overseas militaries. Ahead of the fly-past, 39 Australian soldiers, sailors and air force personnel marched with the 400-strong Commonwealth contingent in the grand procession, alongside thousands of British service men and women, and then paraded into the palace gardens where they joined a massive synchronised "hip-hip-hooray" for the new British King and Queen—something all the troops were looking forward to.

Our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and Governor-General, David Hurley, represented Australia, alongside the governors of the six States, including the Governor of New South Wales, and other high-profile Aussies such as musician Nick Cave, comedian Adam Hills and soccer star Sam Kerr. Our Prime Minister and Governor-General walked behind the Australian flag down the aisle of Westminster Abbey as part of the pageantry surrounding the coronation. Beyond the ceremonial aspects, we must also commend the dedication and public service of the royal family for generations. They have shown unwavering commitment to Australia, visiting our shores on numerous occasions and engaging with our communities, particularly many of our charities. Their tireless efforts in charitable endeavours, environmental conservation and advocacy for various causes have made an impact on the lives of many Australians.

I again congratulate the British monarch, His Majesty King Charles III, on the success of his coronation. It was a remarkable world event that highlighted the grandeur and rich historical legacy of the British monarchy. While we might share differing views on governing Australia, we must respect the institution that has been an integral part of our history, and acknowledge the contributions it has made. It remains an integral part of our history today and dictates the way our Westminster system continues to govern. By recognising the significance of the monarchy, we can foster a greater understanding and appreciation of our collective heritage. Let us strive

towards a future that combines our aspirations for an independent nation with an appreciation of our shared history and values.

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro) (10:55): I associate myself with the motion. Like our Prime Minister, I am an avowed republican, but we do still have King Charles III as our head of state in Australia, so on that basis it is quite appropriate for this Parliament to congratulate the monarch on his accession to what is a very historical office in world terms. The British monarchy is probably the longest serving monarchy in the world. As the previous speaker said, it has brought us many of the traditions and practices that make our Parliament successful and democratic. King John signing the Magna Carta was a key move towards democracy in countries that model themselves on the British system of government.

On that basis, it is reasonable for us to admire not only the pageantry of the coronation, which was absolutely spectacular, but also the traditions that the institution brings. I am sure that many Australians were glued to the television watching it. My mother, who was born in Britain, was one of them. It is something that many Australians and people around the world would have been watching. As another previous speaker has said, we have only had two British coronations that have been televised in our history, so it was a very historic occasion.

It is interesting to look at some of the historical artefacts that made the coronation successful. One of the most controversial is the Stone of Scone, which traditionally the monarchs of Scotland sat upon to be crowned. It is also known as the Stone of Destiny. A few years ago, England decided to return the Stone of Scone to Scotland when it was not required for coronations. Of course, the Stone of Scone was taken by Edward I when he invaded Scotland. I suppose it became more appropriate to use it for the coronations of British monarchs when the Scottish and English monarchies united when James I acceded to the throne. I gather that the Stone of Scone was transported to London to be part of King Charles' coronation and I assume it will be going back to Scotland, which I am sure the Scottish people will be very pleased about.

The coronation is a tradition. When we look at it with modern eyes, we might wonder about some of the traditional aspects of the ceremony. It is steeped in history and, in many ways, is quite an interesting watch. Many Australians would admire King Charles not so much because he is our country's head of state—which is very important—but for the stance he has taken on some important issues. In his role as Prince of Wales he spoke on many occasions about the need to act on climate change, and he has taken a leading role in the international community in that sphere over many years. I think many people admire him for taking a position on that.

He has also done many things in his own life that have shown the importance of transitioning to sustainable fuels. As a car lover, one of the things that I was most impressed with was his conversion of his Aston Martin to an electric car, which is probably an incredibly expensive thing to do. Many of us would quite like the million dollars or so to buy an Aston Martin and to be able to afford to convert it. As Prince of Wales—one of the longest apprenticeships in history—Charles took a leading position on issues of world importance such as climate change, the environment and sustainability. From that point of view, I join others in this place in congratulating the King on his accession to the throne and join the Prime Minister in acknowledging that, while many of us are republicans, we have not yet made the transition to being a republic in Australia. For Australians, it was probably an occasion to reflect on that as they watched the monarch being crowned and to consider that, in the next few years, we may be able to take action to ensure that when the next coronation comes around we watch it as interested observers, not as people whose head of state is being crowned. To that extent, I join in supporting the motion.

Business interrupted.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to John and Dot Park, the proud parents of the member for Keira and Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast. I extend a warm welcome also to Annie McCall, guest of the member for Sydney.

I also welcome members of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, Yousif Eisho Yousif, Hurmez Moshi Odisho from Iraq, and Immanuel Sada, Georg Adam, Sargon Kelaita and Hemlir Shlimun from the organisation's Sydney Chapter, who are guests of the member for Prospect.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I advise members that a photographer from the Premier's office has been approved to photograph today's proceedings, including question time, and that photographers from respective members' offices and the Department of the Legislative Assembly have been authorised to capture today's inaugural speeches.

*Question Time***ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:05): Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Sport—

The SPEAKER: Order! Members have not heard the question and should reserve their chatter until after the question has been asked.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: The Minister's own Office of Sport website states:

The Active Kids Program plays a crucial role in shifting physical activity behaviours of children and instilling healthy lifestyle habits.

Does the Minister agree with that statement?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:06): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I am astounded that he has asked that question because—and let's make it really clear—it was the Liberal Party that defunded the Active Kids Program. It's you guys who defunded the Active Kids Program.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, including the Manager of Opposition Business, will come to order. I wish to hear the Minister, as I am sure all members do. The Minister has the call and will be heard in relative silence.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: How dare Opposition members walk into this Chamber—those who defunded this program and left a \$7 billion hole in the budget. They left \$200 billion for the kids to pay off—and they care about the kids? Give us a break.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety will not assist the Minister for Sport.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. It is a very simple question: Does the Minister agree with that statement?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I am sure the Minister will get to his answer.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I am very surprised that the former Minister for Sport wishes to make a comment. If I were the member for Wahroonga, I would be hanging my head in shame because I have been advised that no budget bid was put in to fund this program.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. By the way, the Opposition does not put in budget bids. Does the Minister agree with the statement?

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. The Minister will continue his answer, and hopefully answer it specifically.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I actually never thought the member for Wahroonga was a good fit for sport. He is not being a good sport today. We have—

Mr Mark Speakman: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition rises on a point of order. Has the Minister completed his answer?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The answer has been completed.

Mr Mark Speakman: I rose to ask for further information, for an extension of two minutes. I rose before his answer was completed. I want an answer to my question. Does the Minister agree with that statement, that Active Kids—

The SPEAKER: Was the Leader of the Opposition seeking a two-minute extension?

Mr Mark Speakman: Yes.

[Interruption]

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition did not make that explicit. A two-minute extension has been requested and is granted. The Manager of Opposition Business will cease interjecting, particularly in that vociferous manner. I ask the Minister to answer the question more explicitly and relevantly.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Mr Speaker, I have concluded my answer. Thank you. I have shown them all up.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has concluded his answer and will resume his seat. The member for North Shore will not continue in the same vein as yesterday. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (11:11): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Government is bringing integrity back to the grants process in New South Wales?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:11): I thank the member for her question and congratulate the member on her election victory. It should not matter where you live or who you voted for, everyone in New South Wales deserves their fair share of Government funding and grants. Unfortunately, for the past 12 years in New South Wales, that sacred process was traduced by the previous Government. Let me give the House some examples. The Refresh and Renew program sounds innocuous, but more than 68 per cent of that fund went to Government-held seats, despite Government-held seats being eligible for only half of that Government funding. With the Stronger Communities Fund, 96 per cent of the \$252 million went to Liberal Party seats, National Party seats or marginal seats. Even with education, in the Schools Renewable Energy Infrastructure Pilot Project, 92 per cent of projects went to Government seats. The Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund—a grant between half a million dollars and \$5 million—went to nine Liberal-held electorates and only two ALP electorates and one Greens electorate.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: With the Regional Cultural Fund—even regional culture has been looked at by the previous Government—22 per cent of the panel's recommendations were not followed by Ministers. Some \$9.3 million was awarded to projects not recommended by the panel. Is it any wonder that the Auditor-General reported on 8 February 2022 that—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question was very clear. It is asking what the Government is going to do. The question was not directed towards retrospective analysis.

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. There is no point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That is why the Auditor-General reported in February 2022:

We cannot rule out that the lack of information about accountabilities in the program guidelines, coupled with a lack of formal documented ... was a purposeful attempt to avoid transparency and accountability over the involvement of the former Premier and Deputy Premier in approving grant allocations.

That is from the Auditor-General. Who was the former Deputy Premier of New South Wales? It was John Barilaro. I understand that there is a Barilaro faction emerging in the National Party. I think it is headed by the Leader of the National Party. They should get a new nickname. Maybe they can call themselves the Dugalds or something like that. Let me tell you, the Government will take action in relation to this. [*Extension of time*]

The Government is taking action in relation to what has been a shameful record in New South Wales. We have decided to codify in legislation that all grant programs have a designated decision-maker, that all grant programs have clear, transparent and public guidelines with eligibility criteria that inform awarding of grants. A Minister or decision-maker who approves or declines a grant must record the decision in writing, including the reasons for the decision and any departure from the recommendation of officials. The key—and this is the difference between the previous Government, but they do not want to hear it—is that it will be codified in law.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That is a key recommendation of the ICAC's report on its investigation into pork-barrelling. The reason for this is that in a shameful period, in the dying days of the previous Government, we discovered that the previous Government, during a period of unprecedented natural disaster, the Black Summer bushfires, awarded 26 out of 27 grants to Coalition-held seats. You would think that, in a time of national emergency, with the disaster affecting the people of New South Wales, it should not have to matter who you voted for and who your local member of Parliament is. But it did under the previous Government.

Members opposite scream that it was all legitimate. But do you know what the Auditor-General said about the previous Government's administration of grants? The Auditor-General said that it "lacked integrity" and "lacked transparency". Of course, it was presided over by former Deputy Premier John Barilaro. I think there is an opportunity to excise the shame that Coalition parties obviously have as a result of this terrible record when it comes to grants: Support the Government's legislation and bring transparency back to grants in New South Wales. During a natural emergency, who you voted for should not matter. We all need to lean on one another. Under a Labor government, that is exactly what will happen.

ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (11:16): My question is directed to the Minister for Sport. Michelle from the Saints Netball Club in Dubbo says that around 80 per cent of registrations for this year's winter competition have come through Active Kids vouchers. Will the Minister guarantee that the parents who have got these vouchers will have access to Active Kids vouchers for the next season?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:17): I thank the member for the question. I am sure it was really true hearted, considering the information that I provided before—that those opposite had defunded the program. Also I mentioned the situation they left. This group was throwing money around like confetti but left nothing for the kids. We will review the settings and in due course we will get back to that community. But let me guarantee one thing: We will always look after our children better than they will.

HEALTH SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (11:18): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister please update the House on the immediate action the Government is taking to reduce the elective surgery backlog and improve emergency department waiting times?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:18): I thank the member for Bega. What a fantastic member he is. A Labor member for Bega. How good is he? He won the by-election and won the general election. He is a pillar of health care in his community; an advocate over decades, particularly for women's health on the South Coast; and a man who gives me great honour by being my Parliamentary Secretary. I know that NSW Health is also delighted to be working with him. At about 10 o'clock last night I made one of my unannounced visits. Do not worry, I will come to some Opposition members' hospitals.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr RYAN PARK: I got to meet with Diana, Caterina and Timothy, an emergency department doctor who was there last night. It is funny because the first thing they always talk to me about is staffing—the need to recruit more, which is what we have a plan for. So it was unusual yesterday when the shadow Minister stood up to ask a question. I thought, "He has a question. I am ready to go." It is a big health system—\$33 billion, one or two employees, a few hospitals here and there. It was amazing. The first question from the shadow Minister for Health was about a very important position that I know a lot of us get correspondence about through our electorate offices: the Deputy President in the upper House. The election of the Deputy President in the upper House was the shadow Minister's first question. A Minns Labor Government is focused on people like Caterina, Tim, Diana and the frontline healthcare workers who staff and resource our healthcare system.

We have already put in place a surgical taskforce that is designed to drive down the number of elective surgeries on waiting lists across New South Wales. Under those opposite, we reached a record number of 100,000—17,000 of which were outside clinically recommended time frames. I have told the department and the taskforce that I have an expectation that every single day we are focused on driving that number down so that people across our communities and electorates can have elective surgery—which should be called essential surgery—when they need it, in as quick a time as possible. We cannot afford to have 17,000 people on an elective surgery waiting list outside clinically recommended times. [*Extension of time*]

That is why the surgical taskforce is in place. It includes Professor Neil Merrett, the program director of surgery for south-west Sydney. A lot of local members will know him. He is a fantastic surgeon who is intent on driving this number down. It is a responsibility of NSW Health to do better in this area. The Minister for Education and Early Learning said yesterday that first you have to recognise that you have an issue. It is the same in health care. We do have an issue: Too many people in our communities are waiting too long for elective surgery. That is why we are putting this taskforce in place—to drive the number down, to make a focus of it across NSW Health and to make sure that, no matter where you live or who you represent, when you need elective surgery you are

able to get it in a reasonable time frame. There is always going to be an elective surgery waiting list. But the number I am focused on is the number of those who are waiting outside clinically recommended times—those 17,000 people. We have made some inroads; it is down to about 14,000 to 14,500 already. But that is still too high. We are going to be driving that number down as quickly as possible.

I note that the member for Bega also asked about emergency departments, which all of us know are under enormous pressure at the moment across our communities. We are doing a number of things to address that issue. We will be rolling out our safe staffing model. We will also be rolling out urgent care services, as well as geriatric flying squads. People might ask, "What are geriatric flying squads?" A problem at the moment is that we have a large number of aged-care people going into our hospitals for long periods. We have to change that. We have to focus on keeping those people where they need to be—in residential care homes—and getting them the treatment they need. Our focus is very simple: the right treatment at the right time, at the right place, for communities right across New South Wales.

BYRON SHIRE SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (11:23): My question is directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Given the recent recommendation of the Independent Planning Commission for a 60-day cap on non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in Byron shire, will the Minister extend Byron Shire Council's gateway determination beyond 24 June so that the 60-day cap can be implemented?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (11:24): I thank the member for Ballina for her question. I appreciate her interest in this issue and that of her community. The House may be aware that Byron Shire Council proposed to reduce the cap on non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in the Byron shire from 180 days to 90 days. The former Government asked the Independent Planning Commission to review that planning proposal, and the commission reported on 26 April this year. The commission was asked by the then Minister to provide advice on the status of housing in the area and rental affordability, and recommendations to improve them; the industry's economic contribution and potential implications; and whether the proposal should proceed, including any amendments or further information. The commission listened to 75 speakers at the public hearing, including the New South Wales Government, community representatives, industry and Byron Shire Council, and also received and considered more than 500 written submissions.

The commission's report is comprehensive, providing 72 pages of analysis. I take the opportunity to put on record my thanks to the commission panel chair, Dr Sheridan Coakes, and panel members Juliet Grant and Professor Richard Mackay, AM. As the member might be aware, the commission found that housing market pressures are different in Byron shire from any other Australian market and the social impacts of short-term rental accommodation are more significant. The commission's report noted that housing trends in Byron shire are "experiencing notable housing availability and affordability issues compared to the rest of New South Wales", and that these trends "are exacerbated by Byron shire's specific characteristics as a sought-after location with high-value natural and community capital but shortfalls in developable hinterland". Further, the commission said that it had:

... received numerous submissions from the local community raising concerns over an observed lack of action to facilitate new housing supply, including affordable housing, by Council.

The commission made 12 recommendations, including that the planning proposal not proceed in its current form; that "short-term rental accommodation" be introduced as a land use term; and that the New South Wales Government work with the council to facilitate supply of housing within the local government area. It also noted that consideration should be given to a 60-day cap, with development applications used to extend that limit. The commission observed that, in consideration of material provided to it, the commission's view was that potential mechanisms to improve supply in Byron shire could include reducing approval times, increasing land availability through rezonings and infill initiatives, and increasing density controls in appropriate locations.

There is a complex interplay of issues. We must strike the right balance for local residents, businesses and visitors alike. Everyone has a role to play. Because of the significant role of Byron Shire Council in this matter, I have instructed the Department of Planning and Environment to seek advice from the council on its capacity to implement the commission's recommendations, and I am advised that the department will extend the date of the gateway determination to allow the commission's recommendations and Byron Shire Council's response to be considered. [*Extension of time*]

The extension will be short. The department has contacted Byron Shire Council at my instruction to find out its response to the commission's report and how the council might implement the recommendations that relate to it. Further to the member's question, the gateway determination time period will be extended by the department to allow the commission's recommendations and Byron Shire Council's response to their implementation to be

considered. I trust that that information is of assistance to the member. I again thank her for her question. She has pursued and been interested in the issue for some time, and spoke to me about it while I was the shadow Minister. In the interests of everyone, particularly those in the community of the member for Ballina, I look forward to working with everybody to arrive at a sensible solution.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (11:28): My question is addressed to the Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the Minister update the House on the immediate actions that the Government is taking to look after essential workers in New South Wales?

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (11:28): Congratulations on your election, Mr Speaker. I thank the amazing member for Camden—the Labor member for Camden. How fantastic is that? When I was in Mount Annan and Camden, it was amazing. What an amazing spirit. The people of Camden have made the right decision in electing the member. When I was in Mount Annan just before the election, the people there—the firies, the teachers, the cleaners at the local hospital—told me how they were going to vote for Labor for the very first time because of our policies and because of our fantastic candidate, Sally Quinnell.

The Minns Labor Government is committed to working constructively and respectfully with public sector employees to make sure that they receive fair and reasonable pay and conditions. We on this side have already commenced—the day after the election—initial conversations with workers and their representatives. And, in just a few weeks, we have made progress. The Minns Government is reducing the administrative burden on teachers. It is fantastic. You can see the relief. I acknowledge our Premier and Deputy Premier for doing this. They have listened, unlike those opposite.

We have announced a special commission of inquiry into the health system. We are providing temporary teachers a conversion to secure permanent jobs. It was the members on this side of the Chamber who made the announcement to convert 16,000 teachers and support staff to permanent. How good is that? Those opposite did absolutely nothing. We have funding for an extra 500 rural and regional paramedics. The Safe Staffing Working Group is already working to ensure one nurse to every three patients in emergency departments, with more units and wards to follow. We are making progress and we will have a lot more to say in the coming weeks and months. [*Extension of time*]

We know that after 12 years of Coalition government, almost three-quarters of healthcare workers and teachers are thinking about leaving New South Wales to go to another State—Queensland or Victoria—where conditions are better. We want to ensure we have nurses in our hospitals and teachers in our classrooms. But equally important are the workers who do not receive as much attention: cleaners, orderlies, administrative staff, support staff, security and many more, without whom our essential services would grind to a halt. These workers are not the centre of media campaigns, they do not receive much praise or attention and they often are the lowest paid in our society. Unlike the former Coalition Government, we are committed to ensuring they receive fair pay and conditions.

The wages cap was unfair on these workers. New South Wales public sector wages decreased by 5 per cent in real terms between December 2021 and December 2022 compared to a decrease of 3.9 per cent in the New South Wales private sector. I am a practical person, because when you are a working mother and a cancer survivor, you focus on what matters. You put ideology aside and focus on the outcome and what matters—real, practical solutions. What matters to me are the essential workers of this State. They take pride in what they do. Whether they are orderlies or security or cleaners in schools, they take pride. At the heart of it is the different approaches taken by those on this side of the House and those on that side of the House. The people of New South Wales will see that difference in the coming days—they have seen it already. The day after the election I saw firsthand the relief, when teachers came up to me, hugging me with tears of joy that we were elected. [*Time expired.*]

ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (11:34): My question is directed to the Minister for Sport. How do Active Kids vouchers help families across New South Wales with the cost of living?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:34): It is like a broken record. I have said it and I have answered it.

The SPEAKER: Members of the Opposition will allow the Minister to answer the question that has been asked by the member for Miranda. It is disrespectful to the member for Miranda for Opposition members to interject.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I cannot believe they got the member for Miranda to ask the question—just setting her up again. We saw what those opposite did to her last time. They had her there for five minutes. But the member for Oatley, who was around the Cabinet table when they made the decision to defund—

[Interruption]

The truth is, and I said it earlier, those opposite have left us with an absolute mess.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The question has nothing to do with the funding of Active Kids. The question is: How do the vouchers help families with their cost of living?

The SPEAKER: We are a third of the way into the time allocated for the answer. A little latitude is given for introductory comments, but the Minister will be more relevant to the question.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Obviously any funding to struggling families is always appreciated by the community. That is obviously the case. But what the community does not appreciate is when a government—like the old Government—mismanages the funds of the State and puts hardship on the community. This was an unfunded program and those opposite sat around the Cabinet table.

[Interruption]

I answered the question.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr Alister Henskens: I take a point of order under Standing Order 129. The question asked how Active Kids vouchers help families with the cost of living. It was not about how they are funded.

The SPEAKER: I ask that the Minister assist me by being more closely relevant to the question.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I would, but I recommend that the member gets a hearing aid. I answered the question at the start.

Ms Eleni Petinos: Given the importance of this issue to all of our communities, I seek further information on how these vouchers assist with the cost of living.

The SPEAKER: I shall grant an additional two minutes if the Minister has anything further to add to his answer. Minister, have you completed your answer?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I have completed my answer.

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA SIGNS

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (11:38): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Roads in the other place. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's change of policy approach to hidden speed cameras and in particular on how motorists will now be fairly warned rather than subject to covert revenue-raising measures?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:38): I thank the member for Mount Druitt for his question and also for his long-term advocacy for the thousands of drivers in his electorate. Drivers in Mount Druitt and across New South Wales know all too well the unfair revenue-raising practices of the former Liberal-Nationals Government. It used unmarked, un-signposted mobile speed cameras to reach into the wallets of drivers each and every day. This is one of the reasons why just six weeks ago the people of New South Wales changed the government. That's right: They changed the government because Premier Chris Minns and those on this side of the House fought to end those unfair practices.

Safety will always be our number one priority. Government members want every driver to be safe and stay within the legal speed limits. Everybody knows the consequences of speeding, and we know that staying within the speed limit saves lives. But people are not fools, and they know that speed limits can change dozens of times along a few kilometres of road. They know that under the former Liberal Government mobile speed cameras were frequently positioned on downhill slopes, where a vehicle could gain a little pace without any intentional action by the driver, and with no warning signs—just a hidden camera.

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: As a consequence, thousands of drivers got a very unpleasant shock in the mail. That approach was not about road safety or saving lives; it was about revenue raising, and Government members believe that is unfair. I want to be absolutely clear: This is not about dangerous drivers who flout the rules. They deserve everything that they get, but we are talking about the many thousands of victims of the former Liberal Government's unfair revenue-raising measures. They treated drivers like cash cows. They used measures that were supposed to be about road safety and keeping people safe—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. There is a requirement to be directly relevant. The question was directed towards the change in policy. The answer has gone for 2½ minutes and there has been nothing said about a change in policy.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order. [*Extension of time*]

Ms JO HAYLEN: This was all about filling holes in the budget, many of which have been revealed today in question time. I take us back to November 2020, which was when former Ministers Andrew Constance and our friend the member for Bathurst decided that they would scrap all warning signs around mobile speed cameras overnight. They said their justification was about safety and yet we know that the presence of the signs makes drivers slow down. When people see a sign, they slow down. In fact, every warning sign makes our roads safer. But do not take my word for it; the evidence is in. There was no change in driver behaviour, but there was a change in revenue collection. Revenue collected from drivers exceeding limits by 10 kilometres per hour or less—that is low-level speeding offences—ballooned from just \$2.3 million in one year to \$50.7 million two years later. That is \$50 million in a single year that those opposite were pulling from the pockets of drivers. If that is not revenue raising, I do not know what is.

On this side of the House we would rather people slow down in the first place than receive a fine in the mail two weeks later. One of the Premier's first acts upon taking office was to ensure that all mobile speed cameras in New South Wales are now equipped to carry portable warning signs, and the member for Bathurst will be pleased to know that those signs now actually fit in the vehicles. There will be two before the vehicle, one on the vehicle and one after. We are making sure that mobile signs are visible on all vehicles, and that is how we will be a transparent and open government. [*Time expired.*]

SPORTING GRANTS

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (11:43): My question is directed to the Minister for Sport, who I note left his seat and received one-on-one coaching from the Premier in a huddle.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Hawkesbury will resume her seat. I predict the point of order is that the member's introductory comments were completely out of order.

Mr Ron Hoenig: It relates to Standing Order 128. The question clearly does not fit within any of the permissible categories. Mr Speaker, you should rule the question out of order and go to the next question.

The SPEAKER: I have stated that the introductory comments were clearly out of order. The member for Hawkesbury will ask the question in the required terms.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Thank you for your indulgence, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Sport. Will the Minister assure the people of Hawkesbury and Western Sydney that the Government will not cancel previously announced WestInvest community sporting grants such as the \$30.3 million grant towards the upgrade of Richmond pool?

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Are you okay, Kamper?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:45): Mr Speaker, the member for North Shore asked if I was okay.

The SPEAKER: I pay that contribution from the member for North Shore, but she will not push her luck.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I am having lots of fun. I will take that question on notice, but I will tell members opposite one thing: I have not come across any plans to cancel anything that has been committed to.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will settle down and come to order, or I will start applying the standing orders more rigorously.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: They have been highly disrespectful in not allowing me to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has answered the question; it is hard to go beyond taking the question on notice.

NSW POLICE FORCE

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (11:46): Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Members, particularly Opposition members, will come to order so that we can hear the question. Members will be considerate of the needs of Hansard. The member for Riverstone has the call. The member for Miranda will come to order.

Mr WARREN KIRBY: My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. We are all aware of the important role New South Wales police play in keeping our community safe. Will the Minister tell the House about the NSW Police Force's newest recruits, who attested in class 357, and how they will be keeping our community safe?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism) (11:47): I thank the member for Riverstone, and firstly I congratulate him on his recent victory. I advise the House that I know that the member for Riverstone will be a great representative for his community. One of the first pieces of correspondence that I received in my capacity as a Minister was from the member for Riverstone, inviting me out to his electorate to meet with his community. I say on the public record that I accept his invitation. Further to that, I bring some good news for the member for Riverstone. I am pleased to say that the Labor Government will deliver 50 extra NSW Police Force members to the north-western Sydney region. That will include Riverstone, Wentworthville, Windsor and the areas around there that are experiencing significant population growth.

Community safety is one of this Government's top priorities. Government members will always make sure that vulnerable people in our community are protected. As Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, I will have a forensic focus on recruiting and training more police officers so that we can keep our communities safe and protect our local communities. Just two weeks ago, I had the honour to stand across from the most recent police recruits in New South Wales: the new probationary constables at Goulburn. They were the first class to attest in 2023. The 221 members of class 357, who have been deployed across the State, have started new jobs in police stations from Ballina to Broken Hill. The pride in the eyes of their family members was something to behold. Mr Speaker, I can advise the House that I told those recruits how proud we, as members of the Labor Government, are of them and the work that they are going to do to keep our community safe.

I was lucky enough, a few days later, to meet some of the most recent recruits in our local area. I was accompanied by the member for The Entrance and the member for Wyong as we visited the Tuggerah Lakes command and met Commander Chad Gillies, Sean, Megan, Jordan and Jackson. We wished them luck and thanked them for their service to our community and for the service they are about to provide to the people of New South Wales. I know that they are going to be fantastic assets. [*Extension of time*]

While so many of our recruits are Australian born, this year the graduating cohort was also made up of students from right around the world. They included those from India, Iraq, Nepal, Egypt and Argentina. Seven of our new recruits are Indigenous and I know that they will be—

[*An Opposition member interjected.*]

Please do not be rude to our new recruits. It is not becoming.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Seven of the new recruits are Indigenous, and I know that they will be fantastic role models and leaders in the communities they are working with. As Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, I am proud to offer the full support of the New South Wales Labor Government to all incoming and current officers of the NSW Police Force. We will continue to support the work they do across this great State. We are committed to ensuring that all of the people in the NSW Police Force have long, fulfilling careers serving the great people of this State.

ENERGY PRICES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (11:52): My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy, and former shadow Minister for Energy. Given the Minister was unable to answer the question yesterday, what will be the average increase in electricity bills in the next financial year for families who will not be eligible for the limited bill relief provided by the New South Wales and Federal Labor governments, given they

will not receive the \$250 off energy bills for all families announced by the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Coalition?

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (11:53): I thank the member for the question and for the heads-up yesterday that it was coming again today. It was not an issue of not being able to answer the question. I would have thought that if a member had a question for a Minister, they would ask the Minister responsible for that portfolio. Of course, if the member had something to get at, let us start with this point—

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

Mr JIHAD DIB: Those opposite have asked a question and I will give them an answer. What a hide to stand here talking about the rising price of energy when we know that the crisis has been created from the actions of the former Government—and the former energy Minister knows that very well. I am trying to answer a question and they keep interrupting. They want an answer. I will give them an answer. Maybe what they do not want to hear is the fact that their policies were the ones that put people in New South Wales in this position. Once upon a time, we used to own energy assets in New South Wales. What they decided to do as a government, with their ideology of privatisation, selling every single thing, was to let families—let me tell you about something that happened to a family last year.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The question asks what is the average increase. It is a very simple mathematical question. What is the average increase in electricity prices?

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister will be directly relevant to the question.

Mr JIHAD DIB: What we need to give is some context, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate that.

Mr JIHAD DIB: As we know, through a series of policies from the former rabble of a government, we saw an increase in energy prices. In the last few quarters we saw increases of up to 30 per cent. I love how Opposition members come now and ask us these questions, when it was their policy that got us to this point. One of the things that they forget to mention—

[An Opposition member interjected.]

I am answering the question.

Mr Alister Henskens: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: I asked the Minister to be directly relevant to the question. It was a very specific question.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: I invite the Speaker to consider the last couple of sentences that the Minister was trying to get out when he started referring to figures. If Opposition members would keep quiet, they might hear the answer.

The SPEAKER: I note the advice from the Leader of the House. The time for the answer has expired. I call the member for Wahroonga.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: My question—

The SPEAKER: Is the member for Wahroonga seeking to ask a question?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Yes, I sought the call to ask a question. We have not exceeded the 55 minutes, so we continue on. You acknowledged that I had the jump.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will not try to confuse me. I thought debate on the point of order was continuing. I will use Standing Order 249A to punt the Manager of Opposition Business. Do not game me. Members are getting a bit out of control. I have given the member for Wahroonga plenty of leeway. I call the member for South Coast.

TAFE NSW

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (11:56): My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education. Will the Minister explain to the House how the Government is rebuilding TAFE in New South Wales?

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter) (11:57): I thank the wonderful member for South Coast for her question. Despite being

new to this place, she is already showing herself to be an outstanding advocate for her community and for TAFE. Not so long ago, we were standing outside TAFE NSW Ulladulla during the election, fighting to rebuild TAFE. I can say to the member that we are not standing outside anymore. We are in the engine room together, working to rebuild TAFE.

The Minns Labor Government has come into office promising a fresh start for New South Wales. The challenges before the New South Wales Government are immense. There is a real skills crisis in our State. We have been left exposed by a decade of neglect. It has been made worse by a pandemic. It has been stretched to breaking point by global conflict, and it has been made worse, worse and worse by cuts, sackings and sell-offs by those opposite. There is a need for a fresh start for TAFE. Our new approach to skills is desperately needed.

As a State, we are getting older, we are living longer, and our needs for care are growing greater and greater. We are making our economy greener and transitioning the mix of our energy supply, creating new opportunities but also putting stresses on the hunt for skilled workers in these fields. One would think, with such great needs in our State—

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Macquarie will come to order.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP: —and for our local community, that a responsible government would invest in the engine room of skills that is TAFE. Sadly, when it comes to our public provider, the story is a grim one. Ignored, cut and, frankly, decimated by those on the other side, the state of TAFE could not be more perilous, the need more urgent nor the task more important. On every measure, TAFE has been made weaker, smaller and less resourced. From 2012 to 2022, there was a 45 per cent decrease in TAFE teachers. Shame on those opposite. Casualisation has increased. Since 2015 there has been a 15 per cent drop in permanent teachers, who were replaced by casuals. [*Extension of time*]

Enrolment numbers have declined by 28 per cent. Apprenticeship and traineeship commencements, which are so important, have dropped a whopping 33 per cent. TAFE completions have dropped 67 per cent. When it comes to TAFE campuses, those opposite love a sale. They flogged off seven campuses across the State. That is the legacy of that lot. The task in front of the new Government is immense. For the first time in 12 years, we have a government that is actually on the side of TAFE. We are on the side of teachers, students and the amazing support staff. The Government has a commitment to restoring a floor of funding to TAFE—a minimum of 70 per cent of the skills budget. That is a floor, not a ceiling.

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

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP: Since becoming Minister, I have started visiting TAFE campuses across the State. I have addressed every member of the TAFE family in an online broadcast, sharing my vision, passion and support for their work. TAFE must be at the heart of our vocational education system, so the Government is putting a teacher at the heart of TAFE. Last week I announced that my first appointment to the TAFE advisory board will be a TAFE teacher. Unlike those opposite, this Government will run the process properly, with the Department of Education undertaking a proper appointment process in line with government guidelines. The Minns Labor Government believes in TAFE, and it believes in TAFE teachers. I will spend every day restoring TAFE after the 12 long years of cuts and neglect by those opposite. Shame, shame, shame.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:02): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the Premier's very welcome announcement of an immediate freeze on public housing sales, will he now give certainty and housing security to the public housing tenants in Waterloo south and Explorer Street in Eveleigh by scrapping the former Liberal-Nationals Government's plans to privatise and redevelop their homes through State-led rezoning?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:02): I thank the member for Newtown for her question. Over the past 12 years, \$90 billion worth of government assets were sold off. Perhaps the most egregious is the sale of government property, particularly public housing. Something like \$3.5 billion worth of property administered by the State of New South Wales was privatised by the previous Government, always with the promise of increased supply as a result of the sale. But it never delivered. We have 12 years worth of history of this bogus concept of privatisation to look back on. We saw the growth in housing roles, and we saw public housing deteriorate as a result. Former Minister Pru Goward—I cannot remember what electorate she represented—

Mr Jihad Dib: Goulburn.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Goulburn. She constantly said, "We need to privatise as many public assets as we can, particularly government land. As a result, we will see a net increase in the amount of public housing." But it never materialised. This Government is committed to 30 per cent of homes that are built on government land

being social and affordable housing. That is important context. A growing city like Sydney cannot meet the challenges of the skills shortage, inbound immigration or the housing crisis without those specific targets. I know the planning Minister is committed to doing that.

In relation to Waterloo south, the planning controls will have a minimum provision of 34 per cent social and affordable housing. It will have other requirements, like public benefits for improved public realm, more open space and a community centre. The Government is exploring opportunities to increase the proportion of social, affordable and key worker rental housing for the Waterloo south site. I think every member in this place who has spoken to an essential worker at any point in the past four years—whether it be a police officer, a teacher, a nurse or a firefighter—will say that their wages will not sustain housing near where their jobs are.

We have to look at housing in a different way, ensuring that when we do look at urban renewal, and when there is development on government land, that we ensure affordable and social housing is part of the mix. It was a crucial and missed opportunity from successive planning and housing Ministers in the previous Government. Notwithstanding that some of them had good intentions when they approached their portfolio, the delivery was lax and, at the end of the day, we are where we are—in an unmitigated housing crisis. The rezoning of Waterloo south is complete. It will take time to build, but it will transform 749 old social dwellings into a mixed community with over 3,000 homes. We need to get the balance right.

Ms Jenny Leong: Mr Speaker—

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That balance includes urban consolidation that allows young people, in particular, to have a place to live and raise a family, and the opportunity to grow their professional life in this city.

The SPEAKER: Has the Premier concluded his answer?

Ms Jenny Leong: I was going to ask for an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I understand, and it would have been granted.

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND PRECINCT

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:06): My question is addressed to the Minister for Sport.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order, particularly those on the Opposition benches.

Ms LIESL TESCH: Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is making Sydney fun again—

The SPEAKER: Order! Just as we were getting to the pertinent part of the member's question, the member for Oatley interjected. The member for Gosford will be heard without interjections. She will please begin the question again.

Ms LIESL TESCH: Will the Minister for Sport update the House on how the Government is making Sydney fun again by lifting concert caps at the Sydney Cricket Ground precinct?

The SPEAKER: Order! The enthusiastic Government members will come to order. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (12:08): I thank the member for Gosford for the best question I have had all day. She is an excellent member, and she knows that we need to bring fun back to Sydney. We are going to bring fun back to Sydney. I know the member is a big fan of live music and entertainment and would have enjoyed many of the potential concerts that Sydney missed out on as part of the former Government's concert cap at Moore Park. The member would have loved to have heard the roar of the crowd as Dave Grohl and the Foo Fighters pumped *The Pretender* to a packed-out stadium. While I am more of a B-52's type of guy, I know that the House would be disappointed to hear that the former Government's inaction on this issue saw New South Wales miss out on premier international artists such as Bon Jovi, Billy Joel and potentially Beyoncé.

Some 30 years ago, wowsers like those opposite facilitated a cap on the entertainment precinct at Moore Park after a few complaints that The Rolling Stones were blasting *Honky Tonk Women* too loud. Can you believe it? I say to those opposite, "Let's get down. Let's bring back the groove!" When I heard about the former Government's concert cap, I was absolutely shocked. I was flabbergasted. The total lack of business experience of those opposite was made obvious when they invested in an \$828 million facility but then would only allow it to be booked a handful of nights each year. A handful of nights—can you believe it?

Sadly, the Leader of the Opposition must have been taking his cues from the bad guy in *Footloose* when he, as part of the former Government, was keeping Sydney closed. Make no mistake, members opposite are hell-bent on killing fun in Sydney. They are hell-bent on it. They do not like having fun. They want to have just four concerts a year at Moore Park. Fortunately, on this side of the House we know that Sydney is the premier international city in Australia, so we need to have facilities that are open for business. [*Extension of time*]

That is why one of my first acts as sports Minister was to direct Venues NSW to apply to lift the concert cap. It will bring Moore Park in line with its interstate and international counterparts so that even the member for Bathurst, who is down on his luck, can come to Sydney to let his hair down, take a break from linedancing and get groovy. We are making Sydney fun again. This change will not only help bring Sydney back to life but also support our economic prosperity. Venues NSW estimates that every additional major artist playing at Allianz Stadium will bring between \$5 million and \$7.5 million in economic benefit to New South Wales, with the cumulative impact over the life of the stadium estimated to be above \$1.3 billion—and that is a conservative estimate.

As the wonderful member for Gosford knows, the Sydney Football Stadium is a state-of-the-art venue and to leave it lying dormant and unused is an absolute shame. That is why the New South Wales Government is getting on with the job of removing the red tape that has caused this iconic venue to sit empty when it should be hosting the world's best performers and bringing rock'n'roll back to town. Our message to the people of New South Wales is clear: If you want fun and excitement, the Minns Labor Government is here for you. Alternatively, we can go back to just four concerts a year, which is what the Leader of the Opposition wants for New South Wales. Make no mistake—he is a wowser.

The SPEAKER: Clearly Beyoncé has nothing on you, Minister.

Members

INAUGURAL SPEECHES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): In accordance with the earlier resolution, the presentation of an inaugural speech by the member for Riverstone will now proceed. I welcome special guests in our public gallery, who are attending today to watch the member's inaugural speech. I particularly warmly welcome the member's partner, Debra Maloney, and her family—especially her sister, Leigh, who travelled from Queensland to hear this speech. How wonderful! I also welcome the member's mother, Judy Sprouster, the member's chief of staff, Suzanne Lawrence, and all other friends and former colleagues of the member. I advise that a photographer has been approved to take photographs. I call the member for Riverstone.

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (12:21): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to begin by acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional owners of the land upon which I stand today, and the Darug people, who are the traditional owners of the Riverstone electorate. I pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Peace be upon you.

Until recently I had no political aspirations. I have gone from business owner to community advocate to politician. My businesses revolve around visual communication. I am a commercial photographer, a studio owner, a drone pilot and a project manager for online databases. I started advocating for the needs of my community as the vice-president of both the North West Business Chamber and the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre. I was drawn into politics because of frustration I felt from shouting at the outside of this building and realising that, if I really wanted to make a difference, I needed to get a seat on the inside—well, not just a seat, this seat. In the words of Abraham Lincoln:

I am here. I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility of taking the course which I feel I ought to take.

I am proud that I have now taken this seat and I have no intention of being here just to keep it warm. I am proud to be a part of this Government led by Premier Chris Minns, with equal representation of women and with MPs who have sworn on the *Bible*, the *Koran*, the *Tanakh* and *The Bhagavad Gita* to serve the people of New South Wales. This is a government that reflects the diversity of my community.

I am the fourth generation of my family to have had a lifelong connection with Riverstone. Established in the 1850s, Riverstone itself has a lot of history that should be celebrated. The cenotaph in the heart of town was one of the first five to be built in Australia. I have watched as this region has changed from semirural farmland into one of the fastest growing areas in the country. I grew up in Schofields on acreage with my mother and sister. My parents divorced when I was young—something that was uncommon in the 1970s—and, as a single parent, my mum struggled to make ends meet. Through my grandfather, "Dinky" Knight, I learnt to value people by the content of their character instead of the contents of their wallets.

My children, Oliver and Madeline, whom I love beyond measure, were raised in Riverstone. Like me, my mother and grandfather, they attended Schofields Public School. They continued on to Riverstone High School, as I did. But the home I knew as a child was a very different place to the one that it has become. The oval at Schofields Public School where I played soccer at lunchtime is now covered in demountable classrooms. Bushland where I once rode dirt bikes as a teenager has now transformed into housing. Market gardens are now unit towers. The changing landscape has not been a gradual transformation. The population of 2,762 has grown by over 300 per cent in just the past five years. The projections for this same postcode, which had a population of around 5,000 people in 2016, is to grow to around 150,000 in the next 10 years.

The population explosion has seen Riverstone become a far more diverse electorate than it was a decade ago. Whether it is religion, culture or economic status, I doubt there is another electorate with the range of different needs of Riverstone. For example, there were over 10,000 new migrants voting for the first time in this year's election. While campaigning I met with no fewer than five new migrants who were voting for the first time anywhere in the world. They have come from countries that had repressed their right to vote because they worshipped the wrong god or practised the wrong cultural traditions. It is a testament to our democracy and the rights afforded to all citizens of our multicultural society that people can vote in free and fair elections for whoever they choose, regardless of their beliefs.

These new Australians have come to build a better future for their families. However, when it comes to building new estates, the mistakes of the past are being repeated. Almost 50 years ago in his inaugural speech as the member for Mount Druitt, before he became the first member for Riverstone, Tony Johnson spoke of problems created by the former Housing Commission in the early 1970s. Tony said the commission was creating suburbs and providing housing for young families, but of course there were no facilities to back up the population explosion. In his speech he referred to a lack of sporting facilities, community halls and libraries. He believed an important part of his job as a local member was to make sure that, with the massive increase in population brought about by development, those facilities must be provided to address the many social problems that come with a large population. I must say, I agree. The issue Tony was best known for as a local member was the need for a hospital. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

The concerns I have for my community and my politics stem from a simple world view: I believe the rights of society are more important than the rights of individuals. We should all do our work with the welfare of others in mind. While this aligns with Labor values, I joined the Labor Party because of my experience with a local MP when I built a photographic studio in Riverstone. My business partner, Paul Pearson, and I made the decision to move our business to Riverstone to take advantage of the National Broadband Network [NBN]. We built some of the first databases capable of delivering broadcast quality video over the internet when upload speeds at the time meant it would often take more than a day to load a single three-minute clip. The NBN meant upload times changed from days to minutes.

The move allowed me to expand and diversify the business by opening The Good Egg Studio, a space designed to photograph cars and trucks. It is the only one of its kind in Sydney. I reached out to the local elected representatives asking for any advice they might have about starting a business in Riverstone. The Federal member for Greenway, Michelle Rowland, was the only one to reply. Over the years, we have developed a strong and enduring friendship. As a sign of respect for her, I joined the Australian Labor Party. I can confidently say that without Michelle I would not be here today.

After a chance meeting with Mike Shervington a few years later, I became involved with the North West Business Chamber, which led to my involvement in the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre. I started to realise how under-resourced the north-west of Sydney had become, thanks to my dear friend and community leader Sue Lawrence. I went from business owner to community advocate. Sue's unwavering advocacy for the needs of our community, and our repeated attempts to get government to pay attention to what is happening in Sydney's north-west, ultimately is what led me into politics. Our work for those needing social support, and within the business community, revealed to me the real-world consequences of the change in approach to development in the North West Growth Area.

A patchwork approach to new estates, particularly those north of Schofields Road, replaced cohesive, holistic plans seen in the creation of suburbs like Stanhope Gardens and The Ponds. Additionally, new developments routinely deliver about 50 per cent more yield than originally estimated. For the uninitiated, "yield" is a euphemism for "people". We need to stop thinking about people and families as yield. I am convinced that failure to recognise the difference between yield and community is one of the major reasons there is not enough infrastructure built to support the population. As a government, we must return to creating communities instead of only houses.

Our communities need better connectivity. The road network is choked. My studio clients would often complain about how it would take less time for them to travel from the eastern suburbs to the Richmond Road

exit of the M7 than it does to get from Richmond Road to Riverstone. This is due to a failure to upgrade the existing road network and also to provide local job opportunities, forcing people to travel outside the electorate for work. The public transport system is under-resourced, further encouraging people onto roads that have not been upgraded to cope with the increasing traffic. Failure to build the metro through to Schofields to connect with the T1 line has meant the car park at Tallawong is full by 7.30 a.m., largely from people driving their cars from the Hawkesbury. Local commuters are leaving for work two hours earlier than necessary just to get a parking spot.

The hospital, promised for over a decade, still does not exist. Sick and injured residents are forced to go to Blacktown, Nepean or Westmead. It is no coincidence the emergency departments in these hospitals are increasingly struggling to cope. It is not even as if the dramatic increase in housing stock has helped to reduce housing prices. In fact, the experience in Riverstone suggests that the opposite is true. Instead, exponential growth in supply has resulted in exponential growth in prices. And it is not just the hard infrastructure my community needs. There are emerging social problems as well. The number of residents needing emergency relief has outpaced the increase in population. The spiralling cost of living has created the working poor. Mortgage stress and rental prices have left families, some with dual incomes, unable to buy food or pay for electricity.

I have been approached by a range of community groups struggling to cope with the problem of domestic violence. Victims are often afraid of the consequences of speaking out and the shame it could bring. There is precious little support for victims, especially for women from South Asian communities. There is even less for men. I have spoken with social workers from Relationships Australia who counsel convicted perpetrators. They recently had their funding cut, which meant they had to stop rehabilitating the people they were helping mid-program. Many of those who did not complete the course ended up reoffending. In addition to the trauma inflicted upon their victims, the price to the State is often higher than the cost of the programs because offenders usually end up in court, sometimes in prison, and all too often their children end up repeating the cycle. We need more support to counter domestic violence, not less, including specific programs that deal with the understanding of the unique challenges faced by culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The problems we face are not limited to new residents either. In April last year, the third major flooding event in under two years inundated houses in West Riverstone. I was part of a recovery effort, led by the business chamber and the neighbourhood centre, to help the people who were again forced to rebuild after floodwater destroyed their lives. I worked alongside local community members hosing out the homes of families whose lives were devastated. I cleaned out houses and delivered food with Humanity First and the Ahmadiyya community, who rallied to help wherever they could. One of the families put its most valuable possessions in the roof cavity of its home for protection. Unfortunately, the floodwater rose above the roofline and destroyed its most precious personal items. I will never forget the sound as a sodden toy crocodile, thrown from the roof, hit the ground or the mother who raced to recover it saying, "Not Crikey! Steve Irwin gave me that", and her tears began to flow again.

Rebel and Rachel Hanlon—friends who are the epitome of community service—and the Blacktown City Lions Club, my club, put on a free barbecue just outside Riverstone Village Shopping Centre. Sue and I set up a flood recovery shop where those forced to rebuild could come and collect household items, clothes and food donated by the local community. Sue and a team of volunteers staffed the shop, while I collected furniture given by people wanting to help and then delivered it to those who had lost everything. My experiences during those months, working alongside so many diverse and remarkably generous community groups, proved to me that when the community works together it can accomplish great things. The people still living in West Riverstone are almost evenly split between renters and home owners. Renters live there because they cannot afford to live anywhere else. Owners cannot sell because their homes are getting rezoned to be either a road or a park. This rezoning has been proposed for years, yet authorities will not resume the property, and a release date for the land has yet to be determined. They are stuck, left to await the next flood.

Of course, dedication to community is not enough to gain a seat in Parliament. Many people helped me get here. I was encouraged by the member for Blacktown, Stephen Bali, and the member for Londonderry, Prue Car, who showed a willingness to fight for the investment and legislative change needed to help the people who have chosen to call north-western Sydney home. They, as well as Courtney Houssos, have provided continual support, guidance and encouragement to help me make the change from community advocate to politician. Bob Nanva, Dominic Ofner and the team in Labor's head office demonstrated a solid resolve from the very beginning to win Riverstone and to back me as the person to do it. Most of all, without the love and support of my partner, Debra, none of it would have been possible. She inspires me to be the best person I can be every day. She is my muse.

It also takes a team of dedicated, skilled campaigners, and there is nobody better than my campaign director, Paul Mills. Paul has been a friend and supporter of mine for years, and his leadership of the team was instrumental to my success. Alex Hemmer, who has been an invaluable friend well before my career in politics began, deserves special praise. He worked tirelessly during the campaign, both on the ground and coordinating volunteers. He is someone I know I can rely on for many years to come. I thank Harish Velji for his introduction

to multicultural leaders. They, along with Rameez Parkar, Jordan Hedi and an incredible team of volunteers put in extraordinary effort and incredibly long hours throughout the campaign.

To Gavin, Wayne, Rhonda and the army of phone bankers, door knockers, letter droppers, street stallers and train station attendees, I say thank you. To the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist and Christian communities, I say thank you. To the union movement, who fought with everything they had to protect essential workers, in particular the Transport Workers' Union; Unions NSW; the Nurses and Midwives' Association; the Teachers Federation; the CFMEU; the Health Services Union; and the Public Service Association, I say thank you. Most of all I thank the residents of Acacia Gardens, Quakers Hill, Parklea, Stanhope Gardens, Kellyville Ridge, The Ponds, Schofields, Tallawong, Nirimba Fields, Vineyard and Riverstone. I am honoured to be elected as your representative in State Parliament. You voted for positive change, and I take that responsibility very seriously.

Everything I do I do with all of my heart. My personal story reflects the hopes and aspirations of many people in my electorate. I am a visual communicator and a trained observer. During my career I was fortunate enough to travel extensively both nationally and internationally. I have worked with multinational corporations, government departments and charity organisations. I have experience with people from a broad range of cultures, races and religions. I have had lunch inside the Burj Al Arab and from a street market in Dili. I have jumped out of planes and hung out of helicopters. I have driven cars around the Nürburgring in Germany and ridden motorbikes through the jungles of Cambodia. Those experiences taught me far more than how to use a camera and how to raise my elbows.

Among the many things I have learnt is that, no matter where you come from or how much wealth you have accrued, all we want is a better life for ourselves and for our children, a life that gives the next generation more choices for their future. I will be working tirelessly to ensure that our growing community is provided with the infrastructure and services we deserve. I will be working to ensure that local job opportunities are created so that people do not need to spend hours every day just getting to or from work. I will be working for the families who need the schools they were promised but that have not been delivered. I will be working towards delivering the hospital that is so desperately needed. I will be working to improve public transport options, including buses, trains and the metro.

Those are the reasons I stepped away from my business and stepped up to represent my community in Parliament. It is the sum of a lifetime of experience and a desire to build a better lifestyle for my community. Archimedes reputedly said, "Give me but one firm spot on which to stand and I will move the earth." Here is the spot on which I stand.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to amend the resolution of the House of 10 May 2023 relating to the timing of inaugural speeches this day to provide for a 15-minute period between the inaugural speech of the member for Riverstone and the inaugural speech of the member for Parramatta.

Motion agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1.00 p.m.

Members

INAUGURAL SPEECHES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I thank the member for Riverstone for his inaugural speech. In accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, I will now call the member for Parramatta to present her inaugural speech. While she is preparing herself, I again say hello to all the wonderful visitors—family members, colleagues and supporters—in the gallery. Welcome to the Fifty-Eighth Parliament; we love to see you there. I call the member for Parramatta.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:04): I acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. Growing up on a Tasmanian dairy farm, my early days were full of big skies, long walks in gumboots and bike rides to visit my friends at other farms. As a child, I loved to sing and would make up songs to keep myself occupied while tagging along with Dad on the farm. Dairy farming in the '70s was not particularly lucrative. Faced with a choice of milking cows or office work, Mum took a job at the local council. Not having a stay-at-home mum in 1975 was the exception

rather than the norm. Mum working meant Dad ended up with a permanent shadow after school and in the holidays, when more often than not I spent time out and about with him and the farm workers in the cowshed, on the tractor, and at the saleyards and stock and station agents. It was a wonderful, carefree childhood.

My grandparents all had 10 or more siblings. While there were scores of relatives scattered around the State and the mainland, there were only a handful that still lived locally. So we were a pretty tight little unit: Mum, Dad and my older brother, Stuart. When it came to outside influences, there were three constants: the local newspapers, Johnny Cash and the ABC. At the time I did not realise how formative it was, but my parents were very engaged in the world around them. You do not realise how much you absorb as a child. Mum and Dad would read the local papers as well as the Melbourne *Herald Sun*, then relay and discuss stories with each other.

My lifelong passion for the arts started early. It ran in my blood. My brother and sons are the same. Dad bought me a piano complete with candle holders from the church auction, and my love of music grew and grew. At 11, I was offered a music scholarship to boarding school. I cried every night of the first year but, thanks to the care and compassion of the older girls at the school, I returned for five more years and the tears disappeared. I never looked back. I loved being in the school choir, where we mastered four-part harmonies, winning eisteddfods and performing Sunday afternoon concerts in some of the most beautiful churches from Evandale to Carrick, Launceston to Longford. Boarders were often roped in to extracurricular activities to make up the numbers and I was cajoled into joining the debating team. It was incredibly nerve-racking at first, but I got the hang of it and it gave me a lifelong skill that has helped on my journey to where I stand today.

Launceston was the centre of Australian politics in the mid-'80s as the conflict stepped up to save the Franklin. Our school had a great outdoor-ed program that opened my eyes to the rugged beauty of Tasmania. Bob Brown and the struggles to save the wild rivers started my thinking about the environment. I grew up on the edge of the Tarkine and knew the beauty of the native forests. None of what was happening in south-west Tasmania sat well with me. I would often visit the Wilderness Society Centre and proudly displayed the "No Dams" sticker on my school folder. This moment, when environmental issues became mainstream and my generation sat up and realised what was at risk for our future, was formative for me. When I was 18 I went on a Rotary Youth Exchange to South Africa, which was still under apartheid. It was 1987. My world opened up in many ways. I saw such raw beauty and cultural and religious diversity, but it was also shockingly confronting: people being kicked in the street, inequality, poverty and racism. It was the beginning of my politicisation.

I had never been to Sydney and knew no-one when I turned up as a 19-year-old to study politics. Tasmania might as well have been another country, and relating to that hope of a new beginning in a strange place is probably why I have an appreciation and affinity for those with a migrant story. Having spent six years at boarding school, three years of University of New South Wales campus college life was like returning home. I made lifelong friends, and in the University Union I cut my teeth in governance and on committees. Ironically, I dropped Politics halfway through second year for a double major in History and English. It was subjects such as Roger Bell's "Race, Slavery and Immigration" and Paul Behrendt's "Aboriginal Studies" that had a profound impact on me.

I got a job in the mighty Commonwealth Employment Service, no less, in the days before outsourcing and privatisation. It was when finding a job for people who were unemployed was still a vocation—and an incredibly rewarding one at that. I was introduced to another section of our community and quickly realised that I loved helping people and excelled at finding solutions for them. I met my husband, Michael, there. We were members of the Community and Public Sector Union and huge fans of Keating, and we joined the Australian Labor Party. We wanted to make a difference and make a change; it was as simple as that.

Michael and I joined our local branch, and Paul Elliott was the Federal member for Parramatta at the time. He is here today. The people we met at the monthly Federal electorate council meetings made an indelible imprint on our lives. I have a lot of people to thank for the wonderful relationships in those early years, and during the recent campaign I was struck that so many of those people came out to help me. We are still bound by the clarity of our common Labor values.

Our humble house in Dundas Valley chose us. The cost of housing dictates where you buy your first home, which I note is tragically beyond so many of us these days and is something this Government intends to address. Once our sons, Byron and Hayden, arrived, we set down roots and became embedded in our community—which quickly became more important to us than being upwardly mobile.

Anyone who knows me will know I have strong feminist values. I wanted a successful career like my uni friends. However, with limited family support and with Michael travelling for work, I made a decision to focus on our sons and held off on my career. Instead of pursuing an opportunity in local government, my sons and I posed for others' election material. Hayden and Byron featured in many a baby shot on a winning—and sometimes losing—DL. I have no regrets because this led me to becoming more absorbed in my community

through volunteering, where I formed lifelong friendships, while providing me with skills and connections that stood me in good stead later on.

I developed an incredibly deep bond with my sons while supporting my community, from Ermington Uniting Church Preschool, Yates Avenue P&C, 1st North Rocks Scouts, Cumberland Gang Show and canteen duties at Dundas United to my local Labor branch and State electorate council. I am not unique, and that is probably why I feel compelled to share this story—because the "ordinary" demonstrates the importance of having people like me here. To be a strong voice for your community requires being a part of it and understanding it, and it is being immersed and embedded that, in my mind, makes for strong representation.

I was approached to work in Tanya Gadiel's electorate office [EO]. The irony is not lost on me that I was sitting at my desk the day Geoff Lee walked into the EO to collect the keys after the 2011 State election. For 15 years I had the privilege of working with Tanya, Nathan Rees, Julie Owens, Barbara Perry, Luke Foley and Julia Finn. Despite the popular media perception of much of politics, working closely with MPs showed me it is actually the little changes you make in people's lives that give a deep sense of satisfaction. People want someone who can help them when they have nowhere else to go.

Working for Barbara Perry, who juggled the very diverse, demanding electorate of Auburn with what felt like about 100 shadow ministries—and I am not talking Sport and the Arts here—was next level. Barbara's EO was just an extraordinary place. There was no instruction manual for that job. It was like a community drop-in centre, with people constantly coming in with incredibly complex needs—disease, disability and disadvantage, often with traumatic pasts, from non-English-speaking backgrounds, without family or financial safety nets. I was struck by the resilience of so many we walked beside.

It was both exhausting and rewarding. From the moment you turned up at the doorstep until you went home that night, you had no idea what would be in store for you. We sometimes spent years walking alongside people, both battling and connecting with government agencies to do so. I established links with community leaders and groups that I still have today. Barbara's family has endured hours of her taking phone calls from people, including me, who need her support and advice. The qualities I revere and the reason Barbara has become my trusted friend, mentor and confidante are as simple and profound as this: She always remained true to herself and to her place.

It is my belief that working in some of the most disenfranchised communities has given me the credentials to be an effective member of Parliament. Before I am told this means I should have been a social worker rather than an MP, I say this: Engaging with people with a lived experience of a policy area, or of a sometimes infuriating and indifferent bureaucracy, is always an opportunity to grapple with the bigger picture—with how the system needs to be fixed. Working on systemic issues should be at the heart of politics.

I am determined to be an effective member for Parramatta, an electorate previously represented by Jack Lang. Jack served two terms as Mayor of Auburn, and Parramatta's new electorate boundaries now include the area where Jack Lang lived—Silverwater and Newington. As a student of history, I am intrigued by the collision of paths. The most famous politician to hail from where I grew up in Tasmania was his nemesis, Honest Joe Lyons.

The Burramattagal people of the Dharug clan have gathered on their lands for 60,000 years. This was a meeting and ceremonial place between the mountains and the sea where people came to conduct business and care for country, sustained by the river. Parramatta has great bones that are the envy of any other emerging city—a river, World Heritage parklands and buildings, national heritage, a strong connection to First Nations and location, location, location. It is alive with an incredibly diverse population that is energised, eager and destined to succeed. Critical to our success is recognising what is so unique about us and ensuring that our sense of place remains.

We know that socially and economically successful cities are places where families and individuals, essential workers, artists, our youth, the elderly and families stay—and do not move away from. Right now we have a once-in-a-century opportunity to make sure the private and public sectors work together to get the balance right so that Parramatta, from Wentworth Point to Westmead, enhances what is unique while delivering a place that is liveable. This is not something that will happen naturally.

We only have to look at the recent loss of the Royal Oak and Willow Grove and the scandalous urban growth proposals for the rebranded "Parramatta North". It reminds me of the '70s plans for The Rocks that Jack Munday resisted. It shows the same lack of vision and, rather than adding to the economy, will suppress it because it will take away the exact things that build economies and attract people to a place.

We are all familiar with the story of World Heritage listed Old Government House and Parramatta Park. On the opposite riverbank is a place of equal significance, although her story is seldom told. This is the place of the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct, where from 1821 to 2008 thousands of women and

children were institutionalised in State care. It is the most significant site of women's history in Australia. I look forward to working with the Federal member for Parramatta, Dr Andrew Charlton, and the Hon. Penny Sharpe, Minister for Heritage, to push for World Heritage status for this precinct, which has been put on ice for far too long.

We must not stop there. Parramatta has a strategic opportunity to expand its northern boundary to incorporate the botanic gardens of the Cumberland heritage precinct. The only way is up for Parramatta, and that means more people, with a higher demand for open space. You cannot magic up green space, and that is why we need to protect what we have. Ensuring the botanic gardens of the Cumberland precinct are preserved as part of the Female Factory and Institutions Precinct and incorporated into Parramatta Park would be a legacy for generations to come.

It must always be remembered that the sandstone blocks of the Parramatta Female Factory are as old and storied as those of Macquarie Street, Sydney. Both must be treated with the same level of respect. The battle for Willow Grove was a fight to keep more than just a house. Willow Grove was as much a part of the place of Parramatta as the new buildings such as PHIVE. Robert Hughes said:

An urban culture that predicates itself chiefly on an obsession with development is not worth having. A city needs deep memory, without which it becomes merely a stage set.

The treatment of our First Nations people in Parramatta has a torrid past. We need to walk alongside and partner with First Nations people, because there is still so much to be done to right the wrongs. I am determined to be a part of a State government that actually makes the systemic changes we need to get things right. Our Premier's commitment to a treaty is critical to us succeeding, as is working hand in glove with the Federal Government to achieve the Voice to Federal Parliament. Until our First Nations people are no longer marginalised in their own country, we have not come close to succeeding.

I turn now to people I want to thank who have shaped and supported me. Helen Westwood is an invaluable sounding-board who lives and breathes Western Sydney. She is a gay woman, an activist, a unionist, a former mayor and MLC who has taught me the importance of staying the course. The skill of listening is critical to success, and I have taken heed of much sound advice and counsel from a parliament of wise owls, many of whom are here today, including Councillor Patricia Provic, Paul Elliott, Paul Houston, Chris Worthington, Phil Bradley, Michael Butterworth, Tony Ryan, Elizabeth Scully, Bill Sayers and Mayor of Cumberland City Councillor Lisa Lake. My dear friends Ian Caruth and his wife, Irene, and Phil Russo and his wife, Margaret, now passed, have been such gifts. They saw in me a future, way before I ever did.

For years I was lucky to job-share with Bronwen Hanna, whom we quickly discovered should not be let anywhere near the front desk but left to focus on the foster care system and saving Windsor Bridge. I thank Enver Yasar, who has taught me so much about Middle Eastern geopolitics and about growing up Muslim in Australia. To Michael Ng—more family than friend—and to Kun Huang, Fifi Esber, Lorraine Zaher, Rima Dabliz, Paul Murphy, Launa Jabour, David Halliday and Stephen Leslie, I also say thanks.

I acknowledge Labor Party branch members—too many to name individually, but that does not detract from the impact so many have made on my life and, more recently, on my political career. I extend my thanks to all the councillors I have served with during my time at the City of Parramatta, and to the council officers. Together we have achieved so much. Parramatta is "where it's at", and we have definitely cemented its place as a destination in which to live, work, study and play.

I acknowledge all those whom I worked alongside to fight for Parramatta's heritage—no-one more than the formidable Suzette Meade and her patient and loving children, Liam, Matilda and Ned. What we failed to achieve in saving Willow Grove in its rightful place, we achieved in putting heritage significance front and centre in the mind of the populace. I thank my firm friend, Paul Hogan, who, along with Ashley Watson, encouraged me to become a member of the UNSW University Union; it was my first introduction to standing up and being counted.

I thank James Cullen, whom Michael and I first met when he was still at Parramatta Marist High School. Even then, for someone that young, he had an appetite for all that Labor stood for. He was like a sponge taking it all in. We knew from that age where his future was headed, and it has been delightful to watch James' career develop. I never expected that we would now be linked in this way, working together in this place. Our friendship and mutual connections have proved invaluable and are a key contributor to why I am here today. I thank Tanya Gadiel, Nathan Rees, Julie Owens, Barbara Perry—again—and Julia Finn for the opportunity to work for and learn from you.

Luke Foley gave me the gift of running his electorate office in Auburn while he was Leader of the Opposition. He relied on me to hold the fort—so much so that, with a wry smile, he would introduce me at events

as the member for Auburn. I had no ambition, then, or any clue that I would end up in this place, but the skills, relationships and experience I gathered in that role for four years gave me the confidence to run for council, and for that I am grateful.

I thank Chris Willis, Julian Lee, Dan Maloney, Todd Pinkerton, Michael Buckland, Michael Samaras, Lee Bellia and Jenny Williams for having my back in that role—it was a tough gig. I know Enver and I changed Julian's life forever when we initiated him in Auburn with a halal snack pack. I thank Antony Dale, an incredibly competent doer who has played an enormous part in my three campaign successes; Dom Ofner, an ethical, genuine, kind and spirited leader; and Bob Nanva for his wise counsel and leadership. I thank the unflappable Liam Rankin and his budding apprentice, Dan Magee—the boy from Loftus who, despite his Samsung Galaxy and aversion to Google, proved himself to be a campaign pro. I am eternally grateful to Shane Bentley, Suman Saha and Zyon Langford for their unwavering commitment and steady hands.

I thank all the MPs and MLCs who came out to support me during our campaign. I appreciated the wonderful engagement of Federal MPs Andrew Charlton, Jerome Laxale and Sally Sitou, with whom I share boundaries.

Billy Bragg never penned a truer line than "There is power in a union". Enormous thanks go to Graeme Kelly, Mark Morey, Mel Gatfield, Rita Mahlia, Unions NSW, the Public Service Association, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association—especially the members at Westmead and the Children's Hospital at Westmead—the NSW Teachers Federation, the Independent Education Union, the CFMEU, the Australian Services Union, the United Workers Union and the United Services Union.

To my community and to organisations right across the Parramatta, Auburn and Epping electorates, as well as the Parramatta local government area, I thank you. There are too many to acknowledge for fear of missing some, but I look forward to building on our relationships over the next four years. I thank the Premier for all those trips to Parramatta and for putting people first. One of the highlights of the campaign was Chris playing *Thunderstruck* and *Shallow* with Kyle and Jackie O. At the time I told the Parramatta campaign team that if we won, I would do a duet. Only time will tell.

To my in-laws, Davida and Ken, and Mark and Sue—the past few years have been a wild roller-coaster ride. While much of my time was consumed with council and the campaign, my loving husband was juggling work with his family's health issues. Michael's dad, Ken, was a "GPS boy"—Glebe Public School. He loved to tell that line. Like my mum, he was also a council employee, working at Sydney City Council from the time he left school until retirement. Labor to his bootstraps, Ken was always keenly interested in my endeavours and extremely proud of what I had achieved to become lord mayor. Sadly, Ken passed away last October. Michael's mum, Davida, lost the love of her life. Now she resides on level 1 of a Western Sydney aged-care facility, while her daughter is in a room downstairs.

My brother-in-law, Mark, could not be here today as he will be attending to Sue, but my promise to him and to the people of Parramatta is to keep up the push for palliative care at Westmead. We all deserve to die with dignity, close to our families. Sadly, my mum is also unwell and not with us here today. Mum's tenacity, attention to detail, sense of humour and fashion have been borne out in me. Scott Morrison single-handedly led my mother, at the age of 87, to vote Labor for possibly the only time in her life—despite Mum coming from good Labor stock, with her cousins Geoff Chisholm having served in the Tasmanian Parliament, Kim Polley having served as a former Northern Midlands mayor and Senator Anthony Chisholm in the current Federal Government. It is a Labor bloodline not to be sniffed at.

I spoke to Mum on Tuesday night. She told me how proud she was, and how proud Dad would have been of that little girl in gumboots who followed him around on the farm. Today is for my dad. My brother, Stuart, was also unable to be here today. Our shared interest in music and film has always brought us together. Our shared political views also steered us in the opposite direction to our parents, giving us the perfect opportunity to stir the possum—with Mum always taking the bait.

To my sons, Byron and Hayden, I did give you a chance to read this speech first, but you chose not to take that opportunity. My sons are my pride and joy, and I love them so much. They have been an integral part of my desire to make the world a better place. We would drag Byron and Hayden along to branch meetings where they would sit at a corner table with their books and a few toys. Hayden recounts one meeting I chaired when I kept saying that we were waiting for quorum so we could start the meeting. He remembers that sometime later a guy walked in the door, and I said, "We've got quorum!" Hayden thought to himself, "Finally, I know what this 'Quorum' guy looks like." Out of the mouths of babes.

While we often talk about what parents sacrifice for their kids, my sons have certainly sacrificed a lot for me. They have waved placards, created iMovies, put up yard signs, letterboxed, given fashion advice and

counselling sessions—to me, of course—set up booth kits and polling booths, and built A-frames. They have cooked, cleaned, done the washing and kept the house functioning. They have suffered every possible embarrassing aspect of being the sons of a politician, yet they still come back for more.

Alongside me all the way has been my husband, Michael. I never expected to be here today, but apparently he did—seeing in me what I could not see myself, and for that I am eternally grateful. I particularly appreciate all Michael has done to help me overcome my fears and build my confidence. Your patience and kindness is second to none.

I was not born yesterday. I am not naive to what it takes to make change in this place. Compromise is always needed but, if we get the settings right, we will end up leaving this State better than we found it. I intend to do all I can to play my part in making this reality.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Governor

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Debate resumed from 9 May 2023.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (14:31): Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to again congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. I know that you will do a wonderful job. Colleagues, I am delighted to stand before you today to speak in reply to the Governor's contribution made by the Lieutenant-Governor. First, I congratulate all of my colleagues in this place on their re-election or election. I know that each and every one of them, regardless of their political persuasion or what side of the Chamber they sit on, is in this place in the best interests of their community, and to do the best that they can and what they feel is right. Of course, in this place we do not always agree. But that is why this place exists—so that we can work out a consolidated position that is in the best interests of the people of New South Wales in each of our communities, as we advance into the future and navigate our way through the many challenges that local families, businesses and community groups are confronted with every day.

As I reflect upon the election campaign, I think about the principles and values that the Labor Party took to the people of New South Wales and sought a mandate for to change their lives, particularly those in my area of west and south-west Sydney—whether they are a mum in Mulgoa who works at the local hospital trying to get by and earn a decent income; a tradie trying to grow their business and get on with doing the best they can to provide for their family; or one of our frontline workers, who we relied on heavily and who did such an amazing job during the COVID pandemic that started in 2019 and from which people are still recovering, not just from a health perspective but also from an economic perspective. The budgetary implications from COVID-19 for our State are well known, but the budgets of local businesses and families have also copped a hit.

The challenge is very clear as we look ahead into the future. I will take the House through some of the commitments that Labor took to the campaign, which our Government will deliver. We will deliver safe staffing levels of nurses and midwives, meaning there will be one nurse to every three patients in emergency departments. That will be a positive step forward to finally seeing patients get the care that they need and providing staff with the resources that they need. We know that a health system cannot and does not rely on the goodwill and care of our nurses and hospital workers alone. Yes, they will continue to give. That is why they do the job and why they are in that profession. It is not just an income for them; they want to care for patients and their families, ultimately to make them better and to improve their lives.

We also gave the commitment of an additional 500 paramedics. Currently, paramedics are under a lot of pressure and stress as they navigate their way through daily life and servicing the needs of patients. We will return 600 hospital beds to west and south-west Sydney, where we desperately need them. They are not just beds. This is not just capital. This is not just bricks and mortar, because we know that it is people that cure people. It is people that care for people. Yes, we welcome capital investment for upgrades to hospitals. It is very important. But that must be complemented with people to work in those new buildings and hospitals to provide the care that patients so desperately need. Of course, when I think about the upgrades that we committed to, I refer to Canterbury, Fairfield, Mount Druitt and Blacktown hospitals—just to name a few. We will also deliver a new hospital at Rouse Hill.

We cannot escape the effect that tolls are having on working families, particularly in west and south-west Sydney. I talk to many local workers and tradies who are paying a minimum of \$200 per week in fuel, tolls and parking costs just to go to work. That is an enormous expense. If someone is on an income of \$50,000 or \$60,000

a year, they are looking at almost one-quarter of their income going to getting to work to earn it. That really puts in perspective the daily reality for those in west and south-west Sydney. I note that my colleague the member for Wollondilly is in the Chamber. She knows this all too well. Her electorate is next to mine and her constituents also travel outside of their electorate to get to work. Around west and south-west Sydney—and I include Wollondilly in these statistics—70 per cent to 80 per cent of people travel outside of their local government area for their work and their income, which incurs a massive expense. That is why we are capping tolls at \$60 a week for New South Wales drivers. It is a positive step forward that will provide assistance for local families, businesses and tradies across the west and south-west of the city.

I am proud to work with the education Minister, my good friend and the Deputy Premier, Prue Car. I am her Parliamentary Secretary and working with her for more than 20 years has been nothing less than a pleasure. She is a wonderful, strong, amazing woman, who took good education policies to the election for the people of New South Wales to decide. They include building and upgrading a number of schools across west and south-west Sydney, particularly in the growth suburbs of Gledswood Hills, Gregory Hills, Leppington, Schofields and Tallawong, just to name a few. To the south of my electorate, we are committed to planning and building schools for future communities, where there will be upwards of 19,000 homes. Cutting administration hours for teachers by five hours a week is so important. It is a step towards making sure that our teachers get back to being educators for our students rather than administrators.

Housing affordability is one of the most confronting economic issues in this State. I commend my colleagues Paul Scully, Rose Jackson and, of course, Daniel Mookhey, who have worked hard to address that issue and put steps in place. I commend the Premier on his announcement of stamp duty tax cuts, which will result in 95 per cent of home buyers either paying no tax or being taxed at a reduced rate, which will help immensely many first-time buyers to get into the market. The great Australian dream is not called the great Australian dream for no reason: It has always been and always should be the great Australian dream to own our own home. We cannot let it slip away. The Government's policy is yet another positive step forward to achieve that. Yet it still remains a dream for so many. It remains my dream for my two boys, and I know many members of this House have their dream for their children, their grandchildren and generations to come. That is why we must be proactive in this policy space; that is why this Labor Government is proactive in that policy space.

My good friend and Minister for Roads, the Hon. John Graham, has often spoken about roads in my electorate, particularly in south-western areas and in Western Sydney. I appreciate the attention he has given to the issues concerning Appin Road, which the former mayor of Wollondilly and elected member for Wollondilly is all too familiar with. She campaigned on the condition of Appin Road in this year's election, and I commend her for doing so. The Government is committed to a \$1.1 billion road funding package over the next three years for new and upgraded roads right across south-west Sydney, Western Sydney and regional areas of New South Wales. When I think about what we have achieved as a government, we do not pat ourselves on the back; rather, we will continue to work through the commitments we have made and deliver on the Government's agenda. Already the Government has legislated to prohibit the sale of Sydney Water and Hunter Water. The Constitution Amendment (Sydney Water and Hunter Water) Bill 2023 has reached the second reading stage.

The Government has also moved to ban secret rent bidding to alleviate the pressure felt by people seeking rental accommodation. The Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading has done a lot of work in that space. It is so very important to strengthen the rules for government grants. My colleagues on this side of the House and I take the view that good governments govern for all, regardless of where people live. It does not matter whether people live in Clarence, Newtown, Campbelltown or Camden, I take the view, and always have, that people can vote the way they want and, irrespective of the outcome, I will represent each and every one of the people of my electorate without privilege and without fear or favour. Irrespective of who my constituents vote for, I will fight for them and do everything I can for them. I believe that is the ethos of the policy announced by the Premier that will ensure the people of New South Wales have a government that governs for them and their interests.

Can we do everything for everyone right now? No. But there is one thing we do and will always do. We will always do our best to be fair in the pursuit of prosperity for every man, woman and child in this State and to ensure that they get what they need and deserve. That may sound complex to some, but to my mind it is a basic political principle. Any alternative ethos does nothing more than drive and motivate frustration in our society and destroy people's faith in the political process as well as in this great Parliament, which is the oldest Parliament in the nation.

The Government is also committed to an immediate freeze on the sale of all public and social housing and privatisation. We know that privatisation simply has not worked. It is not rocket science; rather, it is well understood that selling public assets for revenue raising, without asking the public and without the consent and knowledge of the public, is simply something that should never occur. It is like running down the road and selling your mate's car without telling him, putting a "For Sale" sign on it, and then saying, "Sorry, I got 500 bucks for

it." I acknowledge that is a simple analogy, but the principles are the same. The Government will implement legislation to prohibit the sale of public assets and change the Constitution Act to protect Sydney Water and Hunter Water. We will not see future governments flogging off public assets without bringing the proposal before Parliament. Prohibiting the sale of public assets altogether is the right thing to do and it meets the expectations of our community. I believe the election results have provided a very significant mandate for the Government to take that action.

Travelling by public transport around our State is very difficult. I know that because I live in south-west Sydney. My colleagues in Western Sydney, such as the member for Prospect, also know that. But we must not forget our regions. I note the presence in the Chamber of the member for Charlestown and Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, who also knows about those issues. My colleagues in the Hunter and regional New South Wales know that transport connectivity is a challenge every day for country people. I know that from personal experience, having been born and raised in Dubbo. Public transport remains a matter of deep concern in our State's regions. That is why it is so important, in undertaking a review of the entire public transport network, to ensure that the review is holistic and fair for everyone. I will have more to say on those matters at a later date. I appreciate the indulgence of the House in allowing me to reply to the speech delivered by Lieutenant-Governor the Hon. Andrew Bell. I thank the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:46): I contribute to debate on the address-in-reply to the speech delivered by Lieutenant-Governor the Hon. Andrew Bell. First and foremost I acknowledge that Lieutenant-Governor the Hon. Andrew Bell acknowledged the contribution and the feelings of newly elected members. This is my first opportunity to welcome new members to the crazy place that is the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. I particularly acknowledge my Greens colleague the member for Balmain, Kobi Shetty. I recognise the very large shoes to fill of the former member for Balmain but hasten to add, having campaigned with Kobi as the candidate for Balmain over the past year or more, that she will effortlessly fill those shoes. I am very confident she will work hard for her community and that she is absolutely committed to being an effective member of this House.

It is important to recognise what I like to describe as a new world order in New South Wales, after 12 years of seeing the most vulnerable and desperate people in our community being left behind while big business, corporate profits, corporate interests, backroom deals and discussions with mates in stadium corporate boxes ruled the way our democracy functioned. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minns Labor Government on the outcome of the election and add that it is a welcome change to see Labor members occupying the Government benches. I acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Minister for Women. I am very pleased about her appointment to that role.

We know that the Labor Government is a minority government. On the first day of formal business the Premier suggested that in many ways this House will be a place of much more robust, healthy and—hopefully—at times respectful debate. Perhaps that will not always be so, but maybe the idea of listening to different perspectives and views may actually come to this Chamber. Because the reality is that the harsh numbers sometimes do the talking, and there is a need to convince more people to get on board.

Another useful aspect of minority government in the context of the priorities the Labor Party took to the election and was elected for is the refocusing on communities and people. Minority governments can do a number of things. While sitting on the crossbench The Greens are absolutely committed to ensuring that we put the community at the heart of our democracy. The need for governments to negotiate and have conversations with crossbench members is a way of ensuring a diversity of community views and voices. The crossbench includes both the smallest electorate and largest electorates geographically: Newtown, in the inner city, which I represent; and Murray and Barwon. Because the crossbench represents inner-city communities and regional and remote communities, we have a broad spectrum and range of views on a number of issues. I note that the member for Wagga Wagga is also in the Chamber.

We feel that full political spectrum on a range of issues but, on the issue of listening to and representing our communities' concerns in this Chamber and making sure the Government is listening to those priorities, the crossbench shares many common values. In a lot of ways those values align with the priorities of the incoming Government, particularly the need to listen to, support and resource our teachers, nurses, midwives, paramedics, those engaged in frontline services and particularly those who are engaging with what has been a challenging time in New South Wales transport. I give a shout-out to the incredible folks who have been dealing with the crisis under former transport Ministers who were running the show as if it were their kingdom to manoeuvre and score political points in but were failing to get the trains running when they needed to. They were also privatising our bus network right under our noses.

Those former Ministers seemed to have forgotten that the concept of public transport is that we keep it in public hands. It is not public transport if we privatise it and it is run to make a profit instead of to deliver services

to the community. I am happy to give credit where credit is due: to the new Minister for Transport. I caught the train in from Newtown this morning, and it ran very smoothly. It was the first time I had been on a train since this Parliament began. I congratulate the new Minister for Transport on doing a sensational job. I stopped catching the train when Minister Elliott was in the role because I thought he was such a disaster. I did not like to show him support—I am only joking; I like to catch public transport all the time.

While I am on the issue of transport, I will talk about the commitment the Minister for Transport and member for Summer Hill made to the upgrade to the Lewisham station, which is on the border of the electorates of Newtown and Summer Hill. That station is regularly the subject of memes. People draw fish and sharks in the flooded stairwell people must go through to get into the station. There is no accessibility at that station. Every time it rains, it floods, so people cannot get down the stairs without getting wet. It is outrageous. Our new regional members might think that the city gets everything, but we seriously need a lift at Lewisham station. I am pleased to say that the new Minister for Transport made that commitment during the election campaign, and I look forward to working with her soon to make sure that promise is delivered.

I was pleased that during the election we had a real recognition of renters and a commitment to making sure that they are prioritised. It was very much the renters' election. It is valuable to know that people are renting for longer and longer in our communities and that the rental crisis is significant and real. I acknowledge that this Government has prioritised rental reforms in the first sitting of Parliament. I welcome the portable bond scheme put in place. I have foreshadowed that we have concerns about the rent-bidding element, but we hope we can work constructively with the Government to deliver the reforms needed in the rental space to make sure that there is a commitment to ending all bidding as opposed to ending only secret bidding.

It is important to highlight that the cost-of-living crisis is putting financial stress on all members of our community, and that has huge impacts on the need to adequately fund mental health support, homelessness services, crisis accommodation, tenants' advice and advocacy services, and domestic violence services. We must recognise that helping the most vulnerable in our community to make sure that they are not left behind is a role for the Government. It is critical that we recognise that tinkering around the edges when it comes to addressing these reforms will not be enough.

We had 12 years of decimation under the Liberals and The Nationals. They put everything they could out to tender and consulted on everything they could—not by listening to the community but by paying their wealthy consultant mates lots of money. They privatised everything they could and cut funding to every service that helped vulnerable people in our communities. So I urge the Minns Labor Government and all the incoming Ministers to recognise that they must be bold in reshaping the way in which we support vulnerable communities. Just making a small shift here or a small change there will not be enough to actually address the harm that has been done to communities over successive terms of Liberal-Nationals governments in this State.

We need a shift to the idea where people and communities are put first. That means that no-one should ever be turned away from a homelessness shelter in any of our electorates. It means that when a person rings up a sexual assault line, someone should always be on the other end of the line. It means that every time someone needs specialist care in one of our hospitals or public health facilities, they are responded to and supported. We must recognise that a budget surplus or a budget bottom line should never be the choice we take over and above making sure people in need in our community are looked after and cared for.

I acknowledge that there is a significant shift with the increase in diversity in representation in the Legislative Assembly. It is a welcome change to see in this Chamber. I acknowledge the incredible achievement of the New South Wales Labor Party, whose Cabinet, through a commitment to quotas and to developing and supporting women within their ranks, is 50 per cent women. But I would not be myself, the member for Newtown, if I did not take a minute to say that we have a long way to go. We have increased the diversity in the Chamber and the number of women in the Cabinet—that's bloody great. But, with all due respect, you might notice, Mr Speaker, that the Premier, the Opposition leader, the Leader of the House, the Manager of Opposition Business, the Government Whip, the Opposition Whip and the Deputy Opposition Whip and yourself are all men. It is time for women to step up. The men should not get to run this place. I urge all members to do—

Mr Stephen Kamper: Take my job.

Ms JENNY LEONG: I do not think anyone wants it. The member can have it. It is important for us, especially those of us who are strong feminists and unionists in our communities, to recognise that, while we campaign hard for equal pay for equal work and for the recognition of the importance of making sure that women have a seat at the table, it should extend to all aspects of our lives. We must also recognise that in this Parliament there is currently a massive gender pay gap because all of those positions are taken by men. The Greens raise that challenge so that we can address it in the future.

I conclude with the need to recognise our community's demand—the urgent voices and cries for help—for desperate action on a range of measures. We saw on the street outside this Chamber incredible actions of unions striking, demanding an end to the public sector wage cap, demanding ratios for our nurses and midwives, demanding that our public bus and train networks come back into public hands, demanding better pay and conditions for public sector workers, and demanding that our emergency frontline services' need for help be recognised.

We also saw First Nations people marching during the pandemic and beyond to demand justice. It is incumbent on all of us to recognise the ongoing struggle for First Nations justice. We need to commit to delivering it in this Parliament. It starts with treaty, but it must not end there. It is unacceptable for young First Nations children to be away from their families and loved ones tonight, incarcerated in New South Wales prisons. Prisons are no place for children. Children should not be away from their parents, from their kin or from their loved ones for one night, let alone for multiple nights, because the system has failed to provide them with the support they need early in life.

We need to recognise that the destruction happening to our environment and climate is real and that we cannot have environmental and climate justice without First Nations justice. We need to recognise that there is an intersection between all of these things and that the Parliament has the opportunity to address it. I welcome the chance to contribute to this address-in-reply debate, to congratulate the incoming Minns Labor Government on its election and to welcome all new members here. But I also say that this is an opportunity for us to take radical and drastic steps to change the direction of this State. The past 12 years have shown us that we are heading the wrong way. Our community, environment, climate and our many threatened species are crying out for us to act. It is not time to make incremental changes but to implement radical reforms that deliver on the promise we made to our communities and to keep them at the heart of everything we do.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit the moving of a motion, copies of which have been circulated to members, regarding the appointment of a Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REMOTE, RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH

Establishment and Membership

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (15:02): I move:

That notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders:

- (1) A select committee, to be known as the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health be appointed.

Terms of Reference

- (2) The committee will inquire into and report on health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales, specifically:
 - (a) the implementation of the recommendations made by the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 2 report *Health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales* (the Portfolio Committee No. 2 report); and
 - (b) any matters relating to the report on progress and developments referred to in recommendation 6 of the Portfolio Committee No. 2 report (recommendation 6 report).
- (3) In undertaking (2), the committee can examine and report on the following matters relevant to the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Portfolio Committee No. 2 report, or the recommendation 6 report, relevant to the effective implementation of the recommendations including but not limited to:
 - (a) any matter referred to it by the House;
 - (b) any relevant legislation, policy, bill or subordinate legislation;
 - (c) any relevant financial matter; and
 - (d) any relevant portfolio issue.
- (4) Legislative scrutiny—The committee, in undertaking (2), will have a legislative scrutiny function that shall include evaluating the policy impact and consequences for each portfolio of any bill relevant to implementation of the Portfolio Committee No. 2 report or recommendation 6 report introduced in Parliament, and any item of subordinate legislation.

- (5) Financial matters—The examination of financial matters by the committee in undertaking (2) includes the review of government financial management, as relevant to the implementation of the Portfolio Committee No. 2 inquiry report and recommendation 6 report, by considering the financial documents, expenditure, performance and effectiveness of any relevant government department, agency, statutory body or State owned corporation.
- (6) Examination of annual and other reports—In undertaking (2), the committee may examine any matter in the annual report or other reports of any public body, including an annual report, other report or petition. The committee can only consider a bill on referral from the House in accordance with Standing Order 323 (Legislation Committees).

Initiation of inquiries

- (7) The committee may be referred an inquiry by resolution of the House or in writing from a Minister.
- (8) Except in the case of bills, the committee also may initiate an inquiry on its own motion and report on any proposal, matter or thing relevant to its functions, including an annual report, other report or petition. The committee can only consider a bill on referral from the House in accordance with Standing Order 323 (Legislation Committees).
- (9) The committee must take care not to duplicate an inquiry into any matters under examination by another portfolio or standing committee of the House, and any question arising in this connection may be referred to the House for determination.

Membership

- (10) The committee is to consist of seven members, comprising:
 - (a) four Government members;
 - (b) two Opposition members; and
 - (c) one crossbench member.
- (11) Dr Joe McGirr shall be the chair of the committee.
- (12) The members shall be Dr Joe McGirr, Ms Janelle Saffin, Mr Clayton Barr, Ms Liza Butler, Mrs Tanya Thompson, Mrs Leslie Williams and Mr Steve Whan.

Subcommittees

- (13) The committee have the power to appoint subcommittees, consisting of three members, and to refer to a subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider. In this regard, the subcommittee may be responsible for conducting hearings, briefings, visits of inspections and other activities but cannot make decisions concerning the conduct of an inquiry, such as the selection of witnesses, and the committee's reports.
- (14) A subcommittee have at least one member supporting the Government and one member not supporting the Government, and a quorum for a subcommittee shall be at least two members, one of whom must be a Government member and one of whom must be an Opposition member.

Visits of inspection

- (15) The committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales, and other States and Territories of Australia and relevant international jurisdictions.

Other matters

- (16) The committee will have leave to sit during the sitting or any adjournment of the House.
- (17) That at any meeting of the committee three members shall constitute a quorum, one of whom must be a Government member and one of whom must be an Opposition member.
- (18) The committee will deliver a final report by no later than two years from its first meeting and may report to the House, at any stage, pending its final report.

I specifically thank the member for Wagga Wagga, who is chairing the committee, as well as members from the Government and Opposition for volunteering to serve on a significant committee. I know the process has been rushed, but it is not until the House sets up a range of committees that I know the Legislative Assembly has capacity to staff the committee without it being overburdened like it normally is. So I thought this was a good opportunity. I know the Minister for Health is anxious for the committee to proceed as soon as possible. I thank the Manager of Opposition Business for his cooperation, because I have been pressuring him all day to agree to this. I also thank him for his suggestion to broaden the committee to include a member from both Opposition parties.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (15:06): The Opposition will support the motion, just as it consented to the suspension of standing and sessional orders. I appreciate the way in which we have been able to deal with the motion. We asked for some changes to be made, and I thank the Leader of Government Business for agreeing to them. This is an indication that in a minority government there are opportunities to establish processes and committees to ensure proper transparency and scrutiny of the Government. This was an excellent opportunity to do that and a great start. By having as its chair the member for Wagga Wagga—with his outstanding and distinguished service to regional medicine—the committee will have a unique opportunity to deal with the issues that it has to consider.

Select committees are not often established, but this indicates the bipartisan nature and importance of the issue at hand. Former Premier Perrottet endeavoured to make changes with the consent of other State Premiers because health has generally not been well served in the past by our Federal structure. The differentiation between responsibilities means the Federal Government looks after general practitioners and primary care and State governments are responsible for their hospital systems. As we are seeing now, GPs are under-resourced and poorly provided for in regional areas and that is putting a massive burden on our State hospital systems. Even though under the Coalition we had the best hospital system in Australia, it was still under great burden because of inadequacies in the Federal health structure. The burden has been as great in regional areas as in the city. The difficulty of getting health professionals into regional areas is a massive challenge for all of Australia, exacerbated by those problems with the Federal structure and the way in which health is dealt with federally.

Now that we have Labor governments at both Federal and State levels, there is a great onus on them and the Labor Party to deal with some of the systemic issues that have been confronting our Federation for decades. If the select committee that is being established is able to, in some small way, drive better outcomes for regional health, then it is a great thing. It is being done with the support of the Opposition. I am glad that we have both a National Party representative and a Liberal regional representative on the committee. That will expand the experience and the voices. The member for Port Macquarie, who is a former nurse, was our suggested addition to the membership of the committee. She will make a strong contribution to its consideration.

The Opposition supports the motion. We wish the member for Wagga Wagga and the other members of the committee God speed and great success in the work they do. There are some big issues in health in our nation, and they apply to our State—even though the Coalition allocated record funding for health during its time in office. The Opposition supports the motion.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:11): I will speak briefly on the motion. First of all, I thank the newly elected State Government and the Minister for Regional Health for working with me on developing the Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health. I also acknowledge the work of the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, and thank them for their words of support. I very much appreciate the bipartisan approach to the committee. There is no doubt that rural, regional and remote health is in crisis. It is unacceptable that the life expectancy of those in regions is lower than of those in metropolitan areas. That does not have to be. It is unacceptable that treatable health issues are not being addressed in an appropriate time. We have overworked GPs. They are not treating the conditions that can be treated in time, and that puts pressure on the health system. There are delays in the health system, and our health workforce suffers trying to meet the demand.

At the end of the day, lives suffer and communities suffer. As the member for Newtown, who spoke a few minutes ago, pointed out, at the heart of what we do is people in communities. Nothing is more important to them than their health, and in rural and regional areas that is a very significant issue. I spoke at the local government regional mayors' conference just before the election, and it was clear that for regional and rural communities health is the number one issue. It is unacceptable that people agonise over treatment for their children, thinking, "Can I take them in time? Can I get to services?" It is unacceptable that people delay treatment for cancer because it is just too far to travel to access services. Those are some of the realities we face.

I recognise that the Minister has given a firm commitment to resolving those issues. He has been very supportive. He was, in fact, an instigator of the upper House inquiry that led to comprehensive recommendations that I believe can change rural health. The point of the committee is to make sure that those recommendations are being implemented. That is going to change the face of regional and rural health. I am very pleased that there is bipartisan support for the work of the committee to make sure that that happens. I was very pleased with the Minister's visit to the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, where he saw issues for himself and met with local health professionals. At the same time, he managed to visit Griffith and Junee. I understand that he is going to Walgett next week. He has spoken very passionately in this Parliament. I take him at his word. He knows my views. I do not believe the issues will be solved without a regional health department. But I will work constructively with this Government to make sure that we do everything we can to implement the recommendations of the upper House inquiry. The committee is a very big part of that.

I also acknowledge the work of former Minister Bronnie Taylor in the other place, whose work as regional health Minister was very important in beginning to drive this process forward. Finally, I acknowledge the members of the crossbench for their support on this very important issue. In particular, I thank the member for Murray, the member for Barwon, the member for Ballina and the member for Orange, who have been very supportive in working with me. I look forward to harnessing their expertise, as I do the expertise of all rural and regional members, to make sure that we drive the implementation of the upper House inquiry recommendations and change the lives of rural, regional and remote people in New South Wales.

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

Motion agreed to.

Governor

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:15): It gives me great delight to contribute to this debate, noting the Governor's speech is an important part of the first day of a new Parliament and an important part of the constitutional and procedural machinery that marks a new Parliament. The date of 9 May this week was also important because it marked a change of government following the March 2023 State election. The Lieutenant-Governor noted that in his speech. He put the Parliament and his speech in the context of the history and strength of our democracy in this State by noting that it is 200 years this year since the New South Wales Act 1823 saw the creation of the Legislative Council, which sat in 1824. Those were the first small steps along the way to representative democracy in our State, which saw, in 1856, the establishment of full representative democracy and the Legislative Assembly, marking the first Parliament. That led to a succession of parliaments—57 parliaments—before this current Parliament, the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, was established and began its work this week.

The Lieutenant-Governor noted that, before the 2023 State election, the Labor Party had set out a plan for New South Wales with six main priorities. Those were to reform New South Wales's education system, including preschools and TAFE; to repair and rebuild our public health system; to increase access to affordable and reliable transport and cap road tolls; to ensure that good, sustainable housing is attainable for buyers and renters; to end the privatisation of State-owned assets and critical infrastructure while creating a State-owned energy corporation; and to build an economy that is resilient and works for people and small business. The Lieutenant-Governor noted that that was the agenda the Labor Party put to the people of New South Wales and that was the agenda it was elected on. The Lieutenant-Governor noted that this Labor Government has a mandate to implement that agenda, an agenda that is an unashamedly strong Labor agenda in the tradition of great Labor governments in this State.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of The Entrance electorate for returning me to this place. The election result in The Entrance electorate saw the Labor vote increase whilst the vote for the Liberal Party decreased. Insofar as that represents an endorsement of Labor's agenda and my work on behalf of the people of The Entrance electorate, I thank my constituents. And I pledge to do all I can to implement Labor's agenda for them in our electorate but also to represent their interests, diverse as they are, in this place. It is also appropriate that I thank those who helped me during the election campaign. I did not do it all on my own. There are two great Labor Party branches in The Entrance electorate—the Tumby branch and the Ourimbah-Narara Valley branch. I thank Kyle MacGregor, the secretary of the Ourimbah branch, and Margot Castle and Christine O'Donnell, the executive of the Tumby branch. I give a special thankyou to my staff: Catherine Wall, Dani, Alfat, Bridget and Matt. My staff worked in their own time ceaselessly and hugely towards our campaign in The Entrance electorate. I thank all those who volunteered. I note that we did not get any extra support this time. We were told by head office that we were not a targeted electorate.

Mr Steve Whan: You didn't need it. I did.

Mr DAVID MEHAN: Sure. Now, that was different to the past couple of elections, so it was a bit of a change. I put it to the branch members and our supporters in the electorate that we had to carry this on our own. To their great credit, my branch members and the union members from the United Workers Union, the Public Service Association and all those other mainly public sector unions that contributed did as they were asked to do and conducted a campaign that we can be forever proud of on the Central Coast. People in my electorate and the wider Central Coast—as well as supporting Labor's agenda for the State and what it will mean for them locally—also supported some local promises, including a commitment of \$2 million each year to council to support the construction of footpaths throughout the Central Coast.

There is also a commitment of \$40 million over the term of this Parliament to restart the work on the stage four upgrade of the Pacific Highway. That is a really important project. Stage three is almost finished and it is forever damning to those opposite that there has been no work on stage four since 2015. It will be with great pleasure that I will pursue and deliver on the promise we made to restart that work over the next four years to get the detailed design done on stage four and to get the upgrade of the Pacific Highway going for not only my electorate but also the Central Coast more generally.

Finally, \$400,000 will go to council to upgrade playgrounds in my electorate. I mention two playgrounds in particular. The upgrade to Picnic Point Reserve playground at The Entrance was a result of community agitation by local businesses and their supporters. They said that if we upgrade the playground we will get more people visiting and staying longer in the area. That is good for the economy, good for local business and good for my

constituents as well. A contribution to a playground upgrade at Wyoming on Maidens Brush Road across from the public school will also help reactivate that particular area of my electorate. I am pleased to be able to make that promise. I will be working hard to get that delivered sooner rather than later.

I take the opportunity to thank the Premier for giving me the honour and for having faith in me to be the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. I look forward to carrying out those duties to the best of my ability for the people of my electorate and the State. The Governor mentioned that this is a diverse Parliament. That is a good thing. There are nine Independents and The Greens party has returned its three members. Speaking for diverse interests across the State makes this place stronger. I look forward to working with crossbench members to further build the State for the benefit of all its people. The Lieutenant-Governor finished by saying:

... the Government has a clear mandate from the people of New South Wales to:

- invest in those who look after us – teachers, health and frontline workers
- address the rising cost of living through affordable transport options and sustainable housing
- ensure public-owned assets remain in public hands, and
- address the energy crisis.

That is an agenda we can all embrace in this place. I look forward to working with everybody to deliver that agenda for the people of New South Wales.

Debate adjourned.

Community Recognition Statements

LEE-ANNE MCDOUGALL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter) (15:25): It was my absolute pleasure earlier this year to present a NSW Government Community Service Award to the founder and president of Newcastle Pride, Lee-Anne McDougall. Lee-Anne was instrumental in the establishment of the organisation in 2018, which was the culmination of two decades of work serving on various committees, including Rainbow Visions and Big Rainbow. Under her leadership Newcastle Pride has become highly regarded for its advocacy, its work to create safe spaces and its inclusion of intersectional communities as well as allies. Lee-Anne's commitment and passion shine through in everything she does and I have seen firsthand how dedicated she is to inclusion and equality. It is thanks to Lee-Anne and Newcastle Pride that our city is a much more vibrant, diverse and overall wonderful place to be.

MEL BURGESS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:26): I acknowledge the wonderful Mel Burgess of Manly. Mel is the founder of Op for Change. Op for Change is a not-for-profit op shop that donates 100 per cent of its operating profit to local charities. It recently provided Community Northern Beaches with a \$10,000 cheque. As a patron of Community Northern Beaches, I know how important that \$10,000 is and how far it will go. I pass on my sincere gratitude and thanks to Mel. She said:

I wanted to bring a retail outlet to the local community that was not only sustainably and environmentally conscious but was welcoming and social too, a wonderful community space in Manly to shop, or just for people to come in for a browse and a chat.

It is people like Mel who demonstrate the generosity and compassion that exists within our local community. Through hard work and a fantastic vision, Mel is changing lives for the better. I say a huge thankyou to Mel. If members are looking for a good bargain, they should head over to Op for Change in Manly.

MACARTHUR FC

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (15:27): On Wednesday 3 May I attended Macarthur FC's medal night. The night recognised and rewarded the achievements of the A-League's newest and best club over the past season, the highlight of which was the Bulls winning its first major piece of silverware, the Australia Cup, in February. The Macarthur FC Medal was awarded to Ivan Vujica. Filip Kurto was awarded Members Player of the Season; Tima Johns, Club Person of the Season; Tamires Souza, Academy Player of the Year; and Kathleen Dalziel, Academy Volunteer of the Year. The Pat Carbone Award for Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Stephanie Stivala, Katrina Morton, Sia Sainsbury, Karen Hawkes and Lauren Donovan. I congratulate all the recipients of the awards. As a proud foundation member of the Bulls, I thank Macarthur FC's chair, Gino Marra, CEO Sam Krslovic and the entire Bulls organisation for their contribution to the south-west and the Macarthur region. I look forward to the continuing success of the mighty Bulls for many seasons to come.

RICHARD HANSEN

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:28): I acknowledge the police officer who rescued three people from floodwater in my Upper Hunter electorate during the 2022 flood emergencies. Senior Constable Richard Hansen not only achieved the miraculous under the circumstances, he captured the rescues on his body cam strapped to the front of his police vehicle in East Gresford. On the morning of Thursday 22 September, Officer Hansen went to Lyons Road, Bingleburra, west of Dungog, following information that three people in a vehicle were trapped by floodwater. He discovered a four-wheel drive carrying three people stranded on a causeway. Courageously, Senior Constable Hansen waded waist-deep into fast-flowing water three times and escorted a four-year-old boy, a 51-year-old woman and a 44-year-old woman to safety. Thankfully, the women and young boy did not sustain any physical injuries. On behalf of the Upper Hunter electorate, I thank Officer Hansen for his bravery, courage and service to his community.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:29): I wish all nurses on the Central Coast and throughout New South Wales a happy International Nurses Day for their incredibly hard work in keeping our community safe and well. The theme for International Nurses Day this year is "Our Nurses. Our Future."—a campaign to shine a light on nurses and move nurses from the invisible to invaluable in the eyes of policymakers, the public and all those who make decisions affecting the delivery and financing of our very important health care. I commend the nurses on the Central Coast, who provide amazing care to our patients. The people of my community and the people of New South Wales absolutely appreciate every single element of the deep care nurses provide in our hospitals and across the community. I thank all nurses ever so much.

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:29): On behalf of the Newtown electorate I recognise the thousands of people over the past 40 years who have been part of the Newtown Festival—the organisers, volunteers, artists, performers, stallholders and attendees. This week we are sad to say farewell to a festival that has been a joyous celebration for our inner west community and an important platform for local performers and artists over decades. Like so many Newtowners, I have countless good memories of the festival and have loved seeing it evolve and change over the years. One of my fondest memories is speaking on stage at the Newtown Festival after first being elected as the member for Newtown and leading our community in a collective *Shake It Off* after the recent election of Donald Trump. I thank the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre for its enormous efforts to ensure that its vital services continue. We commit to working with them, and I look forward to the next chapter of inclusive, free community events and to supporting a vibrant live arts and music scene in our local inner west community.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAPAKOSMAS

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (15:30): On 1 April the Illawarra labour movement and migrant community lost one of its greats, John Papakosmas. John is known by many as the father of multiculturalism in the Illawarra. His years of dedication meant that he was awarded life membership of both the Australian Labor Party and the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra. John migrated from Greece not knowing a word of English. Faced with a language barrier, poor workers' rights and discrimination, he became an advocate for migrant communities. He was instrumental in founding the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council in 1975 and encouraged migrants to join their union and not to be afraid to stand up for themselves. He approached local MPs advocating for better services for migrant communities, including what now seems a basic service—interpreters employed at Wollongong's courts and hospitals. John was a proud member of the Wollongong branch of the Labor Party, and his contribution to the party will be long remembered. I was fortunate enough to enjoy his support and assistance over many years. I thank his wife, Niki, and his children and grandchildren for sharing John with us. So many since have benefited from his advocacy.

CREATOR ACADEMY EASTWOOD

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (15:32): I congratulate 13 students from Creator Academy Eastwood who last week competed in the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas. Last year students Ethan Wang, Wenxin Wang, Helena Tuo, Emily Tse, Mia Chen, Mia Cai, Eric Zhou, Jason Gong, Marcus Bai, Yanrui Xu, Marcus Liang, Jeshua Liang and Jonathan Dang—alongside Creator Academy founder and educator Garry Law—prevailed in local, regional and national Australian competitions to earn a spot in the world tournament in the United States. To give some context, the event was attended by teams from over 70 countries, with 5,000 teams over 10 days. There were three local teams, with Phoenix Tech achieving a top eight result in the VEX Robotics Competition middle school division. The team climbed the rankings and, after three gruelling days of robotics, scored an impressive eight wins and five losses before being knocked out in the division quarterfinals by the new world champions from the United States. Team Mecha Magpies competed in the VEX IQ Challenge middle school

division, placing ninety-sixth. The Dingo Roos came fifth. They displayed the national flag and our First Nations flag. What a great opportunity for local kids to put Ryde on the world stage.

SISTER JAN BARNETT

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (15:33): It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Sister Jan Barnett on her recent award of Bankstown Woman of the Year. Sister Jan is a member of the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. She has a background as a secondary school teacher and principal, as well as in tertiary education. She is the current coordinator of the Josephite Justice Network, managing a wide range of projects in social justice. Her initiatives include advocacy for First Nations peoples, asylum seekers and refugees; aged care; and housing for homeless people. She is a constant, leading voice for refugees and marginalised people in our communities. Her work in advocating for improved initiatives to support housing for homeless people through representations to the Government, and to me as her local member, is very well documented. One of her initiatives in supporting refugee families is her recruitment and training of young volunteers to help recent arrivals settle into the community. In 2022 Sister Jan was awarded funding by the Federal Government for her tree-planting initiative to distribute plants in the Canterbury-Bankstown community to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee. Congratulations and well done to Sister Jan.

SUNHAVEN HOSTEL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (15:34): I congratulate the Sunhaven Hostel board, management team and staff at Ashford on their commitment to providing high-quality care and service to their 18 residents. I note that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission recently audited Sunhaven, with its assessment report indicating successful compliance in all areas of its quality standards. On behalf of the Ashford community and the broader Inverell shire, I commend and thank everyone associated with Sunhaven—the wonderful staff, volunteers and general community—for their tireless efforts in providing an environment where residents feel safe, secure, respected, wanted and assured that their personal choices are acknowledged.

STEPHEN BELL

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (15:35): I recognise Mr Stephen Bell, who is the former owner of Bar Cortona in Homebush, and his contributions as a small business owner to our local community. Stephen started Bar Cortona in 2001 as a local resident who wanted to bring his community good food and coffee with a contemporary twist. Stephen enjoyed offering interesting items on the menu, interacting with local residents and working alongside his family, including his wonderful wife, Sue, son Ewan and their five other children. Bar Cortona has been a regular host of community activities and meetings, such as for the Homebush Probus Club, led by the inimitable Ian Albertson. Stephen and his family have now sold Bar Cortona, having built it into a local institution. I thank Stephen and his family for 22 years of running a local small business and, although it is not often thought of in these terms, 22 years of community service.

WAKEHURST ELECTORATE

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (15:36): In my first community recognition statement I acknowledge the positive 2023 State election campaign in the electorate of Wakehurst. Democracy works best when people get involved by nominating, volunteering and engaging as citizens. I thank all the volunteers who gave their time and talents to support my independent campaign. We did good. I also thank the other candidates who ran for the seat of Wakehurst and their volunteers. I love that we had a range of views and opinions to choose from on election day. It is a big deal to put one's name on a ballot paper, and I respect all those who do so. I thank Sue Wright, Susan Sorensen, Ethan Hrnjak, Toby Williams and Greg Mawson. Democracy is alive and well in Wakehurst and, indeed, in this State. I acknowledge the groups that organised candidate forums and events that gave the people of Wakehurst the opportunity to meet and ask questions of candidates, including Northern Beaches Climate Action Network and Voices of Warringah. I acknowledge the local media, which provided great coverage. The 2023 election campaign in Wakehurst was exciting, positive and people powered. The electorate of Wakehurst will never be taken for granted again.

CAMDEN RSL SUB-BRANCH ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (15:37): There is no better place for an Anzac Day celebration than the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park. On 25 April this year I had the privilege of attending the Camden RSL Sub-Branch Anzac Day ceremony—the largest ever in its history. On a cold morning more than 20,000 people from across Camden and the south-west came to commemorate those who served, those who continue to serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Some of those who served were able to be with us; some of them unfortunately were not. The important work that organisations like the Camden RSL Sub-Branch do every day ensures our veterans are well supported at the times they need it most. Without the Camden RSL Sub-Branch,

events like our Anzac Day parade simply would not happen, leaving a tremendous gap between veterans and the wider community. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I commend the incredible work of the Camden RSL Sub-Branch and its president, Mr Iain Richard-Evan, for their dedication to the veterans and the wider community in both the Camden electorate and the wider region.

MACLEAN SHOW SOCIETY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (15:38): I acknowledge the Maclean Show Society's work in putting on another fantastic community event in this year's Maclean Show. For 130 years the community has been gathering at the showground, and this year's show was held on Anzac Day, 25 April, and 26 April. There was a touching tribute to the Anzacs before a magnificent rendition of *The Man from Snowy River*. I thank the Maclean Show Society president, Mr Brian Ferry; the chief ring steward, Robbie Sutherland; the secretary, Pru Ensby; and the band of volunteers who make the show happen every year. Our rural shows are a very important part of country life. It is not just rides and pluto pups but also pavilions packed full of homemade cakes and champion chooks and poultry—and, of course, the biggest fireworks display of the year and the demolition derby each and every night of the show. The beef cattle section this year was tremendous. I thank the Maclean Show Society for that outstanding community event.

SEAN MYCHAEAL

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (15:39): Sean Mychael's significant contributions and commitment to the Maitland community have been acknowledged with a NSW Government Community Service Award. Sean runs a local service called Blade Mate Lawn Care. After driving past a local residence and seeing their yard a little out of control, he decided to stop and ask the resident what was going on for them. He found that the home owner was struggling with her health and could not dedicate any time or money to keeping her yard maintained. From this one conversation—through simply checking in with a person rather than judging them—he dedicated himself to helping those in a tough position by offering yard maintenance when people cannot do it for themselves. This dedication to members of the community through purely pro bono support saw Sean nominated for the award by one of his 100,000 YouTube followers. Sean is an Australian Army veteran and speaks regularly about his struggles with mental health. This has been a particular driver in his motivation to stop and have a conversation with people and offer support wherever and however he is able. I acknowledge Sean's significant contribution to the Maitland community.

ROTARY CLUB OF PORT MACQUARIE SUNRISE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:40): I recognise the local Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise and the chair of its organising committee, Di Hicks, as it heads into the major fundraising event of the year, The Big Dig, to be held on Sunday 21 May. Rotary Sunrise is driven by a passionate and hardworking group of community volunteers who have come together and pooled their talents and skills to coordinate this major event for the past 11 years. The Big Dig is a pirate-themed family fun day that has children and adults digging excitedly on the beach for buried tokens, with every participant receiving a prize. Last year 300 children and over 170 adults participated. It is a wonderful family event that has a range of fun-filled, pirate-themed activities for all to enjoy. One of the primary goals of Sunrise Rotary is to support the amazing local community. It has partnered closely with community groups over recent times to support them through floods and bushfires. Funds raised have been shared generously between deserving organisations such as the Hastings Education Fund, Make a Difference, Sailability and headspace—to name only a few. I congratulate Sunrise Rotary on its ongoing commitment to the community.

FAR SOUTH COAST LEGACY

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:41): On Saturday 6 May, I was honoured to be the guest of honour at the Far South Coast Legacy debutante ball. The occasion was to celebrate the centenary of Legacy, which was formed in 1923. As I speak, the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay is making its journey across Australia. The torch started its journey in Pozières, the site of terrible human loss in the Great War—the "war to end all wars". It was somewhere like Pozières that a digger made the pledge to his dying mate that he would look after the missus and the kids. Legacy celebrates 100 years of providing support to Australian servicemen, servicewomen and their families. I congratulate Far South Coast Legacy on its very successful debutante ball. I extend those congratulations to Legacy on its centenary and its true legacy of providing care and support to the families of the Australian armed forces.

BALMAIN ROZELLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (15:42): I bring to the attention of the House an outstanding organisation in our community: the Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce. Local businesses play a key role in making Balmain and Rozelle such special places. I was recently delighted to attend the opening of the Balmain Rozelle

Food and Art Festival at White Bay Brewery. It was an opportunity to learn more about the exceptional contribution that local businesses make to our community and the important role of the chamber. Thank you to Inner West Council, McGrath Balmain and White Bay Beer Co. for sponsoring the festival. I thank the executive committee, which is made up of a diverse group of local businesspeople who volunteer their time. Thank you to Simon Wills, president; Belinda Daly, vice-president; Greg Pattison, treasurer; and Maureen Thornett, secretary; Martine Kilo; Michael Fegent; and Annelie Child. I look forward to continuing to work with the chamber to promote a flourishing business community, and I would like to thank the committee members for their selfless commitment to the chamber and to our local area.

TRIBUTE TO STEWART WEST

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (15:43): I pay tribute to Stewart West, former member for Cunningham, for a life spent in the service of the Labor Party and the labour movement. A lifelong trade unionist and president of the Waterside Workers Union, Stewart served in the Hawke Government as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Minister for Housing and Construction, and Minister for Administrative Affairs between 1983 and 1990. He helped to reform immigration policy, but the achievement of which he was particularly proud was the delivery of landmark environmental protections that helped to save the Franklin River in Tasmania and Kakadu in the Northern Territory. Instrumental in the development of Labor's "steel plan", the impact of his time in office lasts in the Illawarra to this day.

Stewart was a person and a parliamentarian of principle. He put his principles before his own career when he resigned from Cabinet after disagreeing with a Cabinet decision—only to be reappointed a few months later. Stewart passed away days from his eighty-ninth birthday, but with the knowledge that a Labor government had been elected in New South Wales to join the Albanese Labor Government at the national level and others across almost all States and Territories. Stewart will be missed by Mary and his family.

LALOR PARK KOOKAS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (15:44): I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Lalor Park Kookas Junior Rugby League Club. The Kookas are a fantastic local sporting organisation, with players coming from Lalor Park, Seven Hills, Kings Langley, Blacktown and Glenwood. In February and April this year, the Kookas clubhouse was broken into. Jerseys were stolen, along with food and drinks. Despite these terrible circumstances, it was comforting to see members of the local community help the Kookas get through game days by donating food and drinks and volunteering their time. I acknowledge Blacktown City Council for acting promptly by donating immediate funds and proposing a motion to install CCTV and security alarms at the clubhouse. I also recognise the Kookas club secretary, Sonia Smart, for her leadership and hard work to keep the club thriving throughout the year. I look forward to hearing about the continued success of the Lalor Park Kookas.

ISLA CARVER-WRIGHT AND AIDA MACDOUGALL

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:45): I acknowledge Isla Carver-Wright and Aida MacDougall in recognition of their outstanding surf rescue at Toowoona Bay on the Central Coast. At approximately 5.15 p.m. on Saturday 28 January this year, after the patrol had packed up for the day, Aida and her friend Isla were paddling their nipper boards in Shark Hole—which sounds like a pretty scary place to be paddling. Two adults in their twenties on a day trip from Parramatta were snorkelling in the spot, when they found themselves washing out into deeper waters. They cried out for help, and Aida and Isla paddled over to them. The couple were panicking and struggling to stay afloat. The girls got the adults onto their boards and paddled them safely back to shore. The couple were grateful and congratulated the young nippers on the rescue, as did other beachgoers. I congratulate both Aida and Isla on their brave rescue outside patrol hours. Their commitment, alongside Toowoona Bay Surf Life Saving Club, to keep our beaches a safe environment for all to enjoy must be commended. Thank you to Aida and Isla.

ROY ROGERS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:46): Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges Roy Rogers of the Flagstaff Group, who recently announced his intention to retire in July this year. Over the past 18 years, Roy has seen a transition or two in the workplace. He has worked to support Flagstaff's employees in the Fair Work Commission, the transition to the NDIS and getting through the COVID-19 pandemic and floods and fires, while growing the business to be resilient and commercially focused, providing great, secure and sustainable jobs. I know that Roy is extremely proud to see how Flagstaff has continued to grow and lead the way in providing safe and secure employment to support people with disabilities. Flagstaff's executive managers are committed to Flagstaff's vision and are well placed to support the transition to a new CEO. I thank Roy Rogers for his incredible leadership and for making an outstanding contribution ranging over nearly two decades. He leaves an incredible legacy for the Shoalhaven and the Illawarra, particularly for people with disabilities.

AUTISM ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:48): It gives me great pleasure to recognise and celebrate the Autism Advisory and Support Service [AASS] on the success of its 2023 Foundation of Hope charity ball, which was held on Saturday 6 May. The event raised in excess of \$100,000. These funds will be used so that AASS can continue to perform its invaluable work of assisting and filling gaps in service provision for individuals with autism and their families. The work of the organisation empowers children and adults with autism and their families through knowledge and support, and assists them to positively impact and influence their children's social and emotional development. I congratulate the founder and CEO of AASS, Grace Fava, OAM, and her hardworking team on what they do for our community on a daily basis. I also thank the sponsors, various donors and guests, the volunteers and the AASS family of clients for coming together to make the event such a success. I look forward to seeing the impact of these funds within the Liverpool electorate over the coming year.

OLEG SUTULOV

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (15:49): Like Ukraine recently, my father's homeland of the Netherlands was also invaded—when he was just 15 years of age. The conflict in Ukraine has spawned Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Over the past year, Australia has accepted 5,000 of these refugees, with some calling Wahroonga home. Nestled in Waitara, Mavka is the first Ukrainian restaurant in the country and serves Ukrainian and Eastern European food to the community, attracting people from across the State. Late last year, owner Oleg Sutulov created Mavka to bring Eastern European cuisine to our area and employ Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict in their home country. Oleg himself left Ukraine in the early 2000s. I popped in for lunch in January to meet Oleg and the team and to try their delicious traditional cuisine for the first time. The restaurant serves as a little taste of life back home for the staff and many customers. I commend Oleg's industrious and community-oriented spirit. I look forward to seeing Mavka flourish. The people of Wahroonga stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

JIM SOTIRIS

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:50): I pay tribute to Mr Jim Sotiris, owner of JJ's Cafe, who has decided to retire after 43 years of serving the people of Lidcombe. Jim and his wife, Jan, took over an old cake shop on John Street in 1980 and started with a fresh oyster bar, which later became a seafood shop. Since 1996 they have run it as a takeaway shop and cafe, with proper old-fashioned hamburgers, rissole sandwiches, roast of the day and milkshakes. The cafe has served many commuters on their way to and from work, as well as many local workers. Indeed, I started work at the Workers Health Centre on John Street in 1982 and was a regular at the fresh oyster bar. They have survived through many a tough time, adapting their business to community needs and economic situations, including acting as an important takeaway business during the COVID lockdowns. Jim has also seen a great many changes in Lidcombe over 43 years and is part of our great Greek local community. On behalf of the community, I say efharisto, Jim, for serving the people of Lidcombe. I wish him and his family all the best.

PORTRAITS ON MAIN

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (15:51): I recognise the Portraits on Main photography installation that was held in Goulburn last year. Positioned off Goulburn's historic main street, the exhibit was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the strength of the Goulburn community through the creative arts. The exhibition included more than 100 portraits of individuals over the age of 50 who make a difference to the Goulburn community, however big or small. Beside each image, a linked QR code directed viewers to the incredible stories of the portrait subjects. The project has been a labour of love over the past few years for the founder and photographer, Tina Milson. I publicly recognise the efforts of Ms Milson and those who have supported the Portraits on Main installation. I extend my thanks for the great sense of community they have cultivated for Goulburn with this project, particularly in recognition of our senior volunteers.

NAROOMA OYSTER FESTIVAL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:52): I congratulate the organising committee of Narooma Rocks and the Narooma community on its recent highly successful Narooma Oyster Festival. I was honoured to open the iconic South Coast event that injects millions of dollars into the local economy over one weekend. It is a truly homegrown festival celebrating our world-class local produce. South Coast oysters were recognised as the best in Australia at the recent Sydney royal agricultural show.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Except for the Hawkesbury.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: No, they're better. I thank the organisers, volunteers, oyster farmers and visitors to the Bega electorate for making the festival such a success. The event organisers have received support

from the newly elected New South Wales Labor Government to continue this wonderful tourism event. That means that Narooma will continue to be the State's oyster and that future festivals will continue to be pearlers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I thank all newly elected members for their contributions today. I congratulate them on keeping their statements to less than one minute. I apologise if I cannot remember all of their electorates yet, but it will not take long.

Private Members' Statements

PROSPECT ELECTORATE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:53): I acknowledge the electorate of Prospect and thank the community for re-electing me as their local member. I look forward to working with the community in Prospect and our local Western Sydney families. I thank them for putting their faith and trust in me, and I am honoured to be re-elected as their representative in the New South Wales Parliament. I will continue to be a strong voice and advocate for the community. Western Sydney deserves a strong government that prioritises its needs and builds a better future for the community, for families and for small businesses. I am confident that a Minns Labor Government will govern in the best interests of the Western Sydney community. Moving forward, I am committed to addressing the issues that most impact our community. I know that many households in Western Sydney are feeling the financial burden from rising cost-of-living pressures. I promise to work within the Minns Labor Government to improve our economy and create policies that provide short- and long-term measures that assist with household expenses and budgets.

As we continue to see a growing population in our suburbs, including young families and a rising elderly population, it is essential that we provide the necessary services that will support our active and vibrant community. A Minns Labor Government will reform the New South Wales education system, starting with addressing teacher shortages, over-capacity in schools and early education. Our children deserve a strong educational foundation that provides them with every opportunity to succeed in the future. The Government will also deliver a fresh start for the health system, public transport, roads and public services, fixing the many issues the previous Liberal Government left behind. Together, we can build a brighter future for our community in Prospect. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve.

I would like to thank a number of key people for their support during the last months of the election campaign. Over 150 individual volunteers helped at booths on election day as well as at pre-poll, street stalls, train stations and by placing corflutes in their yards. First, I thank the campaign manager, Annie Wang. I also thank my supporters Mary Azar, Brandon Hale, and Dustin Dao and his entire family—especially his father, John, who did a great deal of work to coordinate the campaign. I thank Annie for her hard work over this period. Numerous volunteers and members of our Labor Party branches also helped. I thank the branch secretaries for organising their branch members and the booth rosters on the day.

There are many communities throughout the area of Prospect. There is a Tamil community, a large subcontinent community, an Equatorial African community and a South-East Asian community. There are Palestinians, Maronites, Maltese, Assyrians, Armenians, Turkish and Jordanians. They all assisted in my campaign and on election day. Key community organisations such as the Armenian National Committee of Australia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, St Mark Coptic Catholic Church, the Australian Egyptian Forum Council, the Assyrian National Council, the Sydney chapter of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, the Jesus Light of the World Church, the Australian Jordanian Community Association, the Wentworthville Tamil Study Centre and the Australian Tamil Congress all provided volunteers on election day to support a Labor candidate and return me to Parliament, as well as to elect the Minns Labor Government.

I also thank members of the trade union movement who helped on the day, particularly members of the Australian Workers' Union, the NSW Teachers Federation, the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association and the Health Services Union, amongst many others. A number of key MPs helped during the election campaign, particularly the NSW Labor Party president and member for Greenway, Michelle Rowland. Her work and support was greatly appreciated, as was the work of Deputy Premier Prue Car, who went out of her way to support as well. There are a lot of challenges in the electorate of Prospect. Like many Western Sydney communities, there are issues with overcrowding in schools, there are not enough healthcare services and there are a significant number of problems with infrastructure and overdevelopment. All of these things need to be addressed, and I firmly believe that a Minns Labor Government will do that. This is a fresh start for the people of Prospect and the people of New South Wales.

WINSTON HILLS ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (15:58): I update the House on the Anzac Day commemorations that occurred in the Winston Hills electorate. Anzac Day this year marked 105 years since Australian and

New Zealand forces landed on the shores at Gallipoli. It was fantastic to see so many members of the local community wake up early and attend the dawn services that took place across the electorate. This year I attended the Seven Hills RSL, along with over 2,000 local residents, to pay my respects to our Anzacs. After the recent Anzac Day disruptions caused by the pandemic, it was terrific to see how many residents came back to the dawn service to remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

This year's service was one of the most well attended commemoration services I have been to since I first started attending as the local member. The march began at around 5.30 a.m. from Boomerang Place and concluded at the Seven Hills RSL Club. A dawn service was then held, led by the Seven Hills-Toongabbie-Wentworthville RSL Sub-Branch. It was terrific to see student leaders from Toongabbie Public School and Seven Hills North Public School join in the commemoration service. The students laid wreaths on behalf of their school communities and showed great dignity. I would like to recognise the principals of these schools, Craig Brown and Renai Diamond, for always showing great leadership and for their involvement in our wider community.

It was great to see students there from service groups, including the Scouts and the Girl Guides, wearing their uniforms for the special occasion. I recognise the boys and girls from the Winston Hills Scouts and the Wentworthville Girl Guides and their families for attending the service and paying their respects. Following the dawn service, many members of the community joined the sub-branch in the RSL club for breakfast and refreshments. I would like to thank the following people from the sub-branch who played a role in the service: Graham Larkham, Edith Larkham, Peter Sparrow, Philip Gerber, Neil Snowden, Stephen Hocking and David Boyd.

Last week it was terrific to see the Toongabbie East Public School community host their annual whole-of-school Anzac Day commemoration. The assembly is always a moving and solemn occasion, which is joined by parents, carers and current army reserve members. The assembly was hosted by the student leaders of Toongabbie East, each of whom spoke with great confidence and clarity. They were a great credit to the entire school community. I would like to particularly thank Mr Fisher from Toongabbie East Public School for organising the wreaths and order of proceedings on the day. I look forward to attending Toongabbie East's Remembrance Day assembly later in the year. I also thank the wonderful P&C at Toongabbie East Public School, including the president, Sarah Irani, and the school principal, Kristy Haggett, for the fantastic work they do for the school community.

This year our Sikh community came together in remembrance of Sikh soldiers who fought alongside the Anzacs. A war memorial commemorating the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikh soldiers was unveiled earlier this year in the suburb of Glenwood in the Winston Hills electorate. The statue is of a Sikh soldier—the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. I would like to thank the Fateh Foundation, Blacktown City Council and the community of Glenwood for placing such a fantastic memorial in this location.

The association of Sikhs with the Australian army can be traced back to 1885 when they fought in Sudan during their first overseas military operation. During World War I many Sikhs paid the ultimate sacrifice, including 80 per cent of the soldiers in a single Sikh battalion. Over 300,000 Sikh soldiers were recruited and sent to wars across the globe to defend countries during that time. There are many stories of courage, commitment and mateship that come from the relationship between Sikh and Australian soldiers. It was fantastic to see members of the local community gather for the memorial service in Glenwood for the first time in front of the Sikh soldier statue.

Anzac Day was well commemorated throughout the Winston Hills community, with many residents gathering at clubs and pubs in the afternoon to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice. I thank all of the staff and members of those clubs. In particular, I thank the Toongabbie Bowling Club, the Seven Hills RSL Club, The Winston hotel and all of the other local venues that maintained some Anzac Day traditions and supported the local community on such an important day. I thank all members of the Winston Hills community who commemorated Anzac Day with such respect, diligence and humility.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:03): I support the member for Winston Hills in his comments. Our electorates share a number of veterans' groups, including the Seven Hills-Toongabbie-Wentworthville RSL Sub-Branch. It was the first time I attended the Seven Hills RSL Club for the dawn service, which was absolutely wonderful. It is wonderful that we can work in bipartisanship to honour and support our veterans on such a special day. I endorse what the member for Winston Hills has said and I look forward to working with him in the future to support the new area of Seven Hills in the seat of Prospect, which now includes the Seven Hills-Toongabbie-Wentworthville RSL Sub-Branch.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism) (16:04): I wish to address the critically important issue of domestic and family violence in my electorate of Swansea and across New South Wales. Domestic and family violence is a horrendous scourge on our society. Sadly, I am informed that domestic and family violence is the most under-reported crime in our community. It is also a crime that consumes a significant amount of police resources, with offending and associated harms averaging one call for assistance every four minutes. One call every four minutes—this is a crisis that cannot continue. We must do everything we can to reduce rates of domestic and family violence in our community.

The NSW Police Force plays an important role in protecting victims and holding perpetrators to account. I am proud of the raft of police-led initiatives aimed at tackling the worryingly high rates of domestic and family violence in our community. Anyone who commits these horrendous crimes should expect the police to come knocking on their door. During its most recent Amarok operation in April, the NSW Police Force certainly did, arresting and charging 644 of our State's most dangerous domestic and family violence perpetrators. That is 644 people who were arrested. In addition to domestic violence related offences, various other serious offences were detected, including prohibited firearm and weapons possession, and drug possession and supply. A total of 1,108 charges were laid, 314 individuals were identified amongst New South Wales's most dangerous domestic violence offenders and 164 of those had outstanding warrants for violent offences.

A total of 326 applications for apprehended domestic violence orders were made and 460 outstanding ADVOs were served. A total of 4,949 ADVO compliance checks and 1,633 bail compliance checks were completed. Further, 45 new firearms prohibition orders were applied for and served, 145 searches were conducted at properties linked to those subject to FPOs, and 23 firearms and 45 prohibited weapons were seized by police. It was nothing short of a great success. The results of this operation are truly incredible. I have no doubt this targeted effort is saving lives and making a real difference.

I would like to take a moment to thank a few important organisations in the Swansea electorate that assist women and children who are fleeing from domestic and family violence: Nova for Women and Children, Swansea Community Cottage Inc, The Epicentre in San Remo Neighbourhood Centre and the Belmont Neighbourhood Centre. There are others and I want to thank all of these organisations for the amazing work that they do, day in, day out, to help keep women safe in our community. I reassure this House that the Minns Labor Government will continue to support police to address domestic and family violence, including in the electorate of Swansea that I so proudly represent. It will do that from all angles, including through improving victim support services, providing diverse reporting options, educating the public, and through important police operations like Amarok targeting our most violent offenders.

TAMWORTH ELECTORATE

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (16:08): I wish to update the House on my sincere and wholehearted gratitude to the people of the Tamworth electorate for their faith in me to continue to serve them in the New South Wales Parliament. It is truly humbling to have been re-elected for a fourth term to continue the strong legacy of the New South Wales National Party delivering for the people of the Tamworth electorate, which now includes the Liverpool Plains Shire Council area encompassing Quirindi, Wallabadah, Willow Tree, Blackville and everywhere in between. My campaign was based on grassroots local representation. It was a campaign on the road, in our community, meeting people, making connections and strengthening my relationship with our communities—listening, learning and acting on the issues that matter. That continues to drive me as I embark on another term serving the people of the Tamworth electorate.

I have a saying: Take care of the people, and let the politics take care of itself. That is why, in my role as the local member, the first question everybody in my office asks is, "How can I help you today?" In line with that belief, I thank a great number of people who have worked hard behind the scenes to allow me to get on the road to as many places as I could. My campaign manager, headed by Ian Foster, was ably supported by committed volunteers like Liz, Ian and Steve Coxhead, Kate Mansour, Daniel Gillett, Jeff Bacon, Miranda Broekman, Bede Bourke, and Murray O'Keefe and many volunteers who stood shoulder to shoulder and gave their time in sometimes terrible weather to attend at polling booths.

My electorate office staff, Angela, Rachel and Luke, kept the electorate office operating and in very good order during that period—some say it runs better when I am not there, but that is according to them! With that behind us, I am committed to continuing to work hard to improve the lives of those in our communities right across our beautiful area. I have a strong plan for the Tamworth electorate that includes our hospitals, health services, roads, schools, emergency services, water security, and the staffing resources that need to go with those plans. The most vulnerable in our community are always on our minds as well, and that is why I am focused on delivering across the electorate. Let's get on with job. It is indeed a great privilege to serve our communities.

DR ELIZABETH HARFORD

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:10): Today I acknowledge some of the achievements of Dr Elizabeth Harford from the Blue Mountains, who spent 42 years working in the public healthcare sector, two years as a research physiologist and 40 years as a nurse. She spent seven years in the emergency department of Westmead Hospital, and for five of those years she was managing a nine-bed resuscitation and trauma room. She initiated discussions with the United States Emergency Nurses Association to bring the Trauma Nursing Corps Course to Australia and New Zealand. She was one of the first instructors in that course. At that time it was the first skills-based trauma course for nurses in Australia.

She lectured in postgraduate emergency and trauma nursing at the University of Sydney and wrote part of the masters degree course content for emergency and trauma nursing. She also wrote part of the course content for critical care nursing for the University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney. She lectured in ballistics and the mechanism of injury, chest and abdominal injuries in warfare for courses for Australian Defence Force nurses. She managed patient flow at Westmead Hospital for 960 beds. She commissioned the role of nurse manager for cardiology and cardiothoracic services in Westmead Hospital, including creating a whole-of-service ward structure, enabling efficient admission and discharge of patients undergoing cardiac catheter procedures. She also led the redevelopment of the postgraduate course in cardiac nursing for Westmead Hospital and the University of Western Sydney.

Dr Harford worked for five years as principal adviser for nurse practitioners in the Nursing and Midwifery Office, Ministry of Health. She assisted in the rollout of 150 nurse practitioner positions across New South Wales. She is a member of the Master of Nurse Practitioner degree curriculum committees and lectured in the courses at the University of Newcastle and the University of Technology Sydney. She visited over 100 hospitals across New South Wales, including 80 rural and remote sites. She worked with the University of New South Wales in Sydney to develop a short course in primary nursing care. She completed reviews of over 10 hospitals and services across New South Wales, making recommendations for improvement. She completed a Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Sydney, on the "History of Nursing and Medical Treatment in Casualty Departments 1870-1940". She worked as the director of nursing and midwifery across 19 facilities, including the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and the Greater Southern Area Health Service.

Following a restructure to the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Dr Harford managed a number of facilities as a general manager over 10 years. The facilities included the Griffith Base Hospital, Leeton, Lake Cargelligo and Hillston. During that time she built relationships with the local Wiradjuri communities as well as the United Hospital Auxiliaries and local health advisory services. She led many of the initial planning discussions for the redevelopment of the Griffith Base Hospital. She led the design of the new renal dialysis unit, including floor-to-ceiling windows, a native garden and Aboriginal art. During three years at Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital and Springwood Hospital, she ensured that a maintenance program improved the structure and safety within both facilities. She worked with the Darug and Gundangurra peoples to develop a plaque honouring Aboriginal soldiers who served in World War I. Liz Harford worked with a wide range of community groups, including the United Hospital Auxiliaries and the Leura Gardens Festival committee, chambers of commerce et cetera, and fundraised for the improvement of services at both hospitals.

[Interruption]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): For the information of members, I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume on the ringing of one long bell.

[The Deputy Speaker (Ms Sonia Hornery) left the chair at 16:15. The House resumed at 17:03.]

The SPEAKER: I thank everyone for their patience. As members may or may not be aware, there was a medical incident in the public gallery and proceedings were halted while medical attention was provided. I thank the member for Bega, the Chamber support staff and the special constables for providing assistance. With the consent of the House, we will resume private members' statements for a period of two minutes to allow the member for Blue Mountains to complete her contribution. We will then have the public interest debate.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: Liz Harford sponsored the local Aboriginal and TAFE Painting Up Country group to provide paintings for the palliative care rooms at both hospital sites. She employed the first geriatricians at Blue Mountains Hospital and also increased the numbers of physicians, obstetricians, gynaecologists and emergency doctors. She advocated strongly for increased numbers of nurses and midwives at both sites. What a woman! Dr Liz Harford is an amazing human with an illustrious career and exceptional achievements.

Imagine my horror and that of my community, the medical staff council, the auxiliaries and the hospital staff to learn that the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District underhandedly terminated Dr Harford from her role as our beloved general manager of Blue Mountains Hospital recently. Today I honour her and, for the

record in this place, express my appreciation and gratitude for her remarkable contribution to the public sector health care of New South Wales. We will miss Dr Harford, and we salute her.

Public Interest Debate

ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (17:07): On behalf of Ms Eleni Petinos: I move:

That this House:

- (1) Agrees with the Office of Sport website that "the Active Kids program plays a crucial role in shifting physical activity behaviours of children and instilling healthy lifestyle habits".
- (2) Calls on the Government to continue the Active Kids program.

Since 2017 the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Coalition when in government invested more than \$2 billion in grassroots community sport through infrastructure grants and programs, including the nation-leading Active Kids voucher program. The importance of community sport to the health of our school-aged children can never be overstated. Active Kids vouchers were a first-in-the-nation initiative of the Coalition, commencing in January of 2018. About a million vouchers have been used each year in New South Wales since then—which is a lot of kids and a lot of families. More than five million vouchers have been redeemed since 2018. Vouchers were not anywhere in Australia before the Coalition introduced them. It has been the most successful sports participation program in Australia's history.

Other States have tried to copy us, but the Coalition program was the best in the nation by a country mile. The program was the brainchild of the member for Epping when he was Treasurer. It was supported by the then Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and continued when the member for Epping became Premier. School-aged children are entitled to one new voucher every six months. They have always been funded from budget to budget. Labor needs to include the vouchers in this year's budget process, like the Coalition has since the 2017 budget, when they were first funded.

This year's budget process had not begun prior to the election. So when the new Minister for Sport said in question time today that the Coalition had defunded the program, either he was ignorant of the history of the program—how it has operated and how it has been funded in the past—and, indeed, the budget process itself, or he misled the House by saying that the Coalition defunded the program. On 24 February 2023 in the lead-up to the election, I as sport Minister and the then shadow sport Minister, the member for Granville, were both invited to the Sport NSW Industry Conference at Homebush. I addressed the Sport NSW election platform first and was followed by the member for Granville on behalf of the Labor Party.

The member for Epping had already committed the Coalition to continuing the Active Kids program. I asked the member for Granville to tell the conference whether Labor would scrap Active Kids vouchers. She did not tell the conference—nor did Labor say in advance of the election—that Labor would scrap or change Active Kids vouchers. It will be an incredible act of bad faith with the community to now do so. Indeed, Labor has no mandate to scrap the vouchers. The peak body for sport in New South Wales is called Sport NSW. Its membership is constituted by the sports bodies of all the major sports in the State. In its election platform, Sport NSW stated:

The Active Kids voucher program has been a well-adopted cost of living measure helping to get more kids active. Australians who are physically active are happier, healthier, and more productive compared to their sedentary peers.

...

... The introduction of the Active Kids Voucher program saw children who took part in one or more organised sport or physical activities at least once over the past 12 months significantly increase from 68 per cent to 77 per cent between 2016 and 2019.

Today the Minister for Sport let the cat out of the bag in question time after continual questioning from the Opposition. He said, "We will review the settings and in due course we will get back to that community." Why did they not do that before the election? What has Labor got against community sport? I as the Minister for Sport had the great privilege of travelling around the State to meet small community sports organisations in Penrith, Goulburn and all over the State. What did they tell me? They told me that Active Kids vouchers were important for young children to be able to play sport because they helped families fund those activities.

In the last New South Wales Coalition budget—that is, this financial year—more than \$943 million was committed to grassroots community sport through infrastructure grants and programs, including the nation-leading Active Kids voucher program. Guess how much Labor spent on sport and recreation in its last budget when it was in government? It was less than \$23 million. That is \$943 million against less than \$23 million. This Government is a disaster for junior sport. It is a disaster for our sports volunteers. It is a disaster for the health of our young people. It is a disaster for helping families with cost-of-living pressures. I encourage all members, including Labor members, to support our kids and our families by supporting the Opposition in this public interest debate and

continuing the Active Kids voucher program. If the Government does not do it, we will have kids who are a lot less happy and healthy, and families under more financial stress. They talked a lot about alleviating cost-of-living pressures, but this will be the first kick in the guts for the families of New South Wales.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (17:14): Mr Speaker—

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

Mr CLAYTON BARR: Let us start where we need to start with this public interest debate. The mover of the motion was not in the House to move the motion to start the debate. There are questions to be asked about how serious Opposition members are, with their crocodile tears. But let us progress to something really important that the former Minister for Sport just spoke about. The Active Kids program was apparently an election commitment in the lead-up to the election. Under the rules of the Parliamentary Budget Office, an election commitment would have required you to submit it for costings. The former Minister might be able to educate the House as to whether or not that happened. It turns out, it did not. I am not sure if the former Minister is in breach of some sort of law or if it is just a breach of faith. But in any case, what he is talking about in the Chamber today, and what the Opposition clearly talked about during the election campaign, is contrary to the purpose, the rule, the law and the intent of the Parliamentary Budget Office. Let us be very clear on that.

The other thing I will talk about is the budget and the future of the budget. The idea is that if you know you have future costings that will be met in a future budget, you put them in your budget forward estimates. What is the point of having a program that you say will exist in the future but not putting it in your future costings? Are you being disingenuous today or were you lying to the people of New South Wales when you printed and published your budget?

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

Mr CLAYTON BARR: You know that it was not in there. Many of you spoke glowingly about the wonderful 2022-23 budget, which I can only assume means that you endorsed the fact that this program was not in the forward estimates. Because you loved the budget as printed. You loved it. You loved the fact that this program was not going to be funded in the future. You loved the fact that the First Lap program was not going to be funded in the future. You loved the fact that the program had, in effect, at the time the budget was printed last year, been cut. It had been defunded. It had ceased to be funded. You knew it, you loved it and you spoke proudly about it in this Chamber. You lot have racked up—

The SPEAKER: The member for Oatley does not have the call.

Mr CLAYTON BARR: The interesting thing about the member for Oatley is that he used to do that when in government. So he is well prepared for being in opposition, because it is the same stuff at the same volume from the other side of the Chamber. Let us talk about funding. The former Government racked up a debt of \$187 billion. We have to pay \$7 billion a year in interest payments. Does anybody want to know how long it would take, under the debt we have now incurred, to fund the program in interest repayments? It would take seven days. Every seven days the debt that you incurred is the equivalent of the program. That is the position you have put the State in: \$19 million per day of interest on the debt that you have incurred. You have racked up the credit card, you have lied to the people in the budget of New South Wales about the funding of the program, you have deceived the public during the election campaign about whether or not it was going to be funded, and you cry crocodile tears about the program. You think that sitting on the other side of the Chamber and yelling out your frivolous, untruthful, insincere comments is somehow a policy or a platform or a purpose. You are lost and dishevelled, and you will be in Opposition for a long time.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Miranda, I will make an observation. I do appreciate watching the member for Cessnock in full flight. It was a very enjoyable contribution. But contributions should be directed through the Chair. Engaging directly with Opposition members tends to lead them to respond more vociferously. I remind all members that contributions should be directed through the Chair. There should be no interjections. I know it does not quite work that way, but let us try it. Before I call the member for Miranda, I acknowledge that I did bring on the debate, which was overdue. I do not attribute any blame to the member for Miranda for that. I understand that everybody has been somewhat put out by the occurrence in the gallery. I am sorry that it occurred, but we had to proceed.

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:21): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate your acknowledgement of the medical emergency that has changed the rostering of the Chamber this afternoon. The grandstanding of those opposite is disappointing, given that this is a pretty simple, mildly mannered motion. We are actually talking about the fact that the website for the Office of Sport, a government agency—those opposite want to be the Government, so they should start acting like it—says:

... the Active Kids program plays a crucial role in shifting physical activity behaviours of children and instilling healthy lifestyle habits.

Every person in this Chamber should be able to agree on that. Yet the member for Cessnock has been grandstanding when 12 months ago he posted on his social media about why people should take up the Active Kids vouchers in his own electorate. The confected outrage is completely ridiculous. In 2018 we on this side of the House introduced that important program whilst in government. It was always an initiative intended to contribute to the broader economic and social outcomes of the young people in the State. Each year we provided \$100 vouchers to increase the participation of school-enrolled children in sport and physical activity. Not only did we do that, but during the last 12 months in government we also provided two \$100 vouchers for children across the State to enjoy and get fit, healthy and active. And not only did we provide \$200 for every school-aged child; we also provided an extra \$100 through the Creative Kids voucher, which could be repurposed into sport, in addition to many other important vouchers, such as the First Lap program, which was aimed at a younger cohort.

All those measures have been so important for the young people across our State, particularly the Active Kids voucher, which not only gets the kids fit and healthy and improves social outcomes but also gives a lot of children access to sports that they otherwise would not have. Across the State the young women have enjoyed swimming, dance, netball, soccer and gymnastics, and the young men have enjoyed soccer, swimming, rugby league, basketball, martial arts, tennis, cricket and Oztag. The list goes on. The website mentions the fact that 75 per cent of children in New South Wales are not meeting the daily recommended level of physical activity, which is 60 minutes each day. The vouchers encourage kids to get out and about.

Ms Lynda Voltz: So it hasn't shifted anything.

Ms ELENi PETINOS: The member for Auburn actually asked many questions on notice seeking information about this important program when she was the Opposition spokesperson for sport.

The SPEAKER: The member for Auburn will come order. The member for Miranda will not respond to interjections.

Ms ELENi PETINOS: I highlight to those opposite the importance of the population uptake in their own electorates. In Ballina there was a 73 per cent uptake; Balmain, 81 per cent; Camden, 96 per cent; Charlestown, 83 per cent; Coogee, 76 per cent; East Hills, 70 per cent; Gosford, 70 per cent; Heathcote, 84 per cent; Keira, 77 per cent; Kogarah, 65 per cent; Lake Macquarie, 73 per cent; Londonderry, 78 per cent; Macquarie Fields, 82 per cent; Maitland, 75 per cent; Newcastle, 84 per cent; Orange, 71 per cent; and Parramatta, 79 per cent. The list goes on, which is why it is confounding that any member in this place would want to oppose this important motion. In fact, it is so important that recently Sutherland Little Athletics, in the Sutherland shire, an organisation that I am sure the member for Heathcote is now becoming familiar with, wrote to both her and me about the importance of maintaining the Active Kids vouchers. The organisation wrote:

I'm writing to you to express our deep concern that the government is considering ending the largely successful active kids voucher program. Little Athletics in New South Wales is a truly grassroots community sport that provides an opportunity for young people to improve their skills and to learn the key gross motor skills of running, jumping and throwing.

Since the inception of the program, the organisation has claimed that it has had a significant increase in the number of members who used those vouchers and joined the 180 centres throughout the State. That is in all the electorates of those opposite. Yet, somehow, they are telling us today that they prefer concerts over children. That is the only thing the sport Minister wanted to speak about. He was asked three times about Active Kids vouchers and he declined to answer, but he was happy to talk about concerts at the top end of town. Shame! I call on each and every one of those members opposite to support grassroots sport in their electorates and save Active Kids.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:26): Mr Speaker, you will not get any arguments from this side of the Chamber about the critical importance of physical exercise.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. I cannot hear the member for Coogee.

Mr Mark Coure: How's Allianz Stadium?

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: How's my 13 per cent margin, mate? Remember when you called me "marginal seat Marge"? Not marginal anymore.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Mr Speaker, you will not get any arguments from this side of the Chamber regarding the importance of physical activity in terms of critical wellbeing, in particular for our young people.

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

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: But it is absolute hypocrisy for those opposite to move this motion claiming that they have some active belief in the Active Kids program when they did not even properly fund it! They gutted it. As the member for Cessnock said, they did not even put anything to the Expenditure Review Committee [ERC]. Either it was insight that they knew they were not going to get re-elected or they actually did not care about the future themselves. That is a fact. They have left us with a \$7 billion black hole—unfunded programs far beyond the Active Kids vouchers. How dare they come to the Chamber with their crocodile tears, their hypocrisy, acting like they actually care about stuff!

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order or I will remove a member under Standing Order 249A.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: The reality is that we have inherited the biggest debt in New South Wales history as a result of their clear mismanagement, which has now resulted in us having to do a comprehensive expenditure review of all New South Wales Government programs. This is the result of their mismanagement. We make this commitment: We aim to give the parents and sporting organisations certainty about the Active Kids programs as soon as possible—

Ms Eleni Petinos: But why didn't your Minister do it?

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Why didn't you put it in the ERC grants and why didn't you fund it?

The SPEAKER: The member for Miranda and the member for Coogee will cease debating across the Chamber.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: If those opposite want to know why it is underfunded, they should be looking at their colleagues who were sitting in the Cabinet. You were sitting around the Cabinet. So were you. You were not, shadow sport Minister. You had been kicked out. You'd lost it.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Mr Speaker, Government members are flouting your previous ruling about directing their comments through the Chair, as required under the standing order. I ask you to tell the member for Coogee to direct her comments through the Chair and not across the Chamber.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate the irony in the point of order and I thank the member for Port Macquarie. I remind the member for Coogee that directing her remarks through the Chair tends to reduce the level of excitement among those opposite. I am worried about the member for Oatley, who is getting overheated. The member for Coogee has the call.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Through the Chair, I remind the new shadow Minister for Sport that she was not sitting around the Cabinet table because she had been kicked out of the ministry. But many of her colleagues were, and they decided to underfund the program and not put it into the ERC grant. If the shadow Minister really cares about it, maybe she should have a conversation with them. But what genius opposite decided to move this motion and bring about this debate? It is an absolute own goal, because it has given Government members an opportunity to provide the transparency that is needed and was lacking under the previous Government in the way it conducted its budget. It is an own goal against themselves. They have launched a campaign against their own party's record and provided us with a very clear platform to outline their lack of transparency and the way they have treated the people of New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Oatley will leave the Chamber under Standing Order 249A for a period of 52 seconds.

[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Oatley left the Chamber at 17:31.]

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: In summary, I reiterate that sport and exercise are critically important, particularly when it comes to young people. There will be no arguments about that from this side of the Chamber. It helps with their mental health. But the Active Kids vouchers are part of a \$7 billion black hole that Government members have inherited.

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

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: The Liberal Party and The Nationals have failed to be clear with the people of New South Wales. They are deceitful. They have come in here with this motion—the hypocrisy of it! They are so offended, they cannot even listen to the debate.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:32): I thank the member for Miranda for bringing this motion forward because it is a very important issue in the Upper Hunter, where 34,000 vouchers have been given out since 2018. What a fantastic program, and the thought that Labor would cut it is terrible. This wonderful program from the former Government targets family budgets and makes sure that kids are getting out there and playing sport. The voucher program encourages participation in sport. How good is Service NSW? The former Government put it together, and I am sure the former member for Ryde is in his corporate heaven somewhere looking at us and saying, "What a great program, and they're going to cut it!" Victor, I am sure you are out there looking down now. What a wonderful program.

This highly successful program has done a great job in the Upper Hunter, so I want to share some of the clubs that have benefited from it. The first one is the Gresford Vacy Scorpions Football Club, under the stewardship of Jim Doyle, Luke Barker, John Crick, and Dave and Jenny Crouch. They do a fantastic job with that club, and just recently I was out there at a celebration to launch a brand-new amenities block. It was fantastic to see all the kids from the district there for a gala day. More than 80 per cent of those kids used Active Kids. It is fantastic for a country area to get all those kids in one place. That amenities block was provided by another great program, the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which was all about female amenities. Let us hope those opposite do not axe that program. Can members even imagine what it would mean in regional areas if they axed that program? But it is all about Active Kids right now, and the Gresford Vacy Scorpions Football Club needs the Active Kids program.

Singleton Junior Rugby League Club is another great club in the Upper Hunter. I am sure members opposite love rugby league, particularly the junior rugby league, and we love it in the Upper Hunter. At Singleton they are under the stewardship of Jen and Kurt Rudder, Dave Crossley and Brad McGrath, who do a huge amount of work for that club. There are kids there every weekend into the night. Under another program from the former Government, they recently managed to get some funds for some new lights. Kids want to play at night and families are struggling to get their kids there in daylight hours, so we have brand-new lights coming, which is fantastic to see. That is another organisation that relies heavily on the Active Kids program, so there are huge benefits for our area.

They are both family clubs and over 80 per cent of both clubs use the Active Kids vouchers, at a time when cost of living is at its highest. There is a lot of pressure on family budgets. Energy bills, petrol costs and food bills are going up, and now we have maybe the greatest cost of all to family budgets—the Minister for Sport. He is hacking away at family budgets, which is a disaster. We always knew that Government members would come in with no real reform strategy and no real ideas; they would just lift everyone's wages—which is perhaps why they are in government. Well, go for it. But members opposite should not start cutting good programs that really hit the mark for families, making sure kids are participating and getting out there.

Mr Kevin Anderson: Active lifestyle.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: Active lifestyle—thanks a lot. We hear all about budget issues, but can this Government start looking to the future, making decisions and actually being the Government? Members opposite need to make the decision to keep the Active Kids program. Make a decision and make a good one. It is a good program and the Government should keep it going.

The SPEAKER: I welcome the visitor in the gallery and hope he is enjoying this important debate. I am not trying to incite him to say anything because the attendant will have him removed, but I am very pleased he is here.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (17:37): Congratulations on your election to the Chair, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: To clarify, the member for Miranda said those opposite gave \$100 vouchers to kids across the State and then increased that to two \$100 vouchers, but that is not what they did. They put in place a four-year program worth \$291 million. It started in 2019 and the \$291 million ran to 2023. They did not put in any more money past 2023. There was absolutely no notification that the program was underfunded. But it gets even worse than that, because those opposite took \$4.8 million from that \$291 million and gave it to the T20 World Cup. They took \$500,000 and gave it to the Commonwealth Games Team Appeal, all out of the Active Kids money that was meant to go to kids. They gave \$3 million to the NSW Institute of Sport. If those on the other side were serious about the Active Kids rebate, maybe they would explain why they diverted money towards professional sport and away from the four-year, \$291 million program for grassroots and children's sport. That is the big question.

The former Government has left a big fat black hole in the New South Wales budget and some serious questions need to be asked about the programs being run in this State. Members opposite have never seen a budget

overrun they did not like. The costs for every piece of infrastructure around the State have almost doubled—the Sydney Metro West will cost \$25 billion, which is \$12 billion over budget. The money is not there for nurses or to fight cybercrime. The money is certainly not there for the Active Kids rebates. That is the result of the former Government's economic management, and it affects every single program. The former Minister for Sport claimed that \$2 billion was spent on grassroots sports. Perhaps he was talking about the overruns on stadium infrastructure—perhaps that is where the overruns are running. The reality is—

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will have an opportunity to reply to the debate.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: If members opposite were interested in children's sport in New South Wales—

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: This is part of the problem, Mr Speaker. Members opposite are not actively involved or interested in what is happening with children's sport across the State. I move:

That the motion be amended by:

- (1) In paragraph (1), omitting all words before "shifting" and inserting instead: "Notes the important role sport plays in".
- (2) Omitting paragraph (2) and inserting instead: "(2) Notes the former Liberal-Nationals Government cut funding for the Active Kids program beyond 30 June 2023."

Members opposite want to talk about the shift in children's sport, but they have not looked at the empirical data collected by the Office of Sport, which has been funded and researched, and shows whether children have been shifted or not. When members opposite recite statistics and claim 80 per cent here, 60 per cent here, or 70 per cent there, they are not telling you whether those numbers represent kids who already play sport using the rebate. They are not telling you whether the percentage of children playing sport is shifting.

To shift kids into playing sport, you have to look at what is keeping them out. A lot of it is very complex. Yes, there are costs—but who is the cost with? This is not a targeted program; this is an across-the-board program. Time constraints are hugely important. Which sports kids want to play is hugely important. A member of the Opposition presented a list of girls' sports and boys' sports. That does not matter—kids should be playing whatever sport they want. Why is the funding so inequitable for sports like gymnastics and dance if those are the top sports for girls? Members opposite are not talking about this. They have no interest other than cheap political programs that run out once the elections are over.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Wahroonga, I recognise our guest, Mr Keith McMullen, who was the Labor candidate for Port Macquarie at the recent State election. Welcome, Keith. You can see what you have missed out on.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (17:43): On behalf of Ms Eleni Petinos: In reply: I thank the member for Cessnock, the member for Miranda, the member for Coogee, the member for Upper Hunter and the member for Auburn for their contributions. With respect to the member for Auburn, when she said that the Active Kids program was only funded to the tune of \$223 million over four years, and then was ceased at the end of 2023—

Ms Lyndia Voltz: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. What is the member's point of order?

Ms Lyndia Voltz: My point of order is that this is a complete misrepresentation of what I said. I never said that at all. If the member is going to quote figures at me, he should quote the right figures.

The SPEAKER: I did not hear the exact words that were said but I do not believe it will make a significant difference to the point of order. The member for Wahroonga has the call.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The point is that more than \$500 million has been spent on Active Kids vouchers. The figures that the member for Auburn gave to the House show that she does not truly understand how the program has been funded. It is the most successful sports participation program for grassroots sport in the whole of the nation's history. It is a Coalition initiative. It has been funded year on year. It has never been in the forward estimates in recent years, and the whole argument that it has been defunded is a complete fiction. The member for Coogee exhibited her great misunderstanding of the government processes. She suggested that the member for Oatley, the member for Miranda and I sat in the Expenditure Review Committee and allowed the funds to be cut. We have never sat in ERC. That is how much she knows!

The fact of the matter is that the budget process for this year had not commenced prior to the election. It is for the Government to start the budget process and to fund programs like Active Kids. To try to push this onto the Opposition shows that Government members have not yet got out of the mindset of opposition. They do not

understand that they are now in government, and it is for them to continue programs like Active Kids. The House should reject the ridiculous suggested amendments to the motion. The change to paragraph (2) of the motion exhibits a misunderstanding of the whole budget process. It would be an embarrassment to the Parliament and the Government for that amendment to go forward.

If Government members want to embarrass themselves and show their ignorance of how the budget works, then they should proceed with that amendment, because it will only embarrass them. Members on the crossbench, members of the Government and members of the Opposition should support the motion in its original form. Members should be calling on the Government to continue Active Kids. We need to acknowledge how important playing sport is for the wellbeing of kids. Get on the program; support the program into the future.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga has moved a motion on behalf of the member for Miranda, to which the member for Auburn has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes49
Noes33
Majority.....16

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, L
Butler, R
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Davis, D
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T
Hagarty, N

Hannan, J
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kaliyanda, C
Kamper, S
Kirby, W
Leong, J
Li, J
McDermott, H
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
O'Neill, M

Park, R
Quinnell, S
Regan, M
Saffin, J (teller)
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Shetty, K
Smith, T
Stuart, M
Tesch, L
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S (teller)
Wilkinson, K

NOES

Amon, R
Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Cross, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S
Griffin, J

Henskens, A
Hodges, M
James, T
Kean, M
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Marshall, A
Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R

Saunders, D
Singh, G (teller)
Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Tuckerman, W
Ward, G
Williams, L
Williamson, R
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Finn, J
Minns, C
Warren, G

Roberts, A
Williams, R
Toole, P

Amendment agreed to.

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

The House divided.

Ayes49
 Noes33
 Majority.....16

AYES

Aitchison, J
 Atalla, E
 Bali, S
 Barr, C
 Butler, L
 Butler, R
 Car, P
 Catley, Y
 Chanthivong, A
 Cotsis, S
 Crakanthorp, T
 Daley, M
 Davis, D
 Dib, J
 Donato, P
 Doyle, T
 Hagarty, N

Hannan, J
 Harris, D
 Harrison, J
 Haylen, J
 Hoenig, R
 Holland, M
 Hornery, S
 Kaliyanda, C
 Kamper, S
 Kirby, W
 Leong, J
 Li, J
 McDermott, H
 McKeown, K
 Mehan, D
 O'Neill, M

Park, R
 Quinnell, S
 Regan, M
 Saffin, J (teller)
 Saliba, D
 Scully, P
 Shetty, K
 Smith, T
 Stuart, M
 Tesch, L
 Vo, T
 Voltz, L
 Washington, K
 Watson, A
 Whan, S (teller)
 Wilkinson, K

NOES

Amon, R
 Anderson, K
 Ayyad, T
 Clancy, J
 Cooke, S
 Coure, M
 Cross, M
 Crouch, A (teller)
 Davies, T
 Di Pasqua, S
 Griffin, J

Henskens, A
 Hodges, M
 James, T
 Kean, M
 Kemp, M
 Lane, J
 Layzell, D
 Marshall, A
 Perrottet, D
 Petinos, E
 Preston, R

Saunders, D
 Singh, G (teller)
 Sloane, K
 Speakman, M
 Taylor, M
 Thompson, T
 Tuckerman, W
 Ward, G
 Williams, L
 Williamson, R
 Wilson, F

PAIRS

Finn, J
 Minns, C
 Warren, G

Roberts, A
 Williams, R
 Toole, P

Motion as amended agreed to.*Private Members' Statements***NEWTOWN ELECTORATE**

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (18:01): Mr Temporary Speaker, it is lovely to see you in the chair.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Yes, it is. Thank you.

Ms JENNY LEONG: For the past eight years it has been an honour to represent the people of the electorate of Newtown, and I am humbled and excited to have the privilege of doing so again for the next four years. Our community is one of the most proudly diverse and fiercely progressive in the State. Newtown electorate locals have been instrumental in mobilising and organising campaigns for First Nations justice, decriminalising abortion, marriage equality, protecting public housing and securing better protection for renters. I am committed to ensuring that our community's values, expectations and priorities drive the work that we do in this place for another four years.

My electorate is home to staunch community groups and activists—from public housing tenants mobilising to defend their homes, to students and unionists taking to the streets for climate action, workers' rights and First Nations justice, demanding an end to deaths in custody. We know that change happens both in this place and well beyond its walls. We know that change is only won because communities come together to fight for it. By striking, by locking on, by protesting, by breaking bad laws and by engaging in non-violent direct action, we see change happen. As the member for Newtown, I am proud to represent a passionate community that is not afraid to take direct action in the face of injustice and inequality, to step up and speak out when they see that something is broken and needs fixing, to speak up for those who cannot do so for themselves and to give support to a friend, neighbour or community member who is struggling.

Over the next four years The Greens will continue to deliver positive change not just for people within the Newtown electorate but far beyond its boundaries because, after all, we have always been a bit nonchalant about the concept of borders. Our priorities for the coming years are clear. At the ballot box our community told us it want us to go hard to champion and strengthen renters' rights. From working constructively with the Government to finally end unfair no-grounds evictions to pushing for rent controls, we will do everything we can to fix the blatant power imbalance that so many renters face. We make no apologies for putting the rights of renters to have a safe, secure and affordable home above those of property investors and big developers to make profits. We will continue to provide direct support to public housing tenants in our community who are forced to live with mould, leaks and other unacceptable maintenance issues, and we will push for massive investment in maintaining public housing properties across the State and ensure that they are never sold off.

The Greens will continue to push for much, much more public and social housing so that everyone has a place to call home without having to wait 10 years on the public housing waiting list or deal with the stress and trauma of the private rental market. We will continue to stand against coalmines and native forest logging to stop species extinction and end land clearing, and to be bold and relentless in our calls for meaningful action for climate. We in the electorate of Newtown know that climate justice is inseparable from the struggles of First Nations people and racial justice, and that communities that are being disproportionately impacted by the onset of the climate crisis have already faced discrimination and injustice.

To everyone who handed out leaflets for us at the many train stations throughout the electorate of Newtown in the early mornings or made phone calls, sent endless text messages or had conversations on doorsteps with the people of Newtown to keep Newtown Green, I say thank you. We would not be back here without you and we certainly would not have achieved the overwhelming and impressive goal, on behalf of all of you, of being the first Green seat in the country to secure a win on primary votes. To the left activists and community organisers, those at the forefront of demanding change, thank you for everything you do and know that The Greens will always stand with you in your struggle for a more just and equitable world. Whether you live in the electorate of Newtown or you are a left activist living somewhere else in the State, the country or around the globe, know that I will be your voice in this place for justice, for equality and for social and environmental change.

To the Newtown community who put their trust in me, I can say nothing more than thank you. It is a true honour to have the privilege of having moved to the electorate of Newtown at the age of 19, had my education as an activist come from its people and suburbs, and to now be here representing our community. I will always challenge and raise expectations for what is possible through politics while I am in this place. I look forward to spending the next four years pushing the boundaries and making the impossible feel possible—for renters, for climate justice, for housing justice, for people and for our planet.

TEACHER WORKFORCE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:06): Mr Temporary Speaker, it is fabulous to see you in the chair.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Yes, it is.

Ms LIESL TESCH: I am honoured to be here tonight giving my first speech in the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, which I dedicate to the fabulous teachers and principals across New South Wales. On behalf of teachers and principals, I thank Prue Car and our Labor Government for our commitment to restore the integrity of public education in New South Wales. I dedicate this speech to Sally Oman, a young, vibrant and incredibly capable teacher who recently left the profession due to the lack of professional integrity bestowed upon teachers and the burgeoning administrative responsibilities placed upon them over the past 12 years by the previous Liberal-Nationals Government. Sadly, there are so many teachers like Sally—forever teachers—who, having suffered under the leadership of the Liberal-Nationals Government, are no longer happy with what should be an esteemed professional career for life.

Even the OECD has noted the high levels of teacher attrition and resulting high levels of disruption in the classroom—that is if kids are even in the classroom, with so many lessons being left uncovered in New South

Wales—and a steady decline in outcomes in reading, maths and science in New South Wales under the previous Government. That is why Labor is committed to restoring the integrity of education in New South Wales and getting more qualified teachers into our schools. The new Labor Government is committed to reducing teacher workloads. We will make teachers' salaries more competitive, we will restore teachers' permanency and job security, which was eroded under the previous Government, by making 16,000 casual teacher and administration positions permanent.

We will establish a \$20 million Innovative Teacher Training Fund and make it easier to train as a teacher midway through another career. We will establish a targeted literacy and numeracy tutoring program, and ban mobile phones in schools. In addition, we will deliver 100 public preschools co-located with public primary schools and invest in 50 new, expanded preschools at non-government schools. Labor is also committed to providing 70 per cent of all skills funding to TAFE to provide the financial stability it needs to upskill workers across New South Wales.

Schools are so much more than face-to-face teaching. Everyone who works in our schools recognises the deep needs in our communities and provides complex welfare support for students and families doing it tough. Teachers provide considerable mental health and welfare support on a very regular basis, well above and beyond what they are trained to do. They even organise breakfast for those kids who do not have food at home or whose parents or caregivers work long hours and are not home to prepare meals. During COVID, teachers were donating food and funds to buy hampers for families who could not afford food. At high schools across the electorate, teachers run school cafes and coordinate students to run canteens. Tonight I thank all those teachers who run a plethora of extracurricular activities beyond their teaching workload to support students with and beyond their education.

Umina junior campus, along with Point Clare Public School and a number of other schools in the Gosford electorate, held a fabulous "May the fourth be with you" gold-coin fundraiser and will have more news ahead about the importance of wearing helmets when riding bicycles. Schools across the coast are holding Mother's Day stalls and Mother's Day brekkies. I thank all the teachers involved, many of whom are mums, and wish them all a very happy Mother's Day. I also thank all those teachers who coach and coordinate sports and debating teams and the associated excursions. Those teachers made a huge difference to my life and will continue to make a difference in so many lives. I also thank our general assistants for opening up and keeping our important community ovals functioning and available to communities to keep sport alive across communities. Minister for Sport, how is that?

Mr Stephen Kamper: Perfect.

Ms LIESL TESCH: Indeed. To Sally and all those teachers who are teetering on the edge of resigning, know that we value you. We want you to stay and we want to back you as quality educators. You are so important and your skills are incredibly valuable to your students, to families, to community, to employers and to a greater society for all. Our Labor Government is committed to restoring trust, belief and integrity in public education. Government members remember what our teachers gave us and we want teachers to be able to continue to strive as incredible professionals across the community. We will continue to listen to teachers, principals and the mighty Teachers Federation to create workable solutions in our New South Wales schools. Teaching is a wonderful career and I miss it dearly. It is an absolutely awesome profession that changes lives. I thank everyone who chooses this absolutely crucial profession as a career.

HORNSBY ELECTORATE YOUNG ATHLETES

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (18:11): It is my pleasure to recognise one of the Hornsby electorate's most impressive emerging young athletes. Recently at Rofe Park, Hornsby, Tara Coopman—or "TC", as everyone calls her—notched up a rare achievement when she played her 100th junior AFL game with her club, Northwest Lightning. The young Hornsby Heights resident joined the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles Junior AFL Club as an eight-year-old in 2017 and played her first season in the mixed under-9s team. The year 2018 saw the successful amalgamation of several local junior AFL clubs to improve development of their girls. Through that amalgamation, the Northwest Lightning Junior Girls AFL club was established.

The new club's first under-10 age group team formed that year. TC managed to play in both that team and the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles under-10 mixed team. Since then, she has played exclusively in the Northwest Lightning girls teams and she has progressed through all of the age groups. Tara is acutely aware that fitness is key in AFL. She often can be seen running in the local area and around Rofe Park early in the morning. The Asquith Girls High School student is an extraordinary and talented AFL player, having regularly played up age groups. This year she was rewarded for her hard work and dedication by being selected in the under-15 youth girls Sydney Swans Academy. In addition to being a talented player, since 2021 TC has been a qualified umpire and officiates AFL games for both private schools and community groups. In her first season of umpiring, she was awarded Best First Year Umpire.

TC has been recognised with numerous awards over the years, regularly picking up Best and Fairest and Players Player trophies at the end of the season presentation days. However, she received her most prestigious recognition last year when she received the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles Club Player of the Year. TC's mum, Leanne, has been involved with running the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles club for eight years. Today she acts as the club's Northwest Lightning Alliance convenor. In that role she does great work with Jared Quick from Pennant Hills and Daniel Benson from Westbrook, ensuring the club's young ladies playing AFL have the best experience possible and can make the most of the opportunities available.

Brian Coopman, TC's father, is also an active club supporter and assists the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles in obtaining grants. Brian can often be found at Rofe Park helping TC to practise kicking and marking. TC's older brother, Riley, is also a wonderful long-time contributor to the club. As a player, Riley also notched up over 100 junior games for the club. This season, he has taken a year off playing the sport he loves to be able to perform the enormous role of the club's grounds convenor. Riley has taken over from the long-time volunteers, Greg and Jenny Clarke. I thank Greg and Jenny for the enormous contribution they have made to AFL in the Hornsby district.

One of Tara's biggest influences was her first coach, Phil Harrison, who today is the coach for the club's under-13 boys team. Under Phil, legend has it that TC's tackling was so strong that she was once told, "Go easy on the boys." Her first Northwest Lightning coach was Dave "Dolly" Dighton, who did an outstanding job with TC. This year Tara trained in the preseason with the Pennant Hills senior ladies team and took a lot out of the coaching sessions led by Mark Carroll. For further inspiration, TC passionately follows the Swans, with Tom Papley being her favourite player. Tayla Harris at the Melbourne women's footy club is her favourite female player.

Tara Coopman is certainly a name to watch out for in the world of women's AFL. She is simply a star in the making. The Hornsby-Berowra Eagles Club has consistently produced terrific and talented junior AFL players such as Tara and keeps many of them, such as Riley, involved in the sport after graduating from their junior ranks. The club has created a fertile AFL nursery, which has been impressive to watch over many years. Current president Steve Wall is supported by active community members such as Steve Barton, Paul Stafford-Gaffney, Belinda Robson, Heydon Douglas, Aaron Wallin, Carolyn Higgs and Brendon Limbrey.

This junior AFL club will continue to do extraordinary things for both its members and the sport for many years to come. As the member for Hornsby, I am certainly proud of the contribution that all members of the Berowra-Eagles family make to AFL and our community, and to building and promoting community sport in Hornsby and the northern suburbs. Congratulations to Tara for her outstanding achievement of 100 games. We look forward to watching your star continue to shine.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Hear, hear! I thank the member for Hornsby. Tara Coopman is the future of the AFLW.

LAKEMBA ELECTORATE

BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (18:16): On 13 May 2015 I first spoke in this Chamber. I stood on the side opposite the Treasury benches and I said, "Al Salam Alaikom", which means "peace unto you" in traditional Islamic form. That dedication was a marriage of history: I stood in the oldest Australian Parliament as a migrant from Lebanon and the first Muslim member in this place. The history that echoes in these walls is redefined each time a new occupant sets foot in this bearpit and reflects on the changing and diversifying face of Australia. To new members, I offer the same blessing and best wishes as they forge their own path for the people we are privileged to represent.

Today I speak in two new capacities: firstly as the new member for Bankstown and secondly as a Minister in the Minns Labor Government. To be elected by any community is an honour but to be re-elected by the community I represent is especially humbling. The experience felt strange because, despite the name change, my new electorate of Bankstown is largely 70 per cent of my old electorate of Lakemba. Whilst I am saddened to no longer represent the suburb of Lakemba, I remain buoyed by the triumph of Ramadan Nights, which continues to grow. That event in particular is the realisation of a vision I articulated in some of my earliest speeches—that Lakemba should be a tourist destination.

Over 1.3 million people from all over New South Wales and beyond attended this event over the month of Ramadan. I am confident that the suburb of Lakemba will be ably represented by Sophie Cotsis in the electorate of Canterbury. The sadness I feel is outstripped by the joy I feel in continuing to represent Punchbowl, Greenacre, Mount Lewis and Wiley Park as well as Bankstown and parts of Yagoona. We are a community that perseveres.

At times we are a community that endures, but that word connotes feelings that do not match the unbridled joy we derive from the simplest things—our huge extended family gatherings, a sports match or coming together in displays of faith whether that be our Muslim community, our Maronite community, our Orthodox community, Buddhist, Hindu, Catholic and many more, as well as those who do not practise a particular faith. The community did not choose a representative just because he looked like them. If they were doing that, they probably would have elected a Bulldogs supporter, not a Dragons fan. The community chose a representative they believed would be a voice for them. That is a responsibility I feel keenly.

During the 2021 lockdowns, I did not hold back in standing up against wrongful characterisations by both the media and the State Government. I was an outspoken critic of the policies that created two different Sydneys and divided communities. I was a voice for people rendered voiceless. The community knows that history, but it is my ambition that we can deliver on a future that is hopeful. We can fix Canterbury Hospital, rebuild Bankstown hospital and fix our roads, which have previously been starved of State government investment. The new Western Sydney University campus in Bankstown, combined with local innovation and the right policy settings, can turn our community into a major hub for investment. It is time for our community to be given the opportunity to fulfil its potential by a government that believes in and supports local aspiration. My job is, and always will be, about community. I thank the community who have delivered me to this place. Now I will address my ministerial appointments by the Premier.

I deliberately spoke of my community first because I could not be a Minister without first being chosen by the community to represent it. The honour I feel is a gift that the community has given me. It is an honour given to me also by the Premier, to whom I am deeply grateful. As I began this speech, the history that echoes within these walls redefines itself each time a new occupant sets foot in this bearpit and reflects back at us the changing, diversifying face of Australia. That is true also of the new leadership of this place.

When I was sworn in as the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice, I shed tears because I knew what it meant not to see yourself in positions of leadership. I know what it means to other people to have seen me there. I know what it means to have a ceiling placed on your destiny because of the God you worship, the colour of your skin and the sound of your name. The pride I feel in being the first Minister of the Muslim faith in New South Wales is knowing that seeing is believing and knowing the transformational role that visibility can play in the lives of young people.

It is for everyone; I am not elected as the Minister for Muslims. But, if that could change somebody's view and if anybody always feels on the outer, I want them to know that this is possible. Look at some of my colleagues, like the member for Liverpool, Charishma Kaliyanda, and the diversity we have in this place. It is incredible. I hope that my appointment serves to inspire people to believe anything is possible, no matter your story, and to stay focused. For all those who say, "You can't", let these examples remind you that you can. New South Wales is a place of opportunity. We continue to work for a more hopeful and inclusive society. The work of all representatives is to realise this aim. Today I recommit myself to that goal.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:21): With the commencement of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament and my third term as the member for Cootamundra, I note my gratitude to the people of the Cootamundra electorate for once again placing their trust in me. It is an honour to have been returned, and I am as determined as ever to keep up the pace when it comes to pursuing local issues on behalf of the towns and villages I represent. This includes the wonderful communities of Boorowa, Frogmore, Reids Flat, Rugby and Rye Park, which we formally welcome to the electorate following the boundary distribution. Today I raise important projects, investment and local issues that we must push on with, ensuring local communities do not go backwards, especially given the progress we have achieved in the past 5½ years.

In Coolamon the necessary work to refresh the clinical services plan has been done, resulting in the commitment of \$56 million to deliver the new Coolamon-Ganmain Multipurpose Service. Put quite simply, more beds and increased services are required to support this growing and ageing community, and now is the time for this Government to commit to the future of health and aged-care services in Coolamon, which in turn will take the pressure off Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. Much further advanced is the \$110 million redevelopment of Cowra hospital and the \$80 million redevelopment of the Temora hospital. I am determined to ensure that each project is delivered in full and on time.

Keeping with essential services, we must see progress on a new police station for Young in the Hume Police District, which also supports Grenfell, Harden, Koorawatha, Bribbaree, Caragabal, Quandialla, Wombat, Murringo and everywhere in between. The current station has served the community well for almost 100 years, and the investment is needed now to deliver a larger, modern policing hub, which will allow general duties officers, detectives, highway patrols, proactive crime teams and the crime prevention unit to operate under one

roof. We committed \$19 million to get this done, and I call on the New South Wales Government to show its commitment to the future of policing in this thriving region too. The introduction of 24-hour policing at Cowra to better support the Cowra sector is vital. The team continues to do a tremendous job, and yet it is clear that both the community of Cowra and local officers would benefit from the implementation of 24-hour policing.

For Cowra, in addition to policing, the Wyangala Dam wall raising project, by which capacity will be increased by 53 per cent, is another important priority. I will be fighting to ensure that the final business case is completed and the investment secured to deliver water security and significant flood mitigation benefits for communities right along Lachlan River, including Cowra, Gooloogong and Forbes. This is against a backdrop of Federal Labor once again deferring funding on the project. How many floods and droughts will it take for this project to be taken seriously? Just down the road, the community of Boorowa has been experiencing years and years of its own challenges when it comes to water security. It has no permanent, secure supply of drinking water and has seen rolling water restrictions since 2003. This is not good enough, and I have indicated to the community of Boorowa my determination to support Hilltops Council, Goldenfields Water and other key stakeholders to secure the necessary investment.

Continuing investment in and maintenance of roads, rail and bridges is crucial, as is the need to have dedicated programs for regional roads and rail. I will be fighting to see that potholes continue to be fixed and critical freight routes upgraded across our nine local government areas. A huge part of this is the release of the concept design on the reopening of the Blayney to Demondrille rail line, which was closed by the former Labor Government in 2009. Finally, there is the demerger of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council. In progressing with the demerger, it is crucial that these two new council areas be set up for success. My expectation is that the relevant Minister will ensure that these communities, the staff and the council are kept informed and well supported by the Office of Local Government throughout this process. We have worked too hard and for too long to secure this demerger, and I look forward to meeting with the relevant Minister to discuss the matter further in due course.

In closing, I say that I will not shy away from my commitment to the Cootamundra electorate on these important issues, amongst many others, which have a significant impact on its future. I look forward to the coming term with great energy and enthusiasm.

AUBURN HOSPITAL FUNDRAISING GROUP

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:25): In 2006 a multicultural group of hospital cleaners started collecting aluminium cans to support a little boy wanting to save the planet and to help children struggling in the developing world. This group of former refugees and children of refugees, all with real connections to poverty, understood better than most the importance of caring for the environment and for people struggling. Initially the money raised went to an orphanage in Vietnam. Then it supported five World Vision children. Now the money the group raises goes to the Save the Children Fund.

In 2017 this group of committed environmental warriors at Auburn was horrified when it learnt that NSW Health had introduced bottled water into hospitals. The team was ordered to throw away the plastic jugs that had been used for patients for years. Instead they donated them to animal charities so they had a second life. The decision to use bottled water meant that the hospital would start using at least eight bottles per patient, per day. Even in tiny Auburn that was at least 800 bottles per day. They consoled themselves by thinking that at least the bottles could be added to their recycling for Save the Children, but they were wrong: The bottles were not barcoded and therefore could not be recycled. However, they lobbied the company, HealthShare, and got the bottles barcoded—a victory for the environment and the children in itself.

By the end of 2017, the group was determined to make the world a better place any way it could. The child it had supported was all grown up and had completed a Bachelor of Arts in environmental management and was working toward a masters degree in urban management and planning. He is now the group's volunteer consultant. Following an increase in the number of plastic bowls and kidney dishes being disposed of by the hospital—3,500 bowls and over 7,000 kidney dishes and galley pots each month—the group took this on as its next task. The group's attempts to recycle them were met with hurdle after hurdle, much like recycling the cans and bottles, but the team persisted, with the help of its very own grown-up environmental consultant. The team collected the items and sent them off to animal charities, community gardens and more. Many went overseas to various health facilities—a great outcome for these communities and for our landfill.

Also in 2017, a large skip was placed in the hospital basement. It began to fill with all manner of equipment—stainless steel trolleys, medication trolleys, bowls, IV poles and items still in sterile packaging. The cleaners did not know what most of it was for, but they could tell it was still usable and valuable but would be damaging to the environment if thrown out, as the powers that be intended. They founded MedEarth, a charity that collects the equipment and distributes it to medical facilities in the developing world. Medication trolleys

went to a cancer centre in Sri Lanka, and dressing trolleys went to hospitals in Congo and New Guinea. A decommissioned humidicrib went to Featherdale Wildlife Park, along with a vanload of out-of-date stock. The humidicrib is now used for sick and injured native wildlife. Another went to Sydney Zoo for a captive gorilla breeding program. A discarded trolley was converted into an amazing anaesthetic trolley by the vets at Sydney Zoo.

When the global pandemic hit, cleaners and hospital staff were busier than they had ever been, but they knew the recycling was still important and that the pandemic would pass—eventually—but the risk to the planet would not. MedEarth and other similar charities could not send equipment overseas, so the team looked elsewhere and discovered a need in their own community. For example, when the cafeteria was redesigned and 60 chairs and 20 tables were thrown into the skip, they found churches who could use the equipment. Even an elderly couple who had trouble getting out of chairs without arms gratefully accepted two chairs and a table to make life easier.

This group of environmental warriors, led by the cleaners of Auburn Hospital, have even taught the hospital to re-use the sterile blue bowls for patient washes, foot baths, and storing and transporting smaller items. Over the past 16 years the group has proven that you do not have to be a manager to lead or a teacher to educate when it comes to the environment and your community; you just have to believe everyone can be a part of the solution. It is part of the motto, "By example shall I lead." This dynamic group of hospital cleaners have shown hospital managers, senior doctors and nurses, by example, that they can be part of the solution and that good environmental management does not have to compromise patient care. I congratulate them and thank them on behalf of the residents of our local community for their hard work and community spirit.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I call the member for Wakehurst, who yesterday gave one of the great inaugural speeches.

LIZARD ROCK DEVELOPMENT

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (18:31): No pressure.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Follow it up, buddy!

Mr MICHAEL REGAN: I am honoured to deliver my first private member's statement, on the issue of protecting Lizard Rock and the surrounding bushland from inappropriate development. The electorate of Wakehurst is very fortunate to have large areas of intact native bushland. The area includes Garigal National Park, the recently heritage listed Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park, known as Manly Dam, and extensive areas of native vegetation surrounding Narrabeen Lagoon. These natural areas support local biodiversity and are central to what makes the northern beaches so special. This spectacular natural beauty is one of the reasons people love to live in and visit the northern beaches. While many of those bushland areas are protected in perpetuity in national reserves and parks, much of the remaining bushland does not enjoy that level of protection.

Currently, over 200 hectares of bushland is under threat across Belrose, Davidson, Frenchs Forest, Oxford Falls and Allambie Heights. In early 2022 the former planning Minister approved the Northern Beaches Aboriginal Land Development Delivery Plan under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021. This move sidelined Northern Beaches Council and cleared the way for development proposals to progress for six sites owned by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on the northern beaches. The first of those six sites to progress to a planning proposal is known as Lizard Rock, along Morgan Road in Belrose, where a development of over 400 homes has been proposed. The proposal will involve the clearing of some 45 football fields of pristine native bushland. The previous planning Minister and his department were intent on bulldozing through with the proposal—pun intended—disregarding the overwhelming opposition from the Northern Beaches Council, the local community and the Government's own local Liberal MPs, including the former Speaker of the House, the environment Minister, the health Minister and former Minister Stokes.

Northern Beaches Council has long been opposed to the Lizard Rock development and in January this year refused the offer to act as the planning proposal authority. As mayor of Northern Beaches Council, I have been a vocal opponent of the proposed Lizard Rock development since it was first mooted over a decade ago. In its submission to the Department of Planning and Environment, Northern Beaches Council outlined numerous and significant concerns regarding the Lizard Rock planning proposal. These included inconsistency with relevant strategic plans, including the *Greater Sydney Region Plan*, *North District Plan*, Northern Beaches Council's *Towards 2040—Local Strategic Planning Statement* and *Northern Beaches Local Housing Strategy*; inconsistency with conservation zones reform, which recommends applying a C3 environmental management zone to most of the site due to its high environmental value and the hazards that impact the site; and unacceptable bushfire risks to the site and insufficient evacuation routes.

In those and many other respects, the Northern Beaches Council found the proposal to be completely flawed. This is 400-plus homes in the middle of the bush, not connected to any services, surplus to any housing

targets set by the State, which will exacerbate existing shortfalls in the provision of community floor space for libraries and active open space for sports fields—oh, and destroy around 45 football fields of bushland, not to mention the fact that it puts future inhabitants at extreme risk from bushfire. Have we learnt nothing yet? The New South Wales Government must find alternative ways to support Aboriginal self-determination instead of allowing inappropriate development on bushfire-prone land.

I totally support the intent of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and appreciate the importance of enabling Aboriginal people to achieve economic self-determination through developing their land. But we are required to consider all proposals on their merits, regardless of the landowner, and this proposal does not stack up. The Wakehurst community—indeed, the whole of the northern beaches—is overwhelmingly opposed to this development. At every opportunity the local community and local council have made submissions to planning processes opposing the project, but they have been ignored. Northern beaches residents have been rightly dismayed by how the former Government handled this issue. The Lizard Rock development was a high-profile issue on the northern beaches during the recent State election campaign. Under pressure from Independent candidates, the former planning Minister did a last-minute backflip and committed to stopping the planning proposal to rezone the Lizard Rock site for residential development. But he has not told us how he was going to do that or what action, if any, he intended to take.

Protecting Lizard Rock was a key part of my election platform and I look forward to working with the new Minns Labor Government and the planning Minister to stop the current housing development proposal progressing. I thank the many dedicated locals for their advocacy about protecting the Lizard Rock site and surrounding bushland. In particular, I thank the Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians, Dr Conny Harris, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon, Northern Beaches councillors and other Independent candidates on the northern beaches. This issue is currently the subject of two parliamentary petitions—one paper petition and one ePetition. The paper petition has recorded over 11,000 signatures so far and is still growing—a testament to the level of community opposition. I look forward to debate on that petition in this Chamber. We must find a long-term solution to protect Lizard Rock and surrounding bushland in perpetuity. This is a top priority for me, the electorate of Wakehurst and, indeed, all of the northern beaches, and should be for all of New South Wales because this could happen to anyone.

TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE BUS INTERCHANGE LISMORE ELECTORATE BUS SERVICES

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (18:35): I speak on an issue of concern and one that has been quite longstanding in my community. It is an issue that I am taking up as of today with the new Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. It is the issue of the Trinity Catholic College bus interchange. I am told that it is the largest bus interchange in regional New South Wales, and it is really problematic. I wrote a letter to the then Minister on 14 February 2023, when it was raised with me again. I will read some of the letter because it gives the story. I wrote:

Dear Minister, I am writing in follow-up from previous correspondence sent to you regarding the school transport services in Lismore, the bus interchange servicing many of my community's students and the need for this to be revisited due to the displacement of so many schools and school kids due to last years' flooding events.

This is the Trinity Catholic College bus interchange. Of a morning and afternoon it is where all the buses that cover a whole lot of schools in the area come, and is where the kids get off and on and change over. It is very busy. The current bus interchange at the corner of Dawson Street was previously, and by default, provided oversight and supervision by the staff at Trinity Catholic College. Since the college was flooded out, they are no longer on site—they are based at the Southern Cross University. Hence there is no longer a presence at that interchange, resulting in a distinct lack of supervision and, therefore, safety at that site. Other issues identified are a lack of water and even bathroom facilities, which optimally should be accessible for schoolkids making their way to and from school, where they are made to wait for periods of time. Trinity kindly made all that available. Since the displacement and relocation of the Trinity Catholic College, there have been several incidents, which I will not go into. But the incidents are concerning and there are fears of escalating issues if this matter is not attended to urgently.

The other matter needing urgent attention one year on from the flood is the need to reconsider bus routes, pick-up and drop-off points and the number of available buses. That is not just at Trinity interchange; it is also elsewhere. I am told that there have been instances where a bus with a seating capacity of 50 has been forced to accommodate up to 90, as otherwise the additional kids would not have been able to get home from school. The schools, principals, families and students are feeling quite desperate. They have been making do, like the rest of the community in the wake of the floods. But when I wrote the letter in February, it was just over 12 months on from the floods. It is time to help resume some normality and get services back to their pre-flood state. It is not just a matter of comfort; it is a matter of safety. Leaving things as they are is risking and impacting the community's

physical and mental health. I asked the Minister that a meeting be arranged between all the impacted schools in Lismore—which is most, if not all, of them—along with Transport for NSW, local bus companies, parents, P&Cs and parents and friends associations. I asked that a discussion be held about how to improve the current post-flood school transport systems, infrastructure and services, and how to assist the Lismore school community to access suitable and acceptable school transport services, particularly at that interchange.

I did meet with the regional division of Transport for NSW and said that it might be good to revisit all of that. The department was quite accommodating about looking at it. I said, "Look at Tamworth", because they did it there. It used to be a big bus interchange and then they changed the way they did it. They relooked at it and reviewed it. That was the issue I took up. As I said, it is an old issue. It has been going on for some time. Trinity College was wonderful in the way that it provided that supervision and the facilities, but it was not its primary responsibility because it is a bus interchange. A whole lot of kids are going to different schools but there is no-one there. I have, as of today, taken it up with the Minister. I have every faith that working with her will resolve this.

HAWKESBURY ELECTORATE

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:41): Today I recognise the previous Liberal-Nationals New South Wales Government's support for the Hawkesbury electorate since the 2019 State election. This support enabled the successful delivery of many projects, both major and local, that made a big difference to our community—in particular the Windsor Bridge, which opened in 2020; a \$6 million upgrade for disability access at Clarendon Station; the Richmond STEM building; and the new gymnasium and hall at Richmond High School. A \$2.66 million grant from the New South Wales Government has given a major upgrade to the Hawkesbury Showground, adding to its good standing. A new pavilion was erected with this funding, as well as other upgrades to showground facilities.

These are just some of the many tangible improvements that Hawkesbury gained under the Liberal-Nationals New South Wales Government. In its last term of government, the Liberal-Nationals Government also announced \$5 billion worth of funding through the WestInvest grants program. That funding was directed to 15 Western Sydney councils for the purpose of providing major community assets. I make particular mention of the WestInvest funding for Hawkesbury, which received almost \$17 million for four projects, including upgrades to Woodbury Reserve and Fernadell Park. Hawkesbury City Council and The Hills Shire Council received substantial funding for other major infrastructure projects too.

I note projects that the community applauded, including \$30.3 million for a major upgrade to the Richmond Swimming Centre; \$6.7 million for improvements to the Oasis aquatic and leisure centre at South Windsor; \$23.9 million for upgrades to North Richmond community precinct, including a new library and an indoor sports stadium; \$9.8 million for the redevelopment of Tamplin Field; and \$4.7 million to deliver a new cycleway bridge over Rickabys Creek at Windsor that links Windsor and Richmond for cyclists. Autism Spectrum Australia also received an investment of \$5 million to build a new autism-specific primary school in Box Hill, a new area in my electorate.

It is not just Hawkesbury that received this incredible funding through the WestInvest program. What about the \$52.4 million that was dedicated to Burwood Council to redevelop Enfield Aquatic Centre, the \$53.4 million for Liverpool council to deliver the Carnes Hill aquatic and leisure centre, the \$21.3 million for Camden Council to deliver open space in Leppington, the \$19.1 million for Penrith City Council to upgrade Cook Park precinct in St Marys, the \$16.7 million for Campbelltown City Council to deliver the Sports and Health Centre of Excellence at Leumeah, and the \$5.2 million for Wollondilly Shire Council to upgrade the Waterboard Oval in Warragamba? These are in Labor-held electorates that I would have thought Premier Chris Minns would want to nurture. My fear is that he will dismantle the WestInvest program as he scours the landscape to rob the community of much-anticipated projects in order to give pay rises to his union mates.

NAROOMA BAR COASTAL CROSSING

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (18:44): Mr Temporary Speaker, welcome back and congratulations on your re-election and appointment. I am pleased to deliver my first private member's statement as a member of the new New South Wales Labor Government, having given my inaugural private member's statement approximately 12 months ago as the newly elected member for Bega in opposition. I speak today on the dangers of coastal bar crossings, with particular reference to the notorious Narooma bar. The problems and dangers of coastal crossings are shared by my colleagues on both sides of the Chamber who have electorates along the coast of New South Wales.

The Narooma coastal crossing at the confluence of Wagonga Inlet and the Tasman Sea has been identified as the most dangerous on the New South Wales coast. Tragically, on 5 April 2023 a 74-year-old local resident drowned following the capsize of his vessel during an attempted crossing of the Narooma bar. I extend my deepest

condolences to the family of the victim of this fatal accident. I cannot make further comment or specific reference to the incident as the matter is under coronial investigation; however, I will say that following this tragic accident I contacted the captain of the Narooma Marine Rescue base to inquire about the wellbeing of the first responders and offer any support that they may require.

This incident was the first fatality on the South Coast from Wollongong to the Victorian border since 1 July 2022. It is a reminder that all boaters need to take care when crossing coastal bars. Such crossings can be very dangerous as the bars can change frequently. It is said that sands will move before the ink dries on this statement. Wave activity also varies quickly according to the tides and the weather. I remind boaters in New South Wales that, according to the legislative framework of section 124 of the Marine Safety Regulation 2016, it is mandatory to wear a life jacket when crossing a coastal bar. This was introduced some 20 years ago in response to the highlighted risks of coastal bar crossings. In the event of being forced into the water, a life jacket is the best chance of saving one's life. It is estimated that seven out of 10 people who drowned during recreational boating incidents were not wearing a life jacket.

The Narooma inlet has multiple levels of signage at strategic locations along the waterway and at marine facilities around Wagonga Inlet. This includes an interactive message board at the head of the Apex Park public boat ramp, which displays messages based on the weather and other coastal parameters. In rough conditions, as experienced just this week, the messages include, "caution", "dangerous conditions", "stay ashore" and "stay safe". There is also a Transport for NSW bar camera, which displays real-time imagery of the Narooma bar for the use of the public, with associated advisory information on crossing coastal bars.

Transport for NSW, in partnership with Fishing Australia, has produced a video available on YouTube, which was filmed at Narooma and highlights the dangers of crossing coastal bars and the importance of wearing a life jacket and checking the conditions and weather before an attempted crossing. Transport for NSW also has an updated bar crossing safety booklet, which provides further information on bar crossings and wave periods. In conclusion, wearing a life jacket, keeping it properly serviced, understanding your limits and checking the weather conditions are necessary for all boaters. I repeat my sympathy for those families who have suffered losses related to coastal bar crossings and extend my support to the members of Maritime Rescue NSW and the general public who have responded during these terrible accidents.

ENERGY SECURITY

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (18:48): Thank you very much, Temporary Speaker. I can see you are enjoying the role. It really suits you. I am sure you will really enjoy it today because I will be talking about something that you may be interested in as well. It is just up the road from the great electorate of Cessnock in the electorate of Upper Hunter and just off the New England Highway: Bayswater Power Station. You would know that it is a coal-burning power station rated at 2,640 megawatts—a bit of a landmark. It was commissioned in 1985 and, of course, is very important to the New South Wales energy grid and the Hunter Valley generally. Two million homes are powered by that power station. Recently it has completed an upgrade so that it can continue to 2035. But here we have a problem, because AGL has announced that it may shut as early as 2030 as a result of increasing pressure from a number of environmental activist shareholders becoming involved and money being more difficult to borrow in the corporate banking world—so of course there is a lot of pressure on coal generators to shut down.

But Bayswater is particularly important because it is just across the road from its older sister, Liddell—a 2,000-megawatt coal-fired power station commissioned in 1971 that is now 52 years old. As I am sure everyone knows, it was shut down just a few weeks ago—kaput, all finished. But the decision to shut the plant was obvious. It had old technology and deteriorating equipment. The grand old girl, as she was known, was held together with band-aids at the end and she did indeed have to be shut down. I spent a wonderful day there with all the workers. It was fantastic to hear so many stories shared and see so much camaraderie. It was indeed very touching to be part of the day. It comes as no surprise that the generations of people who have worked at Liddell have emotional fondness for that facility. Though many people may say it is ugly, it is important to those who worked there. And it was important to New South Wales for a long time as a source of power.

The shutdown of Liddell has brought a bigger question to the fore that we all need to talk about. It is very important to New South Wales. With the delays that are now being discovered with the Snowy Hydro project and the Kurri Kurri Power Station, energy must be addressed and we need to focus on the problem going forward. We all know that renewable energy projects are underway. The renewable energy road map is a good plan. No doubt it will be very expensive, but the people of New South Wales want to go down that path. As elected officials, we need to make it happen and to keep pushing in that direction. But timing is now a problem. It is a major issue for our energy market, and we feel the pressure of that timing in regional New South Wales. We hear that the Federal Government is going to fast-track some renewable energy projects and transmission lines. It is really important

that we allow our communities to have a voice and to understand those projects. The projects cannot be fast-tracked before we give communities their say.

In short, we need to get the job done. But it has to be done right. We need to allow a lot more time for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to be built. In the meantime, we need to address the energy shortfall in New South Wales. That brings me back to where I started, which is with Bayswater Power Station. We need to look at how we can get that facility to produce large-scale, relatively cheap power to enable our renewable energy future. We have to start planning now. It is something that I will speak more about in the future as it is really important for New South Wales.

PROBLEM GAMBLING

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (18:53): I address the urgent need for gambling reform. Pubs and clubs should be a safe place for everyone. They can and should be a place where families can meet, enjoy a meal, have a drink and focus on building a strong community. Yet the rise of pokies has seen an explosion in the impact of these predatory gambling machines that are designed to addict. The harm caused by gambling affects our community in many ways. Tens of thousands of people in New South Wales experience harm caused by gambling each year, devastating individuals and families across the State, causing housing insecurity, homelessness, food insecurity, relationship breakdown, domestic violence and suicide. It also means that venues rely more on serving the gambler rather than the community and the machines facilitate organised crime by enabling money laundering.

New South Wales has nearly half of Australia's poker machines and loses more per person to gambling than anywhere else in the world. Just this month we saw the release of new data highlighting the explosion of poker machine losses in New South Wales. The data released by Liquor and Gaming NSW reflects the first full year of results unaffected by COVID-19 closures and shows that losses have soared \$1.5 billion higher than pre-pandemic levels. Wesley Mission CEO Stuart Cameron was quoted as saying that people struggling financially were drawn into gambling in the hope of winning to afford groceries and pay the rent. He also said, "The predatory pokies industry is positioned in every town and suburb to take advantage of people who may be vulnerable." Losses were particularly high in lower income areas, with the local government areas of Fairfield, Canterbury Bankstown and Cumberland accounting for 20 per cent of losses.

In the Inner West Council local government area there are almost 1,000 poker machines and \$23 million was lost to them. But in lower income areas the losses are much greater. In Western Sydney the losses were \$225 million for the same period. That means in Western Sydney \$9.6 million was lost to pokies every day in the second half of 2022. Christopher Hunt, a senior clinical supervisor at GambleAware, which runs support and counselling services in Western Sydney, said:

There's lots of evidence to show these LGAs have a combination of both high areas of disadvantage, high areas of new migrants as well as high numbers of poker machines.

...

People in disadvantaged areas are more drawn to gambling because they're suffering financial pressures, they're looking to gambling as a way of relieving some of them.

These machines are designed to addict, and the harm they cause can and must be stopped. These damning statistics are a mandate for the cashless gaming card. We know it will reduce harm and, importantly, it will reduce money laundering. It is time to bring gambling under control in New South Wales. Cashless gaming is supported by the NSW Council of Churches, Unions NSW and the New South Wales Commissioner of Police and is a recommendation of the New South Wales Crime Commission. The Greens support cashless gaming and believe we can go so much further. Yet the Government is proposing only a limited trial that is designed to fail. It is incredibly disappointing that the Government is merely tinkering at the edges of gambling reform. In the electorate of Balmain and across New South Wales people want action on gambling harm. That is why I am absolutely committed to working across Parliament to see the cashless gaming card introduced as soon as possible.

I will press to implement The Greens' plan to "Pull the Pin on Pokies". In this policy our objective is to wean venues off gambling revenue and focus on reducing the social costs of gambling to New South Wales by at least \$87 billion over a decade. To do this our policy will create a pokies super tax to generate funds needed to phase out pokies and support small pubs and clubs to establish alternative revenue streams. It will establish a poker machine reparations fund that will invest in communities most impacted by gambling and expand harm reduction services. It will also introduce a mandatory State-run cashless gambling card with harm reduction measures, including precommitment of time and spending and a statewide exclusion register.

Our detailed plan will rid pubs and clubs of poker machines, tackle the corrosive influence of the gambling lobby and address the serious harm inflicted on individuals, families and communities. This campaign has been driven for many years by advocates and community organisations that have seen the impact of poker machine

gambling. I take this opportunity to thank all the tireless advocates, including Wesley Mission, Troy Stolz, Reverend Tim Costello, Charles Livingstone and the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I thank the new member for Balmain and congratulate her on her first private member's statement.

BADGERYS CREEK ELECTORATE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (18:59): I give my first private member's statement following the 2023 State election and the commencement of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament of New South Wales. I first and foremost acknowledge the wonderful people of Badgerys Creek, who chose me to be their advocate in such an overwhelming way as to lead to a 0.7 per cent swing towards me. That was a remarkable achievement given all Liberal-held Sydney Basin seats suffered swings against them or, worse, were lost to other candidates. I also acknowledge my campaign team, the over 100 volunteers and especially my family for their support in achieving this victory. I say once again on the *Hansard* that I am deeply humbled and grateful for the electorate's decision to once again give me the honour of being their voice and advocate in this place. I promise I will not let them down; they are my focus and my priority. My record of fighting for them and for freedom and decency is plain for all to see, and the community acknowledged and rewarded that on election day.

But enough about the election day result—now it is down to business. I have not wasted time in beginning to work for my community; on day one of the Parliament this week I started to lobby the Labor Government for action on my electorate issues. I will now outline the key deliverables required for the people of my electorate to continue to thrive and achieve their aspirations. It is important to ensure that the Government is acutely aware that the Federal Government's infrastructure project the Western Sydney airport is smack bang in the middle of my electorate. I congratulate our former Liberal State and Federal governments for committing to the \$4.4 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, which has delivered significant upgrades to the road network, connecting the airport footprint to existing motorways and main roads.

I also congratulate our former Liberal governments for committing to deliver stage one of the Sydney Metro airport line, thereby delivering road and rail connectivity to the new airport that is due to open in 2026. But given the hundreds of thousands more residents coming to Sydney and to New South Wales over the coming years, we cannot afford to take our foot off the pedal in delivering essential infrastructure for those people. That is why I was incredibly disappointed that, during the election campaign, the Labor Opposition committed to cancelling two metro projects that would have connected communities and cities to the new airport. There will always be challenges when delivering major infrastructure. But if we do not keep planning, building and delivering for our community, our State will slip behind. That is my greatest fear under this Labor Government—that members opposite are unable to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects, and the citizens of New South Wales will be the ones to suffer.

I now put the call out to members of the new Labor Government to announce when they will commence the construction of the Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport line from Bradfield to Macarthur. They already announced that they will fast-track the business case, but my community is calling for a definitive answer: When will construction begin? The metro line will travel through my electorate and serve the ever-growing community of Oran Park. It was the number one issue raised with me during the election campaign, and I will continue to hold Government members to account to ensure that they deliver.

I also call on Government members to announce when they will commence the construction of two new high schools at Gledswood Hills and Gregory Hills that will serve my electorate. Given the pace of growth in south-western Sydney, especially the continual growth of Oran Park, the need for those high schools is escalating. I look forward to seeing budget line items for those high schools in Labor's first budget. I also call on the Labor Government to fund the upgrade of the remaining stretch of Mamre Road. That critical road infrastructure connects the M4 to Elizabeth Drive and services the growing Mamre Road precinct. The precinct provides about 850 hectares of industrial land, which is in critical shortage, and could accommodate about 17,000 ongoing jobs when fully developed. Our Liberal Government committed to funding the stage one upgrade of Mamre Road, which is now underway, but I now call upon the Labor Government to commit to continuing to fund that critical road upgrade.

I also call on my neighbouring member for Penrith to join with me in continuing the widening of Mulgoa Road that the former Liberal Government commenced. In closing, I again thank my community of Badgerys Creek. They have once again entrusted to me the incredible honour of being their representative in this place. I look forward to working closely with them, and with community organisations and leaders, to ensure Badgerys Creek continues to receive the investment and services we deserve.

WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (19:04): I congratulate you, Mr Temporary Speaker, on your significant new role.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Thank you. It is pretty unanimous.

Mr TIM JAMES: Indeed. I reflect on the recent commemoration of Anzac Day in my community of Willoughby, where I was honoured to participate in some special memorial services to honour our fallen heroes. The people of Willoughby have strong historical ties with the original Anzacs, whose courage and heroism immortalised that sacred day into our national psyche. Those ties run deep through my own family. My great-grandfather Harry James fought for three years on the Western Front before returning home to his young family in Northbridge. His brother Jack, a 19-year-old canister maker from Crows Nest, also saw action on the Western Front and paid the ultimate sacrifice with his life.

Willoughby's affinity with the Anzacs is personified by the legendary figure of Edward "Ted" Larkin, a journalist, police officer, national rugby union player, rugby league administrator, State parliamentarian—indeed, former member for Willoughby—and Anzac. A man of character and integrity, he told the New South Wales Parliament in his final speech, "I cannot engage in the work of recruiting and urge others to enlist unless I do so myself." With that, he enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the AIF's First Division and landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. Fighting gallantly against the onslaught of Turkish forces, Ted was killed in a barrage of machine gun fire with a wound to his chest. His sacrifice was honoured with a requiem mass at St Mary's Cathedral, attended by the Premier and Governor of New South Wales. Posthumously, Ted was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

I have sought to shine a spotlight on Ted's remarkable story and its importance to the commemoration of Anzac Day in Willoughby, and I am proud to be championing community efforts to erect a permanent and enduring memorial to honour Ted Larkin as one of our great local Anzac heroes. Besides the iconic name of Ted Larkin, so many other Anzacs of Willoughby laid down their lives for our freedom. I was honoured to pay my respects to their service this Anzac Day. Beginning with the 5.15 a.m. dawn service in the Chatswood Garden of Remembrance, I joined with hundreds, if not thousands, of locals to remember our service men and women. Together with other local dignitaries and community leaders, I laid a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice in honour of the fallen.

I particularly acknowledge the Chatswood RSL Sub-Branch, the Chatswood RSL Club, the A company of the 2nd/17th Royal New South Wales Regiment and the Willoughby City Band for their lead roles in the beautiful commemoration service. Following the Chatswood dawn service, I took part in the families and community service at Willoughby Park from 7.00 a.m. I was again honoured and delighted to lay a wreath and to stand with Willoughby locals as we all paid our respects. I acknowledge the contributions of the Willoughby Legion Ex-Services Club, the A company of the 2nd/17th Royal New South Wales Regiment, the Willoughby City Band, the Northern Suburbs Pipe Band, the 1st Willoughby Scouts and the High Street Flower Market for making that family commemoration service special and memorable for all.

With our community and nation rightly focused on commemorating Anzac Day each year on 25 April, it can be easy to overlook another significant anniversary the day before. I refer here to the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which falls on 24 April each year. Armenians all around the world pause to remember the atrocity of 1915, when 1.5 million of their own people were exterminated by Ottoman forces. As members would be aware, my electorate of Willoughby is home to a proud Armenian-Australian community, and on 24 April I was honoured to stand in solidarity with them for a beautiful memorial service.

In Australia, the two anniversaries of Anzac Day and the Armenian genocide are linked not only by calendar dates but also by the overlapping courses of history. When Ottoman forces swept through Constantinople in 1915 to carry out their murderous assault on Armenian men, women and children, some 400 Anzac prisoners of war were also there, witnessing the atrocities unfolding before their very eyes. Far from standing idly by, many of those Anzacs rose to help and protect the Armenian people.

I particularly think of Officer Arthur James Mills, who carried a four-year-old Armenian girl to safety, asleep in his arms on his camel. Stories such as those remind us that Anzac Day has nothing to do with glorifying war and everything to do with celebrating the virtue of the individuals who served in war. We mark Anzac Day not to revel or boast in the might of our tanks, planes and artillery, but rather to pay homage to the high character of our veterans for their bravery, courage and sacrifice for our sake. The war historian Charles Bean reminded us from his observances of that first Anzac Day in 1915:

ANZAC stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat.

Lest we forget.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:09 until
Tuesday 23 May at 12:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

According to Standing Order 108A, the following written community recognition statements were submitted.

WANDA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Wanda Surf Life Saving Club athletes on their success at the 2023 Australian Surf Life Saving Titles held in Perth. Over 5000 competitors competed across youth, open, and masters categories, in more than 480 events. Wanda SLSC finished 7th overall. Its competitors won six gold medals—the equal highest for a NSW club with North Curl Curl. Kyle Mason and Dane Sutton won three gold medals each, the highest number won by any athlete at the titles. Kyle Mason and Dane Sutton won the U14/U15 2x1km beach relay and were part of the winning U14/U15 cameron relay team along with Austin Martinus and Otis Jessop. Dane Sutton and Otis Jessop won gold in the U14/U15 board rescue, while Charlotte Bowner won gold in the U14 Female Surf Race. Noah Steiner was awarded the Dean Mercer OAM Shield for the youngest athlete in the open Ironman final, finishing 14th, and Ben Sutton won the U15 champion lifesaver. Mick Georgaris won gold in the 40-44 ski. I commend all medallists and competitors on their efforts at the titles.

NORTH CRONULLA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club athletes on their success at the 2023 Australian Surf Life Saving Titles held in Perth. Over 5000 competitors competed at the titles across youth, open, and masters categories, in more than 480 events. Sari McKee won gold in U17 female 2km beach run and in the U17 2x1km beach run relay with Bella Fleming. Lucy Flanagan won the U19 female beach flags and Kaitlyn Williams won the U14 female beach flags. Taryn Mott, Scarlett Hoerr, Kayla Pryde, and Kaitlyn Williams won the U13/U14 female beach relay, and Cruz McKee won the U19 male surfboard riding. Warwick Cavanagh won the 75+ events in male beach flags, beach sprint, and board race. North Cronulla Navy (Ashlyn Lloyd, Kirra Hodge, Layla King, Lily Thearle, Milly Newton, and coach Kristine Whitford) won the U17 5 person R&R, while the North Cronulla Golden Pineapples (Kate Newton and Cloe Walsh) won the U13/U14 mixed two person R&R. North Cronulla SLSC also won the Ron Sandstrom Trophy as the champion club in R&R. I commend all medallists and competitors on their efforts at the titles.

LUCY WOOLFMAN

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Lucy Woolfman of Caringbah for raising over \$16,000 in the Super Swim Challenge for the Starlight Children's Foundation. Throughout February, Lucy swam 100km or 35 laps a day for 28 days to raise money for sick children and young people supported by the Starlight Foundation. Lucy says that this cause is close to her heart. In 2019, when Lucy was 26, she was hit by a car in Sydney's CBD, and last year she had to have her leg amputated. During her time in hospital, Lucy was supported by a community of people at hospital. Lucy says that the swim challenge was a way to "support other people that need it" and "for all the kids and families out there still suffering". The funds raised by Lucy will help the Starlight Children's Foundation continue to support sick children and young people in the healthcare system. Lucy's outstanding effort to raise awareness and funds is a reminder of how we can overcome difficult challenges when we have determination and community support. I commend Lucy on her success and thank her for her contribution to the community.

ERIKA MUNAN

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Dorrigo's Erika Munan is being celebrated with a Local Woman of the Year Award in recognition of the significant support she has given to the Oxley community. Erika is an all-round outstanding community advocate and makes a tremendous contribution to our region. She has been the coordinator of the Dorrigo Youth Centre for four years, and during that time has provided a safe environment for 12 to 18-year-olds to participate in activities, upskilling workshops, seek help or just be themselves. Erika has also managed the Dorrigo Neighbourhood Centre for the past two years and has helped to establish the free seasonal community Dorrigo neighbourhood lunch. Erika was instrumental in starting up the free-for-youth Movies on the Mountain cinema group, which is now in its sixth year. Erika is actively and passionately involved in the Dorrigo Rotary Club and the Megan RFS, all whilst raising five children and running a farm with her husband. The NSW Local Woman of the Year Awards is an annual program which recognises and celebrates the support women give to their local communities. I'd like to thank Erika for volunteering her time and energy to make a positive difference to our region.

ELSIE'S PROJECT REMEMBRANCE WALK

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I was honoured to recently join the Elsie's Retreat team and members from the Lions Club of Wyoming East Gosford for their inaugural annual Elsie's Remembrance Walk and BBQ. Held at Mingara Recreation Club athletic oval, this was a very special evening and great community event. The BBQ was cooked by the Lions Club of Northlakes, and cakes and treats provided the Leos of Northlakes High. Peter Steele from Kincumber Mitre 10, who is always a great supporter of the Elsie's Retreat Project donated fabulous raffle prizes and the Coastal a Capella Singers performed. This walk was attended by many members of the community and was a special evening to remember loved ones, paying tribute to their life and legacy. I thank the hardworking Elsie's Retreat Project committee, Judy Maudsley, Margaret Pearce, Oana McBride, Peter Hurley, and the rest of the orange army who have spent the past 10 years working tirelessly to improve and expand palliative care options on the Central Coast.

COAST SHELTER EXPANSION

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—In February I was delighted to join CEO Michael Starr and members of the Board of Coast Shelter to announce \$818, 372 in Stronger Country Communities funding from the NSW Liberal Nationals Government to support their program 'The Retreat'. The Retreat will be a wellbeing studio specialising in support for those in our community who need it most. It will repurpose an existing storeroom into a multi-purpose open plan space in which to run targeted wellbeing programs for females experiencing homelessness, domestic and family violence, and other trauma. With this facility Coast Shelter will be able to accommodate and service more women with accompanying children, people who need access to mental health support, people who need access to alcohol and other drug counselling, and people who are feeling more vulnerable than in any other time in their life.

CENTRAL COAST KIDS DAY OUT

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—This year's theme for the Central Coast Kids Day Out [CCKDO] was 'The Joy of Early Childhood' acknowledging how important it is to recognize the uniqueness and individuality of each child and celebrate the child before us. The team at Central Coast Kids Day Out has for over 23 years provided an annual event that helps connect families to social services available to them on the Central Coast whilst everyone gets to have a fun family day. This year's event was held at Narara Valley High School and included rides, community and school performances and stage shows such as Paw Patrol, Bluey and Bingo, Tiptoe Giants and Woosical the Musical. Many local organisations had stalls to inform parents and carers about the services they provide to support families on the Central Coast. This event is a must for families in our region and I would like to congratulate the team at Central Coast Kids Day Out for all their work putting on a wonderful day that supports kids, families, and the community on the Coast.

SUE MCDONALD

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Sue McDonald from Goulburn. Sue was born in Young and moved to Goulburn at the age of five. Sue attended school and went on to work in Goulburn until 1975, when she married and moved to Bathurst, which also saw her initiated into her many volunteering roles. Sue has been a steadfast and committed volunteer within her communities, supporting her children whilst at school, participating in the P&C's and sporting activities. Sue actively provides on average, fifteen hours per week undertaking a range of activities, which include, but not limited to weekly visits to Warrigal to run a knitting group, Meals on Wheels, Goulburn Garden Club, Red Cross, Can Assist and Girl Guides Auxiliary. Sue recognises the importance of the services and activities that these organisations provide, whilst also acknowledging the additional benefits such as the ability for people to socialise and feel that they are completing useful activities and share stories and experiences. Sue you are to be commended on the longevity of your passion to support and assist others. Volunteering provides such an enormous benefit to so many within our communities and for that I thank you.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – COMMUNITY MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was delighted to join members of the community at the Community Migrant Resource Centre for the International Women's Day "Embracing Equity" event on 17 March at the Holroyd Centre in my electorate. CMRC is a not-for-profit community service organisation established in 1996 to promote the wellbeing of migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants from CALD backgrounds in the Western and Northern regions of Sydney. The International Women's Day event brought together women from various cultural backgrounds to participate in an informative panel discussion about issues women face every day. It also celebrated the release of my friend and Australian of the Year, Rosemary Kariuki's first book 'A Joyful Life', which was launched with this occasion. It is great that the CMRC hold such events to celebrate and acknowledge local women and all that they do for our community. Appreciating one another's efforts goes a long way to a more

productive community with positive outcomes long-term. Thank you for the kind invitation to attend. Special thanks go to the CEO Melissa Monteiro for her kind invitation to attend the "Embracing Equity" event.

RAMADAN 2023

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I want to acknowledge the holy month of Ramadan and thank the many people from the Muslim community who invited me to break their fast with them at iftar. Ramadan is the month of sacrifice and personal reflection for the Muslim community, where they participate in a challenging fast as well as consider the suffering of others and contribute to charities to help those less fortunate.

In recent years, as our Muslim communities have grown, iftar dinners have become larger and more frequent. Also, there has been a great emphasis on interfaith dialogue and the promotion of mutual respect and understanding. Iftar dinners are held by large corporations, political leaders, community associations, schools, mosques and churches and in people's homes. The Granville electorate is characterised by both cultural and religious diversity. It has a large Muslim community, which includes people born in Australia as well as those who have migrated from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. Their country of origin is as diverse as Lebanon and Sierra Leone, Iran and Egypt, Turkey and Afghanistan, Bosnia and Bangladesh. I thank the many organisations who invited me to attend for their generosity, hospitality and friendship.

ST MARK'S DAY

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was honoured to attend the St Mark's Day Church Service at St Mark's Anglican Church, Granville on 30 April 2023, to celebrate their 141 years of worship. Saint Mark's name day is celebrated on 25 April, which is thought to be the day of his death back in 68 A.D. Of course, 25 April is also known to us as ANZAC Day and St Marks is home to four stained glass panels dating back to 1928 depicting St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John and bearing the names of 240 parishioners who served in World War I. I am always impressed by the rich history and traditions of the congregation, especially their commitment to celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday morning. It was a pleasure to meet again with Rt Rev Gary Koo, Bishop of Western Sydney at this function. The unwavering faith of the parishioners, the commitment to their community, and passion for worship is truly inspiring. I thank them for enriching the lives of those in our community and I thank Rector Rev Tallis Tein, Assistant Minister Rev Titus Tam, Lay Ministers Eric Lo, Valencia Tan, Yimin Jiang for their kind invitation.

TALEHA URSZULAK

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I take this opportunity to congratulate Taleha Urszulak, from Oak Flats, who is travelling to Vanuatu this Month to compete in the Australian Women's Indigenous Cricket team in an international cricket carnival. Taleha's selection in the Indigenous team comes after she made the Under 19's female NSW Country squad and she is excited to be able to represent her family, her country and her land in a different country. This comes at a busy time for her as she is a Year 12 student at Corpus Christi High School and acknowledges her school and year adviser have been extremely supportive and helped her balance studies and cricket. Ms Urszulak has also already represented her country in horse riding and will do so again in October when she represents Australia at the Mounted Games in Melbourne. I would like to congratulate Taleha Urszulak on her outstanding achievements and on behalf of the Shellharbour community, I wish her the very best of luck in her future sporting endeavours.

LAKE ILLAWARRA CRICKET

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I take this opportunity to congratulate the Lake Illawarra Lakers Cricket team on their amazing achievement of winning seven of the last eight South Coast Cricket premierships, including the past six straight. In this year's Grand Final, played on 1 April 2023 at Croome Regional Sporting Complex, the Lakers put on a dominate show bowling out the Albion Park Rail Razorbacks for 112 with lakers captain Mark Ulcigrai taking 4 for 13 and Cooper Hayes taking 3 for 23. The lakers were able to chase down the total with the loss of only a single wicket, finishing 1 for 114 with Kerrod White scoring an unbeaten 79 from 87 deliveries. Kerrod shared a 108-run batting stand with Max Henderson ensuring a comfortable win. Congratulations to the Lake Illawarra Lakers for their continuing dominance of South Coast Cricket.

DANNI VASQUEZ

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I take this opportunity to congratulate Danni Vasquez, from Shellharbour, who was runner up in the Australian Women's Golf Classic in Bonville, her first professional golf tournament, in April. Ms Vasquez finished equal with Breanna Gill but unfortunately missed out on winning the tournament in the playoff. Danni, 23, has worked very hard and is very confident in competing well in upcoming tournaments. I would like to congratulate Danni Vasquez on her outstanding achievement and on behalf of the Shellharbour community, I wish her the very best of luck in her future sporting endeavours.

TIM REED

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise Tim Reed from the Manning Valley Kart Club. Tim recently competed in the State Titles held at the Canberra Kart Racing Club and secured a place on the podium in third place. Given the testing conditions on race day and a very competitive field, it is a highly commendable effort by Tim and I congratulate him on his success. I also commend all competitors from the Manning Valley Kart Club for their efforts at the State Titles.

DAVE MURPHY

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise Dave Murphy from the Burrell Creek Rural Fire Brigade who recently received his 10 years Long Service Medal. I would like to thank Dave for his service to the community as a member of the Burrell Creek Rural Fire Brigade and congratulate him for this recognition. I would also like to thank the Burrell Creek Rural Fire Brigade as a whole for their ongoing service to the community and in particular through the Strengthen Our Community Project which provides invaluable information to the residents of Hillville, Tinonee and Burrell Creek.

WILLIAM AND ASHLEY FROM ST CLARES

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise Ashley Allan and William Gibson from St Clare's High School in Taree. Ashley and William recently attended the Diocesan Swimming Carnival and both students performed exceptionally well, bringing home several awards. Ashley received awards for first place in the 50m Freestyle and Back Stroke, first place in the 100m Freestyle and third place in Breaststroke. William received an award for second place in the 50m Backstroke. I congratulate both students on their outstanding achievements at such a high level.

HAYLEY JOHN - NSW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—The Hunter Region NSW Volunteer of the Year awards in late 2022 saw outstanding nominees showcased. I am proud to say that the Hunter Region Young Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Maitland's own Hayley Johns from Bolwarra Heights. Hayley studies Podiatry at the University of Newcastle and was nominated through her continued support of the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticulture Association and the Maitland Show. She was a former Ms Maitland, Maitland Youth Ambassador and Youth Representative on the Maitland Business Chamber Committee. Hayley has also shown dedication to the community through her support work with the National Rural Health Student Network, as a first responder at St John Ambulance, in the local SES and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health. Hayley believes "Volunteering is a great opportunity for people to challenge themselves. If it doesn't challenge you then it doesn't change you and in my experience the more I've challenged myself the more I've grown from that as a person, and being able to help others while doing it is really special." I congratulate Hayley on being recognised for her significant volunteering efforts.

MATTHEW WATSON

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Matthew Watson for East Maitland who took out the 2023 Pitcher Partners Maitland Art Prize "Section A" in February of this year. Matthew secured a \$5,000 prize with his Painting 'Got the Blues', a portrait of music legend Bob Dylan. Matthew initially created the work as a personal challenge at the encouragement of his wife Brooke, and the win was a very unexpected surprise for the former TAFE teacher and signwriter. There were 83 entries to the competition this year, which were judged by Trevor Weekes, a University of Newcastle lecturer in natural history illustration. The Maitland Art Prize was established in 1957 through joint efforts of the Hunter River Agriculture and Horticultural Association, Maitland City Council and the Maitland Branch of the Art Council. Freeman of the City Mrs Margaret Sivyer OAM was a major driver of the award, before her retirement. It is wonderful to see the return of the Maitland Art Prize after Covid, along with the Maitland Show. The Prize provides an important avenue for artists to showcase their artworks locally. Thanks to all the wonderful sponsors and volunteers for bringing it back to life!

DILLON RINN – 50KM FOR 50 DAYS FOR BEYOND BLUE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Local legend Dillon Rinn set himself a massive task earlier this year, he was determined to run 50km per day for 50 days to raise funds and awareness for Beyond Blue. When I joined him at McKeachies Sports Ground in Aberglasslyn early in the morning on Tuesday 14th February, to talk about this massive achievement, Dillon had already notched up 30 laps! He still kept a cracking pace up as we walked around the oval together. Not only was it Valentines Day, but it was also Dillon's birthday, and it was great to hear from him about his passion for helping those who are struggling with depression, and his decision to raise awareness and much needed funds for Beyond

Blue. Dillon's journey ended on Sunday 19 February at Maitland Athletics Centre, and I joined the crowd of locals who came to cheer him home. Dillon along with Vicki Mendyk from U_Matter and Maitland Region Suicide Prevention Network are doing great things in our community to help people who are struggling with their mental health. Thank you Dillon for your amazing efforts in running 2,500km to raise awareness for this important cause.

MARINE RESCUE LAKE MACQUARIE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism)—Speaker, I acknowledge Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie on a rescue they completed last month. On the 4th April, just before 9am, Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie volunteers were alerted to a 5-metre runabout that was experiencing motor difficulties off Moon Island, which is off the coast of Swansea Heads. There were two males onboard the vessel when it capsized, throwing them into the water. Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie volunteers were quick to respond in their sea going response vessel "Lake Macquarie Three Zero" as well as their Rescue Water Craft [RWC]. The men were then picked up by the crew and transported to the boat ramp near Swansea RSL Club, where ambos were waiting, ready to assist. I know that both of the men have made a full recovery. If it was not for the swift actions of Marine Rescue volunteers, the outcome could have been very different. Thank you to all the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie volunteers involved in the rescue, and for their continued efforts in keeping people safe on the water.

GABE WIDSETH

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism)—Speaker, I acknowledge Gabe Widseth of Redhead SLSC on being named the Newcastle Permanent Junior Lifesaver of the Year for the 2022/23 season. Gabe is an outstanding young man who I know is constantly contributing to his club and local community. Gabe has been involved with the club for some time. In fact, he has recently completed his Surf Rescue Certificate, meaning he is able to assist on patrols. I understand that Gabe is eager to broaden his surf lifesaving knowledge through undertaking further education. He also wishes to get more youth involved, so they can all be safe when at the beach. It is obvious that Gabe is passionate about surf lifesaving and will continue to make a value contribution through his club in this space. I congratulate Gabe on his achievement and thank him for the work he is doing to keep beachgoers safe.

RISE YOUTH PODCAST

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Seb Smee, Tara Cowen, Maia McLachlan and Ashlyn Beckwith on their involvement in the launch of the RISE Youth Podcast. Seb, Tara, Maia and Ashlyn are young people from across Lake Macquarie who jumped at the opportunity to be part of the project. The Podcast is a platform designed for young people to share their perspectives on issues that matter to them, showcasing their creativity, passion, and unique voices, which we know often get undervalued. The program was funded by the NSW Government Office of Regional Youth and delivered in partnership with CALM Incorporated and the Newcastle Podcast Station Production House. This project has demonstrated the positive impacts collaboration between young people and community organisations can have in empowering and amplifying young voices. Congratulations to Seb, Tara, Maia and Ashlyn on the launch. I also wish them all the best with their future careers and podcast endeavours.

TRAVIS HAWKE AND BRENDAN JACKSON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Charlestown primary school teachers Travis Hawke and Brendan Jackson have been sharing their love of the outdoors with young audiences by starting their own YouTube channel called Active Adventures. Mr Hawke is a Year 2 primary teacher at New Lambton South Public School. Alongside his colleague, Mr Jackson, a Kindergarten teacher, he launched the channel which is aimed at inspiring young children and their families to try activities and sports, and find new passions and hobbies. Mr Jackson gained internet fame during the COVID-19 pandemic with his high-energy remote teaching videos for his Kindergarten class. Active Adventures' episodes range from mountain bike riding through Valentine reserve, hiking through Glenrock, exploring local playgrounds, cooking patty cakes and learning to play netball and other sports. They have filmed at the Hunter Wetlands, Oakvale Wildlife Park and other local family attractions. I very much enjoyed watching their exploits cycling along my local shared pathway, the Fernleigh Track. Their videos are brightly coloured, fun and a little bit magic. Thanks to Travis and Brendan for finding new and innovative ways to foster a love of the outdoors in Charlestown's youngest residents.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION CHOIR

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Singing can bring people together and help form communities. Especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, finding ways to connect in positive and uplifting

ways as a community has become even more important. I recently joined with Newcastle's Under Construction Choir on 15 April to celebrate 15 years of singing. Members were thrilled to have the opportunity to come together and celebrate the milestone, and the success of surviving the COVID shutdown periods and coming out the other side as a wonderful, supportive group for one another.

The choir is all about social inclusion, breaking down the barriers that can be erected by mental health challenges and lack of community connection. Singing together creates positive connections and builds resilience, something that has been incredibly rewarding for the choir members over the past few years. The celebration was a fantastic reminder of what the choir is all about – a love of singing, movement, musicianship and friendship. Congratulations to the Under Construction Choir Newcastle and a special shout out to those foundation members who marked 15 years with the choir at the April milestone event. Happy singing for the future!

UMATTER

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—While it is becoming more accepted for people to discuss their mental health journeys, the topic of suicide remains taboo in many ways. Charlestown's Lyndsay Walker and his partner Vicki Mendyk are raising awareness about suicide and its impact on families and communities and have launched a new platform aimed at suicide prevention called U_Matter. Thank you to Lyndsay who shared the journey of how they came to create their platform with me. Lyndsay and Vicki are raising awareness about suicide and its impact on families and communities. Five years ago, Vicki's life was upended when she lost two people very close to her from suicide. By creating the Instagram platform, Vicki has a safe place to share her real life experience with others and link locals with networks throughout the Hunter region. In 2022, U_Matter organised a 12-hour walk around Maitland Park, starting at 8pm and finishing at 8am. 67km later, the participants finished in the light after the dark night together on the track. Lyndsay and Vicki created @U_Matter_awareness as a support for others. I would like to recognise Lyndsay and Vicki for sharing their story for the wellbeing of others.

LOCAL GERRINGONG RESIDENT AND PROLIFIC AVIATION WRITER MR JIM EAMES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges prolific aviation writer and local Gerringong resident Mr Jim Eames.

Jim has written his last book 'The Mighty 747: Australia's Queen of the Skies' which captures a nostalgic era of travel. Mr Eames, a former newspaper journalist, Department of Civil Aviation and Qantas public relations executive who now lives in Gerringong, has captured the history of this iconic commercial aircraft. In August 1989, Jim took a small press group to Seattle to collect the brand-new Boeing 747-438 VH OJA City of Canberra and fly it to London. A different crew then flew it non-stop London to Sydney to set a world air record. In 2015, Qantas donated the plane to HARS at Shellharbour Airport and now there are only two such aircraft left in the world. In 2020, the Boeing VH-OEJ Wunala was the last 747 to fly over eastern Australia, just weeks short of celebrating 50 years since the first Qantas 747 touched down in Sydney. Congratulations and well done to Mr Jim Eames of Gerringong on his outstanding latest publication.

HER WAVE TEAMS CLASSIC' SURF AND SKATE FESTIVAL IN KIAMA DOWNS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges the local Kiama Downs community which recently hosted its own surf and skate themed festival. A joint initiative between Kiama Municipal Council & Surfing NSW which ran its all women Her Wave surfing challenge and Concrete Skate Supply who provided a pop-up skatepark. There were creative workshops, food trucks, live music, a surf simulator along with the pop-up skatepark which provided a successful Sun Up Surf & Skate Festival. I acknowledge Kiama Municipal Council's Tourism and Events Manager, Sally Bursell who led the organisation of this event. The 'Her Wave Teams Classic' was a two-day surfing event to support women in sport. The festival had activities at Jones Beach, Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club and Jones Beach carpark. With a series of street soirees moving through the area – the Gerringong Street Parade last year, the Kiama Jazz and Blues Festival on Terralong Street and now Kiama Downs they are heading to our Jamberoo community next in September 2023 in a new event which will highlight our region's outstanding local food and produce.

GERRINGONG LIONS CLUB'S HUGE RETURN AND EARN MILESTONE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges the Gerringong Lions Club. Gerringong Lions Club last month reached a huge and momentous milestone by recycling their one millionth can/bottle and raising \$100,000 for charity. The Return and Earn recycling project, which they started five years ago, was its main means of income during the difficult COVID period when the Lions Club couldn't carry out its usual fundraising activities. I acknowledge and thank Mr Peter Jeffreys, the Club's publicity officer, Mr Bruce Ray and the many other hard-working Gerringong Lions Club volunteers who were involved in

the collection and recycling scheme, which was initially suggested by Bruce Ray. Bruce made the design which has helped the local Lions volunteers to process so many cans and bottles. Each Monday at the back of Michael Cronin Oval, volunteers take their position alongside the plumber's piping which extrudes from the Return and Earn facility and process the refundable drink containers. A wonderful milestone for a great local organisation and I acknowledge the Lions Club of Gerringong President Mark Westhoff, Secretary Jay Thompson and Treasurer Karl Kunz.

KAREN TOOTH

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Karen is a practicing artist in Condobolin and now has a piece of her work hanging at the Condobolin District Hospital. Karen's artwork "A mixed Bag" was chosen to be displayed, by the organisation, Arts OutWest which promotes, educates, facilitates, and advocates for arts and cultural development across the NSW Central West. They rotate artwork in hospitals to brighten the spaces for patients, staff, and visitors. Karen's talent expands in a diverse range of art, including printmaking, photography, oil, watercolour, soft sculpture, welded sculpture, among others. Karen has successfully competed in art competitions, held numerous art exhibitions and is in demand for providing art workshops to adults and children. Karen is currently an art tutor for the Suicide Prevention Program in Condobolin plus after school art groups done through the Aboriginal Health Service. Just this year Karen was awarded the Lachlan Shire Citizen of the year for her contributions to the community for over 40 years. I congratulate Karen on having her artwork chosen to be displayed at the Hospital and thank her for the years of valuable commitment to her community.

SONNY KNIGHT AND WILL RICHARDS

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Sonny and Will are talented boxers from Nyngan, and both won titles at the Cobar "fight night" this month. Sonny trains at The Shed Boxing Club in Nyngan, won the Australian Global Middleweight title against a Newcastle competitor, while Will defeated another Newcastle competitor and took the NSW Western Region Super Middleweight belt. The fight night consisted of competitors traveling from Newcastle, Taree, Barraba, Griffith, Orange, and Narranderra. This is great for the Cobar community and local businesses. I congratulate Sonny and Will on receiving their titles and look forward to hearing of their future achievements with boxing.

LUSC FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS CARE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise the Laurieton United Services Club Friendship Quilters and group coordinator, Denise Dodds. These talented members work tirelessly to create hand-crafted, comfort items to help others in all areas of the community. Recently, they donated 14 quilts, beanies and toys to Ronald McDonald House Family Retreat. The group members also make mastectomy pillows for those recovering from breast surgery at Port Macquarie Base Hospital. Over the years, knee rugs have been made for residents at local nursing homes and quilts crafted specially for the Wauchope Hospital's Palliative Care Unit. Beautiful quilts have been created as prizes for fundraising raffles and a unique banner has been designed and handcrafted for the Kendall RDA. This banner has travelled proudly with the Club to various events all around the state. Recently the members filled over 70 toiletry bags for Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Service, in addition to cash donations for charity groups such as Camden Haven Rural Fire Brigade, Camden Haven SLSC, Hastings Home Hospice and Careflight to name but a few. Congratulations to these hardworking crafters on their generous contributions and for sharing the craft of quilting with others.

REEVE SIMMONS – SYDNEY SWANS SELECTION

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise 15-year-old Reeve Simmons, a local teenager from the Camden Haven who recently gained selection into the Sydney Swans Academy. Reeve will soon be one step closer to reaching his dreams after training at the prestigious QBE Sydney Swans Academy for the past two months in the Under 16s side. Reeve Simmons, a student at Camden Haven High School was offered an opportunity of a lifetime thanks to his teacher and AFL coach Mr Brett Wilkinson who contacted the Swans Academy and shared a snippet of his star players talent with the Board. The end result was Reeve playing for the Under 16s team at Blacktown on 12th March and the rest is history. Now a regular team member of the Swans Academy, Reeve credits his success to Mr Wilkinson for believing in him and opening the doors to a potential AFL football career. Interestingly, Reeve's background in his infancy was the NRL code before switching to the AFL at age 12. I congratulate Reeve for pursuing his dreams and I wish him every success with the Sydney Swans Academy.

'PINK FORCES' UNITE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PORT MACQUARIE'S CANCER CLINIC

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise the annual Mother's Day Classic event in Port Macquarie with the primary focus of raising funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation's lifesaving breast cancer research. The 2023 Port Macquarie Mother's Day Classic organisers, Carmen Abi-Saab

and Kylie Bulmer have combined forces with the Pink Girls, headed by Tracy Stone and Magalie Lameloise, to raise funds towards equipment for the local cancer institute. Funds raised through their 2022 initiatives purchased an additional silicone cap attachment for the PAXMAN scalp cooling system which helps to minimise hair loss during chemotherapy. The cap is placed on a patient's head and is gradually cooled as it fills with gel coolant. This reduces blood flow to the scalp, protecting hair follicles from damage during chemotherapy.

'Go Pink' is the annual theme and the collaborative crew have tirelessly run raffles and sold a range of creative merchandise to fund items to support local cancer patient wellbeing. All funds raised are divided equally between the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Mid North Coast Cancer Institute. I congratulate these inspirational women on their ongoing care and commitment to community.

TRIPLE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT SOUTH WAGGA ANGLICAN CHURCH

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—I wish to congratulate Peter and Elizabeth Holland, Peter and Trish Hilton and Stuart and Carole Gamble who between them recently celebrated 150 years of marriage at South Wagga Anglican Church. The three happy couples were joined by their friends, family and community at large and the celebrations included vintage wedding dresses and photos of memories. Elizabeth Holland said to Region Riverina about her marriage "There's a feeling that God has brought us this far together and, despite things that might throw us apart, we've carried on and kept together and can still enjoy each other's company". She also said of her own experiences in life: "it's not a matter of what you get in life, it's a matter of what you do with what you get". Retired surgeon Stuart Gamble was quoted as saying: "It was just lovely to make such a statement about marriage and its importance and to see so many couples there". Carole Gamble said "Whether to continue with a marriage or to walk away from it has never been a question we've asked, it's just not been an option".

SAM TURNBALL - FLIP SCREEN

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—I would like to acknowledge the unique contribution of Sam Turnbull, a Wagga Wagga local and business entrepreneur, to supporting the people of Ukraine in their war against Russia. Sam is the founder and CEO of Flip Screen which operates in East Wagga Wagga, the United States and Canada and delivers to over forty countries around the world. Sam's Flip Screen is a heavy machine attachment that is intended for use in designs and builds innovative screening attachments for heavy industries. However, recently a new and important use has been found in safely removing landmines. Normally the Flip Screen attachment digs through the earth, scoops up the soil and essentially sieves the soil to capture a variety of desirable resources. The attachment works in a similar manner for landmines except that the mines explode safely inside the attachment. Sam has generously donated one of these machines to Ukraine and it will be flown alongside the legendary Australian made bushmaster APCs into that wartorn region. Sam was quoted by local Rotarian Gary Robertson in the Daily Advertiser as saying 'your fight (that is Ukraine's fight) is our fight'.

SAASHA MCMILLAN

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—There has been a role playing renaissance in the Riverina and much of that is thanks to Saasha McMillan and her team at Oddball Theatre.

Saasha moved to Wagga a decade ago to study the now-defunct acting course at CSU and soon saw an opportunity for something different in the Riverina arts scene. Since 2018 Oddball Theatre has run a space for young creatives and artists to thrive and shine in theatre. They have a real interest in building and providing theatre opportunities for young people and local performance art. Oddball Theatre also offers Gary Gygax's legendary board table role playing game Dungeons and Dragons from ages eight to eighteen. Dungeons and Dragons is internationally recognised as a fun and meaningful way to help young people with social disorders and anxieties to ingratiate themselves in new communities and make friends. Saasha told Region Riverina Oddball theatre is a place "where you can step into a character who's experienced bullying or heartbreak, learn how they worked through it, and then apply that yourself in a safe space." I welcome further creative initiatives in Wagga Wagga and the Riverina community in general and I thank Saasha McMillan and her team.

EPPING BULLS JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping)—Epping Bulls Junior Cricket Club held their annual presentation day recently, after nearly 90 years of promoting and organising cricket in the Epping area. The club was originally established as established as the Epping Municipal and Shires Cricket Club at a public meeting on 21 July 1933 by a group of Epping cricketing enthusiasts. Today Junior Bulls offers Woolworths Blasters programs for boys and girls aged 5-10, Stage 1 cricket for U11 boys and girls, and Junior Cricket competitions for boys and girls aged under 12-16 years of age in the Northern District Junior Cricket Association. Community sport presents a massive opportunity for young people. Learning the values of hard work, teamwork and sportsmanship are strengths that will thrive through to later life. I have been privileged to attend in the past and meet some of the local cricketing talent, and I was highly impressed by the ethos and performance on display. It

was also pleasing to see a lot of parents taking advantage of the Active Kids Rebate also. Thank you to Derek McCarthy for your leadership which has taken Junior Bulls from strength to strength, and congratulations to all those involved.

RIVERSTONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—It feels appropriate that I use this historic opportunity of my first Community Recognition statement to acknowledge the work of the Riverstone Historical Society and Museum. The Riverstone Historical Society is a volunteer organisation that works to record, preserve, and teach the photographic and aural history of this great community. Everything from the dreamtime to its recent redevelopment as a major growth area in Western Sydney can be explored in their records, something I encourage all my constituents to do. I want to specifically recognise Rosemary Phillis who is integral to the organisation. Seldom will you find yourself at a community event in Riverstone and not also find Rosemary documenting furiously for future generations to view. It is because of her thankless work residents can visit the museum on Garfield Road and learn about the rich history of the community. Indeed, I have learned quite a lot about my own family and the impact the Knight family has had on our local community thanks to Rosemary and her commitment to preserving the history of Riverstone, Schofields and Districts. I commend the Riverstone Historical Society on their work and thank them for their continued efforts.

EPHING SCOUT GROUP

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping)—The Scouts are a fine example of community service at its best. As an MP it has been a privilege to get to know many scout groups all over NSW. One of the oldest continuously-running scout groups in Australia is the Epping Scout Group in my electorate. The 1st Epping Scouts was formed on 3 July 1915 by a local plumber Mr Bill Hunt – just 8 years after Lord Baden Powell began the Scouting Movement as a whole in England. More than a century later and the Epping Scout Group is still going strong, with all five sections of the scouts represented in its ranks from ages 6 to 26: Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures and Rovers. Since its formation over 1,000 young people have been involved with Epping Scouts. Our Epping Scouts participate in a wide range of character-building exercises, including hiking, water sports and camps. You will also find the scouts playing an integral role in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services. Thank you to the Epping Scout Group for providing Epping kids with the opportunity to grow and develop within their local community. My particular thanks to Group Leader Peter Buckley for his steadfast leadership.

HILLS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I rise to recognise the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network for its continuing work to support those who have been subjected to domestic violence within our community. For over 30 years the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network has provided support to families in North Western Sydney who have experienced domestic and family violence. The Hills Domestic Violence Network recently held the 'Disconnecting with your teen' forum. The forum was a collaboration between the Hills Domestic Violence Network and the Hills Shire Council. The forum brought together a range of keynote speakers who were able to provide invaluable insights to parents. The speakers included Dan Hardie – Teen Therapist and Founder of My Strengths Australia; Terrie Toner – Clinical Psychologist; and Ethan West – Youth Liaison Officer, Castle Hill Police Station. The forum was designed to provide a free thought-provoking opportunity for parents of high school students who wanted to know more about raising teenage children in today's digital world. I recognise the valuable contribution to our community by the Chairperson of the Hills Domestic Violence Network, Uma Menon, in the area of Domestic Violence Prevention and more specifically for the organising and presenting of the forum.

TEMORA RED SHIELD APPEAL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I wish the Temora Zone Red Shield Appeal [RSA] Team the very best of luck in their 2023 fundraising endeavours. An anonymous donor generously donated \$1,800 to help with this year's fundraising endeavours. All monies raised by the Temora Zone Red Shield Appeal will remain in the Temora Zone to continue the great programs that the Temora Salvation Army Corp undertake. Having gone through some tough times in recent years the Temora Zone Red Shield Appeal hope to raise \$10,000 to help their communities recover and ease the pressure of the rising cost of living pressures. The Salvation Army in Australia helps someone in need every 17 seconds and this help is only made possible through the generosity of the local community, who support the Red Shield Appeal. This year's appeal will be held on the weekend of the 20th and 21st of May. I encourage the whole community to get behind and support this year's appeal. I wish to congratulate and thank all the wonderful volunteers who donate their time to raise funds for this appeal.

NICOLE TAYLOR – RAINBOW SERPENT

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to thank one of Cootamundra's local Indigenous artists, Nicole Taylor, also known as 'walkaboutgirl' for her donation of a spectacular painting depicting the

Rainbow Serpent. The painting will be displayed at Cootamundra High School for students and visitors to witness and celebrate the culture and history of our country's native persons. The Rainbow Serpent dreaming in Aboriginal Culture is symbolic of a great and powerful spirit connected to and protective of water, which is also his spiritual home. The Rainbow Serpents story may vary, depending on where it is told, though it is known as the 'Great Life Giver' or 'Mother of Life'. This incredible story has been passed down from generation to generation. Nicole wanted to gift this painting to the children of the school for happiness and joy, but also to also spread the word of this beautiful Dreamtime Story. Selfless individuals like Nicole are instrumental in today's society, her generosity and kindness will allow us to share a beautiful culture for years to come. Nicole, thank you for the art you have created, I know Cootamundra and its surrounds are very grateful.

ERICA GLOVER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS – BUNYIP PRESCHOOL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—On March 22, Bunyip Preschool in Harden celebrated Erica Glover's twenty years of service at the Preschool. Erica commenced initially as a trainee and over time has completed her degree in Early Childhood. Erica has also performed the role of Director of the Preschool for a period spanning over four years. Early childhood educators are a critical part of our communities, especially in rural and regional areas, they are at the forefront of nurturing and supporting our future generations and helping shape their futures as they get ready for school. Twenty years of service has been diligently given by Erica, highlighting her passion, dedication, commitment and loyalty, all qualities which Erica continues to demonstrate, day in and day out. I have no doubt Erica has been an instrumental part of the Bunyip team to date and I wish her all the best, both in her current role at Bunyip, and for whatever her future may hold.

SUNNYFIELD DISABILITY SERVICES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I am pleased to recognise the amazing work of Sunnyfield, a non-profit organisation that has been making a significant difference in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Their commitment and dedication towards providing support services, training, and education to individuals with disabilities is truly remarkable. The recent expansion of their services and programs has enabled them to reach more people in need and their impact on the community is truly inspiring. Their efforts have brought hope, joy and a sense of belonging to those who may have felt isolated or excluded in the past. I would like to congratulate Sunnyfield and all those involved for their hard work, compassion, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place for people with disabilities. Thank you for your selflessness and dedication to the community.

ORCHARD HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I rise today to congratulate the Orchard Hills Veterinary Hospital on their recent expansion and the addition of 14 new staff members to their team. This is an exciting development for the hospital, which has been providing exceptional veterinary care to our community for many years. The new staff members bring with them a diverse range of skills and talents, which will undoubtedly add value to the already outstanding team at Orchard Hills Veterinary Hospital. Their commitment to the highest standards of animal care and their passion for helping animals and their owners is truly commendable. The growth and expansion of Orchard Hills Veterinary Hospital is a testament to the dedication and hard work of their team. As a community, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of veterinary professionals in our midst. On behalf of the community, I would like to congratulate the Orchard Hills Veterinary Hospital and their new staff members and wish them all the best in their continued growth and success.

KARYN AND BILL BORG

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I am delighted to recognise the outstanding achievements of Karyn and Bill Borg who were honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia [OAM] in the 2023 Australia Day Honours. Their passion, commitment, and hard work towards promoting and developing junior football in the community is truly inspiring. Their efforts have not only helped to grow the sport but have also contributed to the development of young players, providing them with valuable skills and opportunities to excel both on and off the field. Their dedication and selflessness are a true testament to the positive impact that individuals can have on the community. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Karyn and Bill and all the junior footy devotees who were recognised for their contributions on Australia Day. Thank you for your tireless efforts, enthusiasm, passion for the sport and for being positive role models for young players. Your dedication to junior football is greatly appreciated and has made a lasting impact on the community.

MARION REEVES - GRIFFITH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I recognise Dr. Marion Reeves who for 27 years has leant her medical expertise, kindness and wisdom to our regional clinical services in Griffith and surrounds. Her speciality spans the whole spectrum of life - from paediatrics to palliative care. Interestingly, when I looked at a Facebook

post about local hospitals there were several messages like this about Marion: The best GP ever! Her care runs deep in generations of local families with an unwavering commitment to quality General Practice, training, her colleagues, staff and her patients. Dr. Reeves tells me it has been an enormous privilege to practice and - typically of her selfless attitude - wanted me to thank her patients and those in the greater area for allowing her that privilege. Dr Reeves is moving to Adelaide to continue her career in palliative care where she will bring her humour, knowledge, vast experience and empathy to a vocational calling she is passionate about. A giant of the medical fraternity in my region, Marion will be sorely missed.

COURTNEY WAKEFIELD - POONCARIE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise Courtney Wakefield of Top Hutt Station near Pooncarie because Courtney is a role model for all women who dare to dream big. Her chosen sport is women's AFL and she only recently retired after four seasons and 30 games at the highest level.

2022 was a career-best for her, kicking 14 goals and being selected as a member of the All-Australian squad. As a young mother, Courtney certainly knows how to multi-task. Her baby son Sid was only 7 weeks old when his mum attended a talent identification day. In 2018 Courtney joined Richmond Football Club ahead of the club's initial VFLW season. This required a 1200-kilometre round trip to Melbourne from home for training sessions and games. Dreams can come true Courtney - You have certainly accepted all the challenges and I am delighted you have experienced success along the way. My congratulations to you on your achievements and inspiration to others as a footballer in what was once a male dominated field.

ST IVES JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB PRESENTATION DAY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—St Ives Junior Cricket Club held their 2022-2023 Presentation Day at Hassall Park at St Ives, on Sunday 2 April. I was pleased to attend the event where a number of girls and boys were awarded trophies for their achievements across batting, bowling, and importantly, for their spirit. St Ives Junior Cricket Club aims to provide an organised and inclusive competition where players of all levels can enjoy cricket and improve their skills. Since being founded in 1989 with 63 players across 5 teams, the Club has continued to grow due to the many parents and players that volunteer their time to coach, score, umpire and manage the committee. The Club is now one of the largest cricket clubs on the North Shore, with 700 members across 50 teams. I acknowledge President Antony Horan, Vice President Anurag Vasisth, Treasurer Lucky Singh, Coaching Coordinator Mahesh Malalage, Operations Manager Katherine Stevenson and all members of the executive. I look forward to further engaging with St Ives Junior Cricket Club and the great work they do in keeping our kids active.

ST IVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY INC CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Sunday 5 March and Sunday 16 April, St Ives Towards Sustainability Inc [SITS] held their monthly community clean ups at St Ives Showground and St Ives Village Green. SITS is a local not-for-profit association seeking to increase sustainable practices, including safe rubbish disposal and recycling in St Ives. At their Clean Up Australia Day event in March, run in conjunction with St Ives Rotary, we picked up 25 kilograms of rubbish – a new record. One item of rubbish was cigarette butts, in which SITS will continue to focus upon as we mark World No Tobacco Day in May. In addition to holding monthly clean ups, SITS runs several initiatives centred around environmental sustainability. They explore ways of increasing composting and recycling, run educational workshops, fundraise through their nursery, and focus on broader environmental issues such as renewable energy. I would like to acknowledge President Alizée Vanderveken on behalf of the SITS executive. She has an amazing energy and passion that is greatly admired. I look forward to engaging further with this valuable community organisation and attending even more clean up events.

KU-RING-GAI HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I was pleased to join the Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society for their 90th Anniversary celebration at St Ives Community Hall on the evening of Tuesday 2 May 2023. Founded in 1933 to bring together residents of Sydney's North Shore with a shared love of gardening and horticulture, Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society is the second oldest horticultural society in NSW. Today, the society has around 150 members and meets each month, often to hear from guest speakers who are highly regarded in the gardening world. The society also takes trips to gardens around NSW. It was good to hear from Dr John Siemon, Director of Horticulture of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens at the anniversary celebration. I thank President Evelyn Mason, Secretary Christine Rethers, Treasurer Robyn Brown and all executive members of the Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society for all the work they do in keeping this community group active and engaging. I look forward to further engaging with Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society and learning more about the world of horticulture.

STORYBOOK PARTY CO

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Owner Karla Jacob from Storybook Party Co held a free event called Not so Scary Halloween, for the community at Charmhaven raising money for Kids with Cancer on 30 October 2022. At the event were popular children's characters to meet and greet with photo opportunities, mini trick-or-treat walkthrough, colouring competition and handing out many treats donated from Woolworths Lake Haven. The raffle held on the day included prizes worth more than \$3,000, with incredible sponsors who jumped onboard to donate wonderful items for a very important cause. Just to name a few who contributed were Bellebird Photography session, Seaweed and Sand, Kel K Styling, Party Mama and Doyalson RSL Club. Raising more than \$2,000 with online ticket sales for kids with Cancer Foundation. On the day amazing volunteers dedicated their time and efforts to make this a great community event. The atmosphere was wonderful with many people saying thank you for doing this, for the community and for the Kids. Karla has been very community orientated since a primary school age and it delights children and parents to continue her journey. Not so Scary Halloween event will continue annually to be a bigger and better event.

ZOE COOK

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—I would like to congratulate Northlakes High School Leo Club President Zoe Cook who was presented the Leo Excellence Award. Zoe has been actively involved in activities since she was in year 5 at school and currently her brother Brayden is the Treasurer. This is Zoe's second year as President, and she has been doing an amazing job by supporting the community. Zoe has recently ran the BBQ and Cake Stall at Camp Breakaway Markets with young Leo's Brayden, Daniel, Caleb, Jordin, Savannah, Samantha, Jessica and Toni. The young Leo's and their mums baked delicious Cakes, Slices, Cookies, Mars Bar Slice, Rocky Road & Lemon Meringue and Lemon Tarts. Raising on the day just over \$735 for Camp Breakaway San Remo. Zoe has also participated in the local event Mingara Relay for Life to raise funds for those impacted by cancer. Zoe contributes her effort and time to several tasks to help support the community organisations.

TUGGERAH LAKES PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital have created a sea of pink in October in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. This aligned with the introduction of leading Savi SCOUT® technology to its suite of services, improving the experience for patients who require surgery for removal of a breast tumour. Using SCOUT® technology, surgeons can precisely target the affected tissue to pinpoint its location within 1mm, which can mean more successful surgeries, optimized breast conservation strategies, and enhanced outcomes for women. Alongside some of the Central Coast's best Breast Surgeons having begun consulting out of the iCON consulting rooms and operating out of the hospital during the month; including Dr Paul Chen, Dr Mary Ling and Dr Rita Poon. Medical Oncologist, Dr Mamta Bagia, and Radiation Oncologist, Professor John Boyages are also joining our team. Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital is committed to supporting the community through their cancer journey. To ensure providing a holistic approach they are increasing the services available at the hospital from diagnosis through to treatment and surgery if required.

6773RD ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL – ASSYRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL – AUSTRALIA

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Sunday 2nd April, I was honoured to attend the 6773rd Assyrian New Year Festival at Fairfield Showground, hosted by the Assyrian National Council – Australia. It was wonderful to celebrate the start of the Assyrian New Year with members and supporters of our Australian-Assyrian community. There were vibrant and exciting dance and musical performances, speeches, award presentations, and activities for everyone to enjoy. The Assyrian New Year Festival is an important cultural and religious holiday and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy. It is one of the oldest celebrations in the world being celebrated for several millennia throughout the ancient Assyrian empire, marking the beginning of the spring and agricultural cycle. The Assyrian National Council – Australia is a wonderful organisation that actively promotes the rich cultural and religious traditions of our Assyrian community. I commend them on their tireless efforts to create a strong and vibrant Assyrian community who represent our active and diverse citizens in Western Sydney. Thank you to Mr Hermiz Shahen, President, Assyrian National Council – Australia, and Mr David M. David, Chairman, Organising Committee, Assyrian New Year Festival for organising a fantastic event.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY – CONSORTIUM OF TAMIL ASSOCIATIONS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday, 25th April 2023, I was honoured to attend the ANZAC Day Ceremony organised by the Consortium of Tamil Associations NSW in Wentworthville. Our Western Sydney community came together to remember and pay respect to those who fought for our freedom, serving with courage, mateship, and endurance at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. We reflected on our young men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of their families, children and future generations. We also remembered and paid respect to all our Australian Defence Force personnel who continue to serve our nation proudly in conflict and humanitarian efforts around the world. We thank you for your dedication to serve others and selfless sacrifice to ensure our safety and security. Thank you to the Consortium of Tamil Associations NSW President, Mr Bala Suthersan, Secretary, Mr Rishi Rishikesan, and members of the association for organising a thoughtful ANZAC Day Ceremony for our Western Sydney community. Lest We Forget.

BRANDON PERRETT-HALE – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I acknowledge and thank Brandon Perrett-Hale, a valued staff member in the Prospect Electorate Office for his hard work and dedication to the Prospect community. During his time at my office, he worked tirelessly to engage with and support our community, always making sure that their concerns were addressed. He was empathetic and listened to those most vulnerable in our community, often giving them peace of mind and guidance during what was the difficult moments of their lives. Members of our community often tell me how kind and thoughtful he was in their interactions with them. Brandon was also a hardworking staff member in my Parliamentary Office, working tirelessly to help me draft Community Recognition Statements, Notices of Motions, Private Members Speeches and legislative speeches. In this role, Brandon often attended functions and community events with me and became a welcoming and familiar face for people to speak with. I thank him for his contributions and wish him all the best in the next stage of his career.

ROWIE DILLON

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Mr Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognise the contribution of Rowie Dillon to the Newport community. Rowie is an accomplished business operator, a passionate advocate for community cohesion, a fierce supporter of small business and one of the most determined and optimistic people you could meet. On top of all this, Rowie is a brilliant baker and her creations has been enjoyed by people all around the world. With COVID-19 having such an enormous impact on small businesses, unfortunately this resulted in great difficulties for many chambers of commerce and business groups that rely upon the generosity and time of volunteers. In Newport, Rowie stepped up to the challenge. In addition to committing time to her own business ventures, Rowie has successfully set about renewing the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce to help drive small businesses opportunities, promote the incredible quality of product and service offerings throughout Newport, and forge constructive and strong relationships throughout the community. I admire the work that Rowie and the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce are doing on behalf of the local business community, and I thank her for her time and service.

MONA VALE SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Mr Speaker, I pay tribute to Mona Vale Surf Lifesaving Club. To say it's been a big 12 months is an understatement.

A \$10 million transformation and a 100-year birthday! Pittwater's hallmark is its natural beauty, but its true majesty is the nature of its people - charitable, self-less, community minded. Every member gives a bit to make our beaches safer, but provide a community, the benefits of which are inestimable. Nestled behind the dunes of Mona Vale, the Club served by our volunteer Surf Lifesavers combines the best of Pittwater. Mr Speaker, steeped in a history of service, the Club first formed in the early 1900's. It ceased to exist after its members were enlisted in World War I and never returned. Today, we remember that sacrifice through the Club's Green and White colours – the colour of the regiment of the soldiers who went to war. I pay tribute to those soldiers. Whether its club founder, Freddie Lane who won Gold at the 1900 Paris Olympics, life members, committee members, members, or current President, Paula Tocquer - you keep our beaches safe, and you are our community's soul. Thank you for your service.

BOOKOCCINO – RAYMOND BONNER & SALLY TABNER

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Mr Speaker, Bookoccino is not just a small business, it is a part of the fabric and soul of Avalon Beach. It is far more than just a bookstore. The combination of books, coffee, its bar, live music, and regular events with high profile commentators, authors, journalists, and academics, are the perfect blend. Its premises, custom designed by award-winning architect Drew Heath are another notable feature. The Avalon Beach community and beyond adore the contribution of Bookoccino to Pittwater. I pay tribute to hardworking owners, Raymond Bonner and Sally Tabner. Their vision, perfection in all they do, and delightful

demeanour are key ingredients to their accomplishments and Bookoccino's stellar reputation. Well done, Raymond and Sally, on the Avalon Beach institution you have built. Here's to ongoing success. Bookoccino's success is our community's success.

ZONTA NORTH SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I would like to recognise and congratulate the North Sydney Zonta Club for hosting an inspiring and thought-provoking International Women's Day breakfast earlier this year in March. The breakfast was hosted to highlight and recognise the importance of Zonta's work in ensuring that women have access to economic opportunities, health and well-being, and participation in the community. I was privileged to have the opportunity to speak at the breakfast and hear of the incredible contributions that women in our local community make to the club. The Zonta Club of North Sydney was founded in 2007 and provides instrumental support to women, and they aim to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. It was remarkable to be in a room filled with so many incredible local women from all walks of life, especially to be joined by local schoolgirls who will be our promising future leaders crucial to shaping our society. Once again, congratulations to the Zonta Club of North Sydney President Linda Bisnette for hosting a fantastic International Women's Day Breakfast.

NORTH SYDNEY SENIORS FESTIVAL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I acknowledge the North Sydney's Seniors Festival celebrated in February of this year. During the festival week, events were held around my local community, including the Morning Tea Launch at the North Sydney Council Chambers, Dance Workshops, a Pop-up Choir, Council Information stalls, and the North Sydney Mens Shed open day. It was wonderful to join the local communities in some of these events and learn more about the different organisations and activities that seniors can be involved in around the electorate. In particular, dropping by the North Sydney Mens Shed was very enlightening. I got to see some of the fantastic projects the men have been working diligently on, and enjoy a delicious sausage sandwich too! Congratulations to the North Sydney Council for hosting the activities. It was certainly enjoyed by all in the community. It provides an amazing opportunity for seniors to get out and about, learn more about what is on offer in this wonderful part of the world, and connect with like-minded community members.

NORTH SYDNEY BEARS RAISE FUNDS FOR WOMEN'S CANCER

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I congratulate the outstanding achievement of the North Sydney Bears, claiming the Women's League Cup and being crowned Minor Premiers of the Harvey Norman Women's Premiership 2023. The Bears played an excellent game and kept the South Sydney Rabbitohs to Zero. Over the last five years, the Bears are proud of the growth and involvement of the Women's rugby league in raising money for the charity 'Women Can'. They tackled their way to raise money and awareness to help fund Women's Cancer research. A huge congratulations to Cassey Tohi-Hiku, Jakiya Whitefeld, Jessica Sergis, Rikaya Horne, Mia Wood, Kirra Dibb, Raecene McGregor, Teuila Fotu Moala, Nita Maynard, Kalosipani Hopoate, Jamilee Bright, Vanessa Foliaki, Sarah Togatuki, Lexi Kiriwi, Aliti Namoce Sagano, Grace-Lee Weekes, Allison Futiallo, Chloe Jackson and Head Coach Robert Capizzi. Congratulations to all involved with the North Sydney Bears, from the players to the coaching and support staff and well done on this remarkable win.

TWILIGHT LANTERN PARADE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—In February, the Willoughby community was treated to a most memorable night with the Twilight Lantern Parade through Chatswood. The Twilight Lantern Parade is a family-friendly, cultural event that was part of the local Year of the Rabbit Festival. This parade was a celebration of the Lunar New Year and is a popular event in the local community which is home to a large east Asian community of Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean Australians. Hosted by Willoughby City Council, the parade featured an array of lanterns that illuminated the streets of Chatswood CBD. Participants of all ages took part and showcased their creative skills by making and carrying different lanterns and props. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the vibrant cultural diversity of Willoughby. The parade was accompanied by live music, dance performances, and other entertainment performed by various cultural and community groups adding to the festive atmosphere. I wish all in my community and in NSW a happy and prosperous Year of the Rabbit!

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—On Australia Day earlier this year, I was especially proud of the Willoughby locals recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours. In 2023, four residents of Willoughby were awarded with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for their service and dedication to their field. I pay tribute to Mrs Jane Boyd of Northbridge for her service to the community through early childhood music education; to Mr Steve Liebmann of Cremorne for service to the broadcast media as a journalist; to Mrs Mary McKendrick of Northbridge for service to primary education; and to Mr Richard Chapman of Willoughby for service to the marine

export industry. Each of these recipients are a credit to their field and they do our community proud. I congratulate and thank each one of them for their contribution and years of dedication. Willoughby is fortunate to have a strong local spirit of service exemplified by the contributions of these four outstanding locals. It helps make our community such a great place to live.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS LIFEblood DONATION CENTRE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—The Australian Red Cross is always in need of blood and plasma donors. In January and more recently last week I was pleased to visit the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Donation Centre in Chatswood to make a lifesaving donation. 1 in 3 people will need blood in their lifetime and a donation is needed every 18 seconds to meet this demand. The Australian Red Cross serves to meet this essential medical need and its donors are literally its 'lifeblood'. Without them, the Red Cross could not deliver the services that are critical to the health of our nation and the generosity of every donor counts. I applaud the work of the Australian Red Cross and I give thanks to the dedicated and friendly team at the Lifeblood Centre in Chatswood who make this vital service possible. I encourage everyone in Willoughby and NSW to help their neighbour in need by giving blood as they are able.

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE OF REVEREND MIKE LEITE

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—I was honoured to have recently attended the Commencement Service of Reverend Mike Leite as a Senior Minister at the Hope Anglican Church in Leppington. Hope Anglican Church is a growing church community led by a team dedicated to the developing community of Leppington. Mike and I are both recent appointments to serving the people of Leppington, albeit in very different realms. However, there is some communality in purpose: Leppington is growing rapidly and is a community in need. We will both work tirelessly to fulfil that need. Churches and other places of worship, like the Hope Anglican Church, are vital to building the sense of community new electorates like mine need to thrive. I look forward to working alongside Mike, his fellow clergy and the parishioners at Hope and all of Leppington's faith communities over the coming years. I congratulate Mike, his wife Emily and their four children on Mike's elevation to the role and welcome them to Leppington.

HILLS KELLYVILLE ROTARY CLUB

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I rise to recognise the contribution of the Hills Kellyville Rotary Club in my local community. The Club was formed from the amalgamation the Rotary Clubs of Baulkham Hills, Kellyville (2009) and Winston Hills (2015). The Club through its volunteer members raise funds through projects such as Jazz at the Pines; the Orange Blossom Festival Garden competition; and Christmas tree sales to name a few projects. The Club has a strong sense of meeting the needs of our community and it is clear its members give up their time to support our community. The Club recently conducted its annual Pride of Workmanship and Community Service Recognition Awards Night. The Awards recognise members of our community who have been identified for excellence in vocation, dedication and service. Award were presented for services to Mrs Loreen Lal from Turbans 4 Australia; Mr Jeff Benton from St. Joseph's Baulkham Hills; Mr Aaron Lans from Flower Power Glenhaven; and Mr Tarun Singh from Turbans 4 Australia. I congratulate the President of Hills Kellyville Rotary Club, Mr Ian Pascoe, to the recipients of the awards and to all involved in the awards night.

LITHGOW'S RON MINNER

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—It's the end of an era for both Lithgow and a family, with local business "Clever Clippers" set to close its doors after four decades. Ron Minner and his family moved to the region from Picton in the early 1980s and opened a barber shop. Over the years Ron has run multiple businesses, but it's "Clever Clippers" that has a special place in his heart. With a strong affinity with the Lithgow community, Ron's daughter Sally Collins carried on the family tradition and took over the business from her father some years ago. I know that both Ron and Sally both feel grateful for the support they have received from residents over the years, noting that many customers end of feeling just like family as well. It's another example of why people move to Lithgow and end up never leaving. Like Ron and Sally, I don't know where you'd get another town like Lithgow where the people are so genuine and friendly. "Clever Clippers" closed its doors on April 28, leaving behind a legacy of 40 years in small business that will be hard to replace.

MATTHEW DAVID IRVINE

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Matthew Irvine is a steadfast advocate for several important causes and groups within our region. He has supported road safety initiatives like the Rotary Youth Driver program for over 20 years and served on the Bathurst Community Transport board as President since 2017. Matthew voluntarily served on board of Western Region Academy of Sport since 2004 and as Chairman since 2007. He is a supporter of the local PCYC and has raised over \$10,000 as part of the 'Time 4 Kids' initiative. Matthew served on the board of Reliance Bank where he assisted in developing initiatives such as the Gunther's Lane Cafe and Technology

Hub and Upstairs Business Incubator. In 2021 he became the Board Chair of Western NSW Local Health District and has been involved in the Bathurst Agricultural and Horticultural and Pastoral Association and Perthville Neighbourhood Group. Matthew has been board member of Bathurst Business Chamber and the Western NSW Business Advisory Council, where in 2022 he was appointed President. Matthew has been an active Rural Fire Service Volunteer since 2002 with Yetholme and then The Lagoon and served as a volunteer with the NSW State Emergency Service between 1989 and 2005.

GERALD 'GERRY' RYAN

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—With his wife Jennifer, Gerry Ryan owned and operated Ryan's Coaches/Gold Country Tours where he was recognised numerous times at the Bathurst Business Awards for dedication to tourism for Bathurst. In 1996, Gerry was awarded Citizen of the Month and nominated for Citizen of the Year for acts of bravery during a storm when a tree fell into the oncoming path of a coach full of Bathurst school children. Whilst working for Bathurst Council he was instrumental in establishing kerb and gutter and other infrastructure in place today. Throughout his 80 years living in Bathurst, Gerry has been an intrinsic part of the hockey community as a player, coach, and manager of representative sides. Due to his instrumental efforts in establishing and coaching the women's branch of the Waratahs Hockey Club, Gerry was awarded a Life Membership. Gerry is also known for his generosity through supporting neighbours young and old. Perhaps his greatest achievements are his positive outlook, his ability to establish and maintain relationships and the impact he has on the lives of those around him.

RENATA FIELD

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown Electorate, I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to Renata Field for her work at Domestic Violence NSW. During Renata's four and a half years at DVNSW she worked across a number of roles, including Voices for Change Project Manager, Policy Officer, Interim CEO, and Policy Manager. Renata's contribution, particularly in the policy and advocacy space, has been remarkable. We know that many people across NSW have relied on the expertise and support of Renata, and the whole DVNSW team in their work. We express our appreciation for Renata's tireless efforts to achieve meaningful reform to eliminate domestic and family violence, keep survivors safe, and ensure specialist domestic and family violence services are supported. We were proud to have recently co-hosted a Women's Housing Roundtable at NSW Parliament with Renata and the DVNSW team. Renata played a key role in driving collaborative solutions for the crisis we are facing for housing, women's safety and for inequality. We acknowledge all of Renata's hard work and achievements, and wish her all the very best for her future endeavours.

GEORGE CATSI

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown Electorate I would like to acknowledge George Catsi and his remarkable contributions to our local community and his ongoing work as a vocal advocate to reduce the ongoing harm caused by gambling and poker machines. As President of the Petersham Bowling Club, George has led a proudly-pokies free club for more than 16 years. By ditching Petersham Bowling Club's reliance on pokies profits, George, and our local community, have created and fostered a thriving community club that hosts live music, entertainment, community radio, trivia, political debates, while also supporting community projects like the Inner West Tool Library. I thank George for his leadership in our community, for leading the way in demonstrating the community good that community clubs can do, and for being a loud and proud champion for pokies-free pubs and clubs. I acknowledge the significant efforts of George, and thank him for his work for our Inner West community and beyond.

DOROTHY EBBOTT OAM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter)—Congratulations to Dorothy Ebbott, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to history preservation organisations in the 2023 Australia Day Honours. Mrs Ebbott gave over 60 years to the Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society. For most of this time she served as President, but also contributed as the society's secretary and general committee member. She gave further to the community as a teacher with the NSW Department of Education for over two decades. Mrs Ebbott's passion for history and sharing knowledge has made a large and wonderful impact on Newcastle and the wider Hunter region. Congratulations on this recognition. We are truly richer for your efforts.

HENRY SCRUTON ESM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter)—Congratulations to Henry Scruton who was awarded the Emergency Services Medal for his dedication to surf lifesaving in the Australia Day Honours. Henry has been involved in surf lifesaving since the 1980s, gaining his Bronze Medallion in 1991 and soon taking on leadership roles in Hunter Surf Life Saving,

including mentoring dozens and volunteering his time assess others for their qualifications. His rescue efforts have not just been concentrated offshore, assisting with emergency transport across the flooded city during the 2007 Pasha Bulker storm. Henry, with his wife Rhonda, also played a pivotal role in growing membership across the region, implementing community education programs and starting the Birubi Point surf club. Henry's enormous contribution has seen Hunter Surf Life Saving grow to the wonderful organisation it is today, and this is a well-deserved recognition. Congratulations!

PROFESSOR MARALYN FOUREUR AM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter)—Congratulations to Professor Maralyn Foureur who was named a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to nursing in the field of midwifery in the Australia Day Honours. For over four decades Professor Foureur has worked for improved maternity outcomes for women, including pioneering the 'continuity of care' model through her PhD research almost 30 years ago. As well as being an accomplished journal article author, Professor Foureur has held roles with the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Newcastle and the Victoria University of Wellington, and her work now informs national health policy. Professor Foureur has made a remarkable contribution to maternity and midwifery care. I've no doubt her work has changed countless lives for the better, and this recognition is well-deserved. Congratulations.

BEVERLEY SCOTT

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—Today I would like to pay tribute to Beverley Scott who passed away last Sunday morning. Beverley was a dedicated and hardworking individual who made a massive contribution to her local community. In 1959, she established Scott's pharmacy and operated the business for the next 51 years, the longest established business in Bexley at the time. She joined the Bexley Chamber of Commerce in 1960, serving as Vice President for 10 years and President for 20 years. She kept the Bexley Chamber of Commerce alive and running, sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Beverley devoted her time to serving her community. She was a life member of the P&C Association of NSW. She was a St George Athletics club member for many years and the first woman to be granted their Merit Award. She was also one of the founding members of the St George Little Athletics Centre. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to Beverley's husband of 66 years Fred Scott and her family and friends.

BULLI HIGH SCHOOL

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Teaching isn't a profession that people choose for the pay cheque. They choose it out of a will to help shape the lives of our youngest generations. They choose it because it's a passion, not an occupation. That is certainly evident when you step onto the grounds of Bulli High School. Whether it's the teachers, the staff or the students, the pride for the school and its community is impossible to ignore. There are many wonderful aspects of Bulli High School however the attention on the arts faculty is something that particularly spiked my interest. I was fortunate to have a sneak peak at some of the artworks being created by some of the senior students. They were simply incredible. We already have a lot of incredible professional artists on the South Coast and I am sure that there will be many future professional artists who are also Bulli High School alumni. Thank you to all the teachers and staff for creating such an incredible community within the school that allows students to thrive. I know there are many students, parents and carers that appreciate your hard work and dedication.

WOLLONGONG LOCAL AREA COMMAND

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—The members of the NSW Police force are an incredibly brave and selfless group of people. Every time they put on that uniform and go to work, they effectively prioritise the welfare of their community over their own. That is certainly the case with members of the Wollongong Local Area Command. As the community in the Illawarra continues to grow, so does the demand placed on our police officers. When there is an emergency, it is those officers who run towards the incident, not from it. To do so takes courage and an unwavering commitment to serve the community. Most of us cannot begin to imagine the scenes those officers come across on a regular basis whilst performing their duties. Police officers don't join the force to simply collect a pay cheque – they do it out of a sense of a duty and desire to serve. They often perform those duties without recognition, however, today I want to say thank you. Thank you to all those men and women who serve in the NSW Police Force, including those officers who are part of the Wollongong Local Area Command. Our community is eternally grateful for your efforts.

OPENING OF NSW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS ANNUAL TEACHER'S CONFERENCE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On 15 April, I attended the annual teacher's conference

of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools [FCLS] at UTS. This conference was attended by a record number of more than 700 participants, their most successful event ever. The NSW FCLS was established in Sydney in 1978. The aim of the Federation is to unite all community language schools across NSW to sustain community languages and to contribute to the multicultural assets of NSW. The FCLS conference is a critical event for educators working in the community language sector, enabling them to develop skills and knowledge, improve their knowledge and skills, and improve the quality of language education for the young people of New South Wales. The conference also offered teachers an opportunity to exchange best practice models and a shared goal of promoting and preserving language and culture among young people from diverse backgrounds.

Congratulations to the NSW FCLS for organising such an important event. It was wonderful to experience the diversity and enthusiasm of the many language teachers in our communities. I commend this organisation for its contribution to the multicultural assets of NSW.

ST MAROUN'S FEAST DAY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I want to thank the Bahayra Youth Association Centre [BYAC] for inviting me to St Maroun's Feast Day held on 12th February 2023. St Maroun was born around 300 BC in the then Greater Syria. St Maroun's legacy was to help the needy. His wisdom, passion and pursuit of intellectual fulfilment gained him more followers all over the region. He famously believed that everything and everyone had a direct connection with God, and God was connected to everything. The Maronite Church proclaimed the Feast Day in honour of the consecration of the Church of Kfarhay for the saint. St Maroun's Feast Day is a religious event run every year which I am honoured to attend. I was joined by supporters, friends and members of the public to celebrate the annual lunch. Last year I was able to support the BYAC with a grant and was able to inspect the building work, the driveway, and the makeover of the front and back courtyards. It remains my firm commitment to support groups that work so hard to maintain community bonds. Thank you to the Bahayra Youth Association Centre, especially the hard-working President, Nassim Jelwan.

COMMUNITY MINDS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On 24 January, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Community Minds, Ms Zizi Charida to learn about the great work they do for the community. Community Minds was created in 2014 to support communities with the aim to inspire and connect people and offer solutions to advance and develop better communities with new innovations and solutions. The programs assist people of all ages, and people from diverse backgrounds to get involved in their communities by volunteering, providing their expertise, sponsoring their programs, through donations, or participating in their programs and events. Community Minds is a not-for-profit community development organisation that works across a range of sectors and stakeholders ranging from schools, community organisations, local councils, and businesses, offering support, training, and programs that promote asset-based community development. They also deliver workshops and training and participate in conferences and events. I am very proud to say Community Minds is based in my Electorate of Bankstown which is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Australia and is considered one of the most multicultural areas in the country with over sixty different languages spoken.

JACKSON GERSBACH

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Speaker, I wish to recognise Jackson Gersbach, from Molong. Jackson is an apprentice welder at SRD Welding & Maintenance and undertaking TAFE studies at Orange. Jackson has entered trade-based welding competition, having taken first place in fabrication and runner-up in the welding category at the Macquarie Regional Competition, which has now secured him a position at the 2023 WorldSkills Australia National Championships in Melbourne from 17th to 19th August. Jackson's employers Sam and Jacqueline Duncan have been supporting of Jackson's development and his opportunities to compete and recognise the hardworking and humble apprentice as being a true asset to their business. I congratulate Jackson on his achievements, and I wish him well for the looming competition in Melbourne, and for his career ahead. Well done and good luck, Jackson.

40TH ANNIVERSARY – LACHLAN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to congratulate the members of the Lachlan Branch of the National Trust, who celebrated their 40th anniversary late last year. The branch celebrated the occasion at Forbes' Lutheran Church on October 24th, 2022. The Lachlan Branch of the National Trust was formed in 1982 at Bartley's Creek. The Lachlan Branch consists of representation of Forbes, Parkes, Condobolin, Cudal, Trundle, Tomingley, Peak Hill, Eugowra and Grenfell. The National Trust exists to identify, conserve and celebrate our

heritage in all its forms, including built and natural heritage. Congratulations to all branch members on this milestone and wishing them well for many more years to come. Well done.

JEREMY COWLEY - 10 DESERTS FOR TORIE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Jeremy Cowley and his 10 Deserts for Torie fundraising initiative. Orange-based midwife Torie Finnane passed away unexpectedly in 2020, and the Torie Finnane Foundation was established in her honour and as a fundraising legacy, which endeavours to improve maternity services in regional NSW through the provision of professional development opportunities, and by assisting with the purchase of much needed equipment. Prior to her premature passing, Torie Finnane was instrumental in the safe delivery of Jeremy Cowley and his wife's daughter, Eva – for which Jeremy and his wife are extremely grateful for. Jeremy was motivated to support the foundation and planned a fundraising initiative to raise a minimum of \$20,000, community support and awareness through a Guinness World Record attempt at the fastest time to cross all ten Australian deserts. Jeremy's ride was planned to commence on 1st May 2023, however with the current closure of the Simpson desert and the lingering flood waters at the top end of the Canning Stock route, Jeremy has delayed the ride for seven weeks. I applaud Jeremy for this initiative, and I wish him the best of luck in his endeavours.

GRACE COLLINS – NORMAN LETHBRIDGE AWARD

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Grace Collins, a University of New England agriculture student, whose stand-out work as a student and her passion for the beef industry have been rewarded at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Agricultural Show. I congratulate Grace on winning the prestigious Norman Lethbridge Award and acknowledge her commitment to and passion for the industry by studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture degree. I commend Grace on her achievements and her intentions to continue her studies and pursue a Masters of Teaching to promote Australia's agriculture industry in high schools.

DUBBO SING OUT DEMENTIA CHAIR

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker... Recently I had the honour of attending the Dubbo Sing Out Dementia Choir's first performance at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre. This mission started small about 9 months ago, thanks to the vision of Anne Gemmell, and now it's setting a new standard thanks to the awesome talents and hard work of Camilla and Sharon. Up to 100 people now gather once a week to share the joy of music and songs, which we know can make a massive difference to their lives, and for family, friends, and carers. Music therapy is like medicine for the dementia-affected brain, and I've witnessed first-hand the joy it brings. I've heard from countless carers and family members who say that, for those couple of hours during practice, they get their loved ones back. When the music starts playing, the participants faces just light up, the feet start tapping, and their mood is improved before, during and after practice! The Dubbo program is the first of its kind west of the Blue Mountains. It was amazing to see how far this choir has come since it started!

PIETER VAN GENT WINERY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker ... when bushfires ravaged large parts of NSW in 2019 and 2020, even hundreds of kilometres away in the Mudgee region, wineries were grappling with the fallout of smoke-damaged grapes. Known as smoke taint, grapes were rendered mostly unusable after suffering the damage. However, a Mudgee winery has taken what could have been a disastrous year and found some positives in the otherwise dark summer. Pieter Van Gent winery recently bottled and released a one-off fortified wine called Burnt Offerings, made from the damaged grapes. Part of the process involved storing the wine inside barrels from Craft Works Distillery, and pulling whisky flavours out of the oak barrels. But, before you open the bottle, your attention might be drawn to the label, designed by artist Elle Gahen, who was tasked to paint a special label that represented the wine and its path to the bottle. Winemaker Phillip Van Gent has said yields this year at the winery are now finally back to normal after the struggles of previous years, with drought, rain and fire. Well done to Phillip and his team for demonstrating resilience and innovation in the face of disaster!

DUBBO RAMS UNDER 12S GIRLS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker ... I would like to congratulate the Dubbo Rams under 12 girls basketball team, which won the Western Waratah Junior League title at Griffith on Sunday. The girls took on the Leeton Eagles Green, who hadn't lost a game throughout the whole season before the finals.

This was the second time the two sides had met in as many days, after Dubbo defeated the Eagles 43-35 in the semi-final on Saturday, advancing straight through to the grand final. However, on Sunday, things were looking a lot harder for the Rams.

They were down by 15 in the second quarter, and down 29-20 with only 6 minutes to go. Spurred on by a host of passionate supporters on the sidelines, who encouraged, cheered, clapped and slapped pool noodles, the Rams powered home to take a 35-31 win, earning the Western Waratah Junior League Title! Fantastic work by players Indie Wilson, Uriah Forrester, Lucy Medway, Jess Comber, Zaira Dickson, Willow Scott, Amahlili Thurston, Polly Hubbard, Stella Hubbard and Ivy Toomey, Coaches Nick Hubbard and Molly Croft, and Manager Luke Scott.

JESMOND LIONS CLUB – COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EFFORTS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Jesmond Lions Club are a very active Lions Club who take immense pride in our area and demonstrate that with their very regular Saturday morning clean ups that they conduct in and around the Jesmond area. I was recently able to join them on one of their Saturday morning clean-ups and graffiti removal days near the Janet St Bridge and was as usual so impressed with their organisation and dedication to the community. Clean-up Co-ordinator, Pat Roberts organises and conducts these cleans very regularly and deserves plaudits for her efforts in keeping the community tidy. Pat, along with President Deb Johnson and all the members who attend the clean-ups, are some of our often-unapplauded community members who deserve recognition. Thank you, Lions Club of Jesmond, for all your efforts, they are so thoroughly appreciated.

HUNTER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE – 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—2023 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Hunter Medical Research Institute [HMRI] which is a powerhouse of medical research right here in the Wallsend Electorate. HMRI have been on the frontline of some of Australia's leading medical and scientific breakthroughs including leading cancer, mental health, reproductive health and public health research. HMRI was formed in 1998 from \$100,000 in seed funding jointly from the University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Local Health District and has become one of the leading medical research facilities in the country. Professor Frances Kay-Lambkin is the Director of HMRI and while acknowledging the history of the fantastic organisation, also looks forward to what the next 25 years will bring. I share Professor Kay-Lambkin's enthusiasm and cannot wait to see the research coming from the HMRI being brought into the mainstream of medical practice. Just last year Professor Brett Nixon's research into reproductive health and sperm health caught my eye and could change reproductive health for men and women significantly in the future. Congratulations to the Hunter Medical Research Institute on this amazing milestone. I look forward to seeing what the next 25 years brings.

THE NAPPY COLLECTIVE

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—In October 2013 the Nappy Collective was launched. Within the first two weeks 1,500 nappies had been collected from their first drop off site. Today, almost ten years later, over four million nappies have been collected through donations right across Australia, and distributed to families in need. The idea started with a group of mums who had leftover nappies that their children had grown out of. They considered many options of what to do with the leftover nappies, before they decided they could be collectively distributed to families in crisis or in need. I am honoured and amazed with the support the Wallsend Electorate continues to provide to The Nappy Collective, not only through donations, but also through successful volunteering call outs. We are supporting the vision for every child in Australia to have access to nappies, and the mission to provide nappies to children and families experiencing crisis and disadvantage. I would like to thank each and every person who has played a part in seeing The Nappy Collective become what it is today. Whether you have donated, or volunteered, thank you.

LINDSAY BROWN – SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW - MERINO SHEEP YOUNG JUDGE CHAMPION

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Lindsay Brown who successfully competed in the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show – Merino Sheep Young Judges competition. Lindsay qualified to compete at state level by successfully judging at local merino sheep shows. I congratulate Lindsay on winning the 2023 RAS Young Judges state final and acknowledge the years of effort he has put in to honing his skills in the judging ring and developing his knowledge of the merino industry while working on the Armidale property of Alfoxton Merino Stud, under the capable tutelage of owners Cindy and Chris Clonan. I commend Lindsay's achievements and wish him all the best in his career in the merino sheep industry.

OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL– CBP GRANT FUNDING

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to congratulate Oatley Public School on receiving funding under the Community Building Partnership grant program. This funding will allow the school to undertake site remediation works, which will continue to support them in future developments. Oatley Public School has consistently gone above and beyond to provide the very best for their students and the local community. Stage

two of their North Site Development plan will see the levelling of sloped areas in the school grounds, as well as the installation of retaining walls, synthetic grass, and drainage. Of course, this is only the very beginning of their grand plan for the school. Oatley Public School continues to seek only the very best for its students and future developments to the site continue to remain a high priority. This initial remediation work ensures that they can keep pushing forward with that plan. I'd like to thank the Principal at Oatley Public School, Debbie Hunter, as well as the P&C team for being such strong advocates for this project. I look forward to working closely with Oatley Public School well into the future!

PENSHURST WEST FC – 'BACK TO OLDS DAY'

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Penshurst West Football Club for the success of their recent event, 'Back to Olds Day', run in conjunction with the Heartbeat of Football association. Held at Olds Park in Penshurst, it was a day of football, friends, fun and food, and I was glad to be able to attend. On offer were some tasty burgers, hot dogs and loaded fries, as well as a special Olds Park Pale Ale, created by the Social Brewers in Mortdale. More importantly, the event was a chance for the Heartbeat of Football association to conduct heart health testing, providing free check ups for players and locals. Heart health is so important, and I'd like to congratulate Andy Paschalidis and all the team at the Heartbeat of Football organisation, for all the work that they do in our local community. I'm so proud of the Penshurst West Football Club for all the wonderful work they do for grassroots sport in our community. I wish them all the best!

NORMAN SANDSTROM

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an amazing member of the local community, for outstanding service to both his country and the Oatley Electorate. Norman Sandstrom, who recently turned 100, is a World War Two veteran and champion of his local community. He, alongside his fellow Countrymen, were recently honoured at the ANZAC Day Service at the Grandviews Bowling Club in Peakhurst. Norman served in the 7th Australian Division Engineers in Borneo. He was also one of the tens of thousands of Australians who fought on the Kokoda Trail, experiencing some of the most gut-wrenching conditions and vicious fighting that any Australians had seen over the entire course of the War. Following his return from the War, he ran a very successful engineering firm and worked as a foreman. He is also a life member of the Penshurst RSL Sub-Branch, where he served as a welfare officer for many years. I thank Norman for his dedicated and long-standing service to his country and his community. The entire community is behind you Norman, we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK – 14-21 MAY 2023

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—NSW is participating in the annual National Road Safety Week, commencing Sunday 14 May 2023. Safer Australian Roads and Highways [SARAH] Group was formed by Peter Frazer following the tragic death of his daughter, Sarah, in February 2012. The Group has launched a campaign, To Drive So Others Survive which invites road users to take the road safety pledge. The road safety pledge encourages motorists to drive as if their loved ones are on the road ahead, removing all distractions, including mobile phones while driving, not putting others at risk by speeding, driving while tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and to protect all vulnerable road users by slowing down. This campaign is seeking to make all roads safer, including those in my electorate of Drummoyne.

CITIZENSHIP CONGRATULATIONS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Mr. Speaker, The great tapestry of Ryde is now brighter, bolder and stronger for the contributions of our newest citizens who officially became Australians on the 4/05/2023. To the following, I thank you for choosing Ryde: Amr Abdelhamid; Abu Abraham; Sharon Abraham; Norah Ahmed; Roniel Aquillo; Zenaida Aquillo; Ara Bazarjian; Armig Bazarjian; Harout Bazarjian; ForumBharucha; Chi Cheng; Hi Cheung; Kwok Cheung; Kwan Cheung; Chung Chey; Tejinder Chopra; Hiu Chow; Roberta Da Silva Nascimento; Francis Dealino; Richmond Dido; Huan Ding; Daphne Domingo; Alwyn Dsouza; Aaron Dsouza; Alyssia Dsouza; Ting Du; Maha Elshahawy; Ihab Emam; Mazen Emam; Sara Emam; Lily Engin; John Escamilla; Yao Fu; Joshua Fulgencio; AlirezaGhanouni; Niki Ghanouni; Atefeh Gharagozlou; Rosa Gharib; Abbas Gharib; Yoann Gobert; Rushirajsinh Gohil; Bomiriyage Gomis; Isadora Goncalves Das Neves; Hassan Gouda; Koos Gruntjes; Nardin Hanna; Aliaksandr Hulida; Siamion Hulida; Katsiaryna Hulida; Yeon Jo; Karina Johann; Kliff Johann; Kody Johann; Kay Johann; Mohit Kalra; Donghun Kang; Julia Karnani; Mohammad Kassem; Harprit Kaur; Eveleen Kaur; Dristi Khadka; Ehsan Oshorjani; Yang Kim; Kiok Kim; Roshan Kotekar; Aiswarya Kottakunnummal; Aryan Kulakkunnath; Stephitha Kuriakose; Keijo Kurjamaa; Marina Kurjamaa; Chun Kwong; Bibek Lamichhane; Gunhee Lee; Yunjung Lee; Agnes Lee; Chien-pai Lin; Huong Pham. Congratulations and best wishes!

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CITIZENSHIP CONGRATULATIONS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Mr. Speaker, The great tapestry of Ryde is now brighter, bolder and stronger for the contributions of our newest citizens who officially became Australians on the 4/05/2023. To the following, I thank you for choosing Ryde: Joey Dela Cruz; Marco Di Domenico; Justine Dizon; Yuni Doh Doh; Aparna Dosapati; Glori Garcia; Jiahui Ge; Anup Ghosh; Kenan Gocer; Ozgur Gocer; Ada Gocer; Deniz Gocer; Karen Gomez Garcia; Sergei Grigorev; Denis Grigorev; Galina Grigoreva; Ashleigh Hanekom; Hsu-hung Huang; Nidal Imsih; Janine Ingalla; Pooya Jalali; Ivy Jogno; Anjail Jouanah; Hina Kabir; Kanarik Kaloustian; Madhukar Kambadahalli Puttasetty; Armen Kaprielian; Seboh Kassiss; Elizabeth Keureumlian; Marina Kharlamova; Roman Kharrasov; Keerthi Kotari Venkata; Sumeet Kumar; Chant Kupdjian; Monika Lalam; Vamsi Lalam; Supritha Lalam; Tharush Lalam; Jacqueline Lam; Shravan Laxmi Narayana; Woojung Lee; Yuanjun Li; Kim Lim; Haitao Liu; Tianjiao Liu; Sunta Lu; Mieko Lutz; Leanne Ma; Lorena Magedara; Alice Maina; Polina Matveycheva; Felipe Medeiros Gill; Marie Medina; Tim Medina; Blaise Medina; Somayeh Mehrabi; Zabin Mohamed Salil; Aye Mon; Udayakumar Mulkamalla; Seyedreza Nabavi; Belinda Ngui; Tra Nguyen; Le Nguyen; Mahta Nikpayam; Amara Njeri; Askari Nourian; Wan-ju Pan; Ashok Panigrahi; Kumar Parasavedi; Dixit Parmar; Diego Pearce Fernandes De Oliveira; Ameiya Pejawar; Brinsley Pereira. Congratulations and best wishes!

TOUR DE ROCKS 2023

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the incredible achievements of the Tour de Rocks Board, chaired by Kay Endres, and the four sub-committees, for their efforts this year in staging another successful tour and raising more than \$200,000 for cancer sufferers, research and development. I congratulate the 345 riders who participated in the recent 10th anniversary ride of 254km through the back paddocks and hills between Armidale and Guyra and the 110 supporters who were on hand to help the riders set up campsites and prepare the 4,600 meals that were consumed over the three-day ride. I commend the committee for their efforts in locating a new route for the tour which in previous years has taken riders from the tablelands to the coast ending at South West Rocks. With the closure of their main route, the Kempsey Road, the tour became a tour of the tablelands from Armidale to Wollomombi, Wollomombi to Guyra and then back to Armidale.

NORTH WEST BUSINESS CHAMBER

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—It was fantastic to join my neighbours, the Member for Blacktown and the new Member for Riverstone at the North West Business Chamber April breakfast catch up at Smooth Blend Café recently! The North West Business Chamber, led by President Sue Lawrence has played an integral part in advocating for investment and infrastructure in the North-West of Sydney as one of the fastest growing areas of NSW. The chamber also continues to grow in membership, with a range of businesses represented that come together to share in knowledge and advocacy on issues that are impacting them and their businesses. Events such as the monthly breakfast meetings are important to keep connections between the chamber, business, community and government strong so that we can continue to work together for the North-West of Sydney. Thank you to Sue and the team for all the work you are doing across our community and I can't wait to join another one of your breakfast catch ups soon!

PENRITH DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION SEASON OPENING

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—It wouldn't be a Penrith winter without thousands of young netball players showing up every Saturday morning to Jamison Park – rain, hail or shine – to represent their teams and it was wonderful to join the Penrith District Netball Association season opening, and March Past for the first time since 2019! Excitement was in the air as players of all ages wore their team colours with pride and put all the preparation to test in their first games of the season - It's great to see young people in our community keeping fit and healthy while developing team work skills.

Entering its 51st Season, Penrith District Netball Association continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of President Joy Gillett OAM and the executive committee. A huge shoutout to all the parents, coaches, umpires and committee members who dedicate their time to ensuring teams are game ready and their local clubs continue to grow – thank you for everything you do. Good luck to everyone for this season, and I might be biased but a special good luck to clubs that have their roots in the Londonderry electorate, Jordan Springs and St Marys Leagues!

ST PAUL'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL INNOVATION LEARNING CENTRE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—Last Friday I had the great honour of officially opening the new Innovation Learning Centre [ILC] at St Paul's Grammar School in my electorate of Londonderry. The ILC is a state-of-the-art building that gives a permanent home to the school's STEM classrooms, a new secondary library and a university style lecture hall. As part of the school's Master Plan, it was fitting that the opening of the ILC was also during the school's 40th anniversary celebrations after a tough decision to delay construction during the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to congratulate St Paul's Principal Mr Ian Wake and his staff, the School Board led by chair Mr Peter Mackie, as well as the teams at Gardner Wetherill Architects and Steve-Watt Constructions on this amazing achievement in opening the ILC. I cannot wait to see how students at St Pauls use this brand-new space to enhance their learning experience and lead the future of STEM in Western Sydney.

JOHN STAVERT OAM RECIPIENT

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—John Stavert actively contributed to his community over many decades. He was one of the founding members of the Hornsby Diabetes Group and served as Chairman for 20 years. For over 60 years he has suffered from Type 1 diabetes and selflessly supported others with diabetes to help them better manage their illness. As a RFS volunteer he served 41 years consecutively with Brooklyn, Cowan and Berowra Brigades. Every year John held an executive position, performing the crucial but often less "popular" roles within the brigade. He is the recipient of a National Medal for his services to the RFS and is a Life Member of the Brooklyn Brigade. John was a respected leader in the scouting movement between 1972 and 1985. For many years John was a supporter of Brooklyn Public School and Brooklyn Health Centre, as well as an active member of several local community organizations, such as Brooklyn Community Association for which he was a founding member. John Stavert's volunteer activities were challenging to compile as he is a very humble man and rarely talks about himself. However, I know is fully very deserving of his OAM award.

BELINDA ROBSON, HORNSBY' WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2023

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—If you want something done give it to a busy person absolutely applies to Mount Kuring-gai mum Belinda Robson. Belinda runs her own accountancy business whilst raising three young children. She also contributes to her community with extensive behind the scenes work as a volunteer. The Principal of Mount Kuring-gai Public School said, "Belinda is a parent every Principal would be grateful to have in their school community. We can always rely on her to get involved, get things done and provide support whenever and wherever it's needed.

Belinda's 25-year involvement with Kuring-gai Netball Association includes playing, umpiring and as an Executive member across various roles. Belinda volunteers with both Greenway Giants Baseball Club and Hornsby/Berowra Eagles Junior AFL Club. She does not contribute as a volunteer for any form of recognition or self-benefit, but simply because it needs to be done for the benefit of the community. Brilliant at whatever she does, Belinda always produces quality work in a timely manner. Crucially she also inspires so many others to get involved and volunteer. It is my pleasure to recognize Belinda Robson as, Hornsby's Woman of the Year for 2023.

KATHIE COMB OAM

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—It is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Berowra resident, Kathie Comb, for her Australia Day 2023 honour of being awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to the community of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai. Kathie served as an elected A Ward councillor at Hornsby Shire Council for

two terms, from 1987 to 1995, during which time she was a very active representative and championed a variety of community causes. I know she was highly regarded by the community as they represented during her time served on Council. In 1986, Mrs Comb cofounded her local newspaper, The Bush Telegraph, and since then she has been the Managing Editor of this publication. This popular local newspaper is home delivered between the Hawkesbury River to Hornsby and has a large and loyal readership. Through The Bush Tele, over the 37 years it has been published, Kathie has supported an enormous number and wide variety of worthy causes in the community and fundraisers for those in need. I am extremely pleased to see Kathie Comb deservedly recognized in the 2023 Australia Day honours with an OAM.

KOGARAH BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and activism of Kogarah Bay Progress Association over the past 100 years. The Kogarah Bay Progress Association is a voluntary, not-for-profit, organisation striving to improve the quality of life, environment, and amenities of the St George community. I was honoured to join the Association's president, Jeff Powys, the State Member for Rockdale, Steve Kamper and many others at the Chairman's Club Lounge at Kogarah Jubilee Oval to celebrate the association's achievements over the past 100 years. Some of their many achievements include, establishing the building fund for the construction of the Kogarah War Memorial Pool, the dredging and draining of the tip of Kogarah Bay, the eventual formation of the Beverly Park Golf Course and the building of the causeway, now Ramsgate Road. One-hundred years is not an easy achievement and to consider it's been done on the back of volunteers is something special. Congratulations Kogarah Bay Progress Association on 100 years of community service for which we are all extremely grateful.

MIRANDA NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of Miranda North Public School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future.

I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge Miranda North Public School's student leadership team for 2023, namely Captains, Robert Reece and Leela Sophie Wheatley, Vice Captains, Harry Wheatley and Summer King and Prefects, Thomas Kwak and Isla Nicholson. With the guidance of their incredible Principal Ross Angus, I have every confidence that these dedicated students will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community.

I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify Miranda North Public School's motto of "Endeavour".

COMO WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of Como West Public School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge Como West Public School's student leadership team for 2023, namely Student Prime Minister, Harry Jamieson, Student Deputy Prime Minister, Pia McKnight and Student Ministers, Zoe Cash, Tahlia Harris, River Atkins and Charlotte Smith. With the guidance of their incredible Principal Felicity Young, I have every confidence that these dedicated students will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify Como West Public School's motto of being '(their) best always'.

KIRRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of Kirrawee Public School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge Kirrawee Public School's student leadership team for 2023, namely School Captains Bulan Hamilton-Foster and Saxon Moodie and Prefects Hamish Aitken, Bailey Holz, Isabella Parker and Tahlia Mazurek. With the guidance of their incredible Principal Selwyn Williams, I have every confidence that these dedicated students will capably lead their peers through what will be their most

important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify Kirrawee Public School's motto of being '(their) best always'.

WILLIAM 'BILL' WATSON

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the work of an outstanding local Glebe resident, William 'Bill' Watson. Bill has displayed a great deal of care for his neighbour and for the community at large. Bill called into my office recently, with concerns about the wellbeing of his fellow social housing resident and neighbour. This neighbour had been receiving cancer treatment and lived alone with his dog. Despite Bill not knowing him personally, he felt compelled to check on him when his dog didn't stop barking. Bill urgently got in contact with our Electorate Office, and our team, who was moved by Bill's care, escalated a welfare check with the local police station. Upon arriving at the home, the police discovered that the resident had sadly passed away. I would like to thank Bill for his compassion and conscientiousness. Moments like these, remind me of how grateful I am to represent a community, full of so many decent and kind individuals - like Bill.

LEICHHARDT BOWLING CLUB 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the incredible success of the Leichhardt Bowling Club and its centenary celebration in April

The Bowlo is a local institution loved by many including my own family. As many Members will know clubs have struggled and Leichhardt Bowlo is no different. However, Covid was an opportunity for the Board to reassess and refresh the club. Now the Club boasts a giant outdoor area, refreshed club house and refurbished performance area. It's an incredibly lively and happening place with events, craft brewery offerings at the bar, live music, delicious Bowlo food at the bistro and fantastic blowing green. It was great to chat with Leichhardt Bowlo Chairman Al Scott and Deputy Chairman Scott Bowers at the anniversary event and I congratulate them on their achievements. I want to acknowledge the other Directors - Gregory King, Gary Talbot, David Smedley and Kylie McCartney. Thank you to all the staff, members and visitors who make the Bowlo such a special place.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS SUMMIT COUNCIL

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—On Thursday 4 May 2023, I attended the Australian Business Summit Council's Annual Dinner and launch of the fourth issue of the business affairs publication EKONOMOS. The event was well attended by several business leaders, dignitaries, Consul Generals, Ambassadors and various political and community representatives, including many residents of my electorate. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the President of the Australian Business Summit Council, Dr Frank Alafaci and his wife Mrs Sylvia Alafaci and the Board for organising a wonderful event and for their work in coordinating and publishing EKONOMOS.

KINCOPPAL- ROSE BAY SCHOOL

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I had the privilege of visiting Kincoppal- Rose Bay School and meeting with the school Principal Erica Thomas, Director of Corporate Services Gary Au-Yeung and school leadership to hear about the school's priorities, and their educational and learning initiatives. It was a great opportunity to learn about the fantastic work they do. There, I awarded a certificate for a \$13,228 NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Grant for a new multi-purpose trailer that will be used for the school's sports activities and their charitable work and social justice initiatives across New South Wales. I want to acknowledge Principal, Erica Thomas, the Director of Corporate Services Gary Au-Yeung, Kincoppal Staff and the Kincoppal Board, Dr Mark Sinclair, Diana Hayes, Paul Gollan, John O'Neil, Linda Quatermass, Loretto Richardson, Lorraine Taraby, Jeff Peers, and the girls of Kincoppal who will have positive impact on our community.

100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to warmly congratulate my local constituent Ms Mui Ng of Five Dock, who recently turned 100. I sincerely wish Mui all the very best on this very special occasion. I hope that she had a wonderful time celebrating this magnificent milestone with her loved ones, family and friends. I know that Mui has received many heartfelt birthday wishes, including from the King, Governor-General, Prime Minister and Premier. On behalf of my community, I extend my very best wishes to Mui and wish her every happiness.

FERNCOURT FAMILY FAIR DAY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—Along with so many other local Marrickville families, I look forward to the Ferncourt Family Fair Day this Saturday! Organised by the extraordinary Ferncourt P&C, the iconic fundraiser is back after a three-year hiatus and is highly anticipated

around the Inner West. The fair will be hosted at the historic grounds of Ferncourt Public School in Marrickville. All funds raised will be invested into improving the school for its students. For my family, it is always a joy to visit the fair. The Ferncourt P&C never fails to throw an absolute blowout for the community!

On Saturday, attendees can expect fun rides and activities for the whole family, pre-loved treasures, handcrafted goods by the Ferncourt Makers, live music, and delicious food from a range of the best restaurants our local community has to offer. The Ferncourt Family Fair Day has always been an all-hands-on-deck event. This year, so many of the Inner West's phenomenal community organisations and small businesses have joined together to support this wonderful cause. I thank the Ferncourt P&C and all of the local sponsors who have dedicated their time to deliver the best experience for families and Ferncourt students.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HP BOWLO

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I warmly congratulate the fantastic team at HP Bowlo for celebrating the venue's first birthday in April! Hurlstone Park's local legends, Karl Setter and James Sommerland, opened the HP Bowlo last year. As part of the quaint shopping strip on Crinan Street, the venue is the only small bar in Hurlstone Park's tight-knit community. HP Bowlo was established partly as an homage to the suburb's 70-year-old bowling club just down the street which closed its doors back in 2017. After just one year, Karl and James have not only revived that community experience, but have created a space that has taken on a life of its own in this small and wonderful suburb. HP Bowlo has quickly become a great place for neighbours to gather over some locally brewed craft beer or a glass of something special from their refined wine list. The venue is also well-known for its Friday arvo meat tray raffles, which are made only a few doors down at Theo's Cecinas Butchery & Smallgoods. Congratulations to Karl Setter, James Sommerland, and the brilliant staff at HP Bowlo for a successful year in Hurlstone Park!

FUTUREPROOF AT THE PRATTEN PARK BOWLO

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—As part of the FUTUREPROOF youth music festival, Ashfield's Pratten Park Bowling Club gave the stage to some of our fabulous young talent in the Inner West. The festival is a not-for-profit, volunteer run event that aims to showcase and support the next generation of musicians. In late April and early May, the iconic bowling club collaborated with FUTUREPROOF to host two dedicated live music events. They were wonderful, free community events, and featured top-notch musicians from all around the Inner West, Sydney and beyond.

The most recent event was hosted last Sunday. The Pratten Park Bowlo put on a highly anticipated big family and youth bands day.

This whole-day event kicked off in the early afternoon with a special family session which included affordable kids meals, free lawn bowling, and a toddler play area for the little ones. Families were treated to a sensational live performance by sixteen year old, AJ Stanton - a singer-songwriter, poet, producer and self taught multi-instrumentalist. Thank you to the Pratten Park Bowling Club and FUTUREPROOF for organising these fantastic, family-friendly events in Ashfield.
