



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Eighth Parliament
First Session**

Thursday 3 August 2023

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 3 August 2023

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that media representatives have been authorised to take still photographs and videos on a pool basis from the Speaker's gallery during question time today.

Notices

PRESENTATION

[During the giving of notices of motions]

The SPEAKER: I remind members that this is the time for giving notice of motions. It is not the time to debate the substantive motions.

Bills

CRIMES AMENDMENT (BREAKING AND ENTERING) BILL 2023

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Alister Henskens, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (10:20): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Every person's home should be their castle. The idea that a person's home is full of love and security regardless of wealth or position of that home gave rise to the name of the famous Australian comedy *The Castle*. But unfortunately many people are not safe in their homes because, instead of love, people suffer violence as part of their everyday life. It is often correctly said that there is a scourge of domestic violence in our community where mostly women are beaten and sometimes killed in their home. It is rare that as a member of Parliament you are able to bring forward a bill that will save the lives of people in our community, but I believe the bill which I am second reading today is an example of such a piece of legislation.

The Coalition in government introduced many important new policies to assist the victims of domestic violence. For example, it introduced the use in evidence of recordings when police were called out to a domestic violence incident, which the police have told me has been transformative in putting chilling and cogent evidence before the courts. It committed hundreds of millions of dollars to build and fund domestic violence shelters throughout our State. But since it lost government, a new matter has recently come to light in May of this year which this legislation seeks to remedy. The High Court of Australia's decision in the case of *BA v The King* [2023] HCA 14 is the matter that I refer to. By the barest of margins, four of the seven justices of the High Court determined that they were constrained by the wording of the New South Wales Crimes Act to uphold the dismissal of criminal charges that I think most fair-minded people would be concerned about. The majority of the High Court justices said of their decision:

36 ... This difficult case illustrates the complexities of the concept of "break and entry", the meaning of which was established in historical circumstances quite different from contemporary society, including when domestic and family violence was generally not treated as criminal. In other jurisdictions, "breaking and entering" as an element of housebreaking and burglary offences has been replaced with trespass or unlawful or unauthorised entry in response to these complexities, while avoiding the extension of those offences to lawful entries.

37 No such amendment or replacement of the older concepts has been undertaken by the New South Wales Parliament in respect of s 112 of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW). That section ... instantiates the long common law and statutory history of "breaking and entering" ...

The Crimes Amendment (Breaking and Entering) Bill seeks to amend the Crimes Act to ensure that it continues to work well to protect all the people of New South Wales, and most particularly women, following the breakdown of a relationship. It reforms the understanding of "break and enter" and provides a legal right for one partner who continues to occupy the previously shared home to stop their former partner, who has left the home and left the relationship, from re-entering at will and by the use of force.

The facts of *BA v The King* are as follows. It dealt with events which occurred after the breakdown of a relationship. The former couple had shared an apartment in Queanbeyan as co-tenants under a residential lease. The relationship ended, the male party to the relationship moved out, stopped paying rent and left his keys behind, but his name was still on the lease. The female in the former relationship remained in the apartment and paid the rent. About two months later, the male turned up, demanding entry to the locked apartment. His former partner was inside, and she said, "No." He was not to be denied, and kicked in the door, grabbed his former partner by the shoulders, shook her, yelled at her, and seized her mobile phone and threw it to the floor. He pleaded guilty in the District Court to lesser charges of common assault, intimidation and destruction of property, but pleaded not guilty to the more serious offence of break and enter found in section 112 of the Crimes Act.

The High Court majority found him not guilty of that more serious offence—which is the very matter that this legislation aims to amend—because the trial judge found that, despite kicking down the door of his former home, Mr King was indeed not guilty of the crime of break and enter. Their reasoning was that, as a tenant whose name remained on the lease at all relevant times, he had a lawful right of entry and could not be guilty of breaking and entering into his own premises. In the passage that I have already read from the majority judgement, this result can be reversed by taking from the Crimes Act the words "break and enter" and replacing them with more modern language found in other jurisdictions.

Trespass has long been understood to be an essential precondition to break and enter and, even though the actual occupant of the home did not want him to enter and he had kicked the door down to make sure that he could, the former male partner in *BA v The King* had not legally trespassed. The majority of the High Court held that the composite elements of "break and enter" in section 112 (1) (a) of the Crimes Act required a trespass. Therefore, although he had broken the door down, it was not a break and enter in accordance with the legislation. This bill will amend the Crimes Act to change that. It replaces the concept of "break and enter" with the concept of "enter without consent", and in doing so removes the essential precondition of trespass.

This amendment will change the existing law so that if a person has ceased to live in a property, even though their name is still on the lease, they will not be able to enter lawfully without the consent of the actual occupant. This bill will protect all those who, following the breakdown of a relationship, continue to live in the previously shared home. In doing so, it provides particular protection to women and allows them to exclude their former partners and stop them entering their home against their will. It means that if those former partners ignore the wishes of the person with whom they previously shared their lives, they can be held accountable under the reformed provisions of the Crimes Act.

"Consent" is defined in the new section 105A (5) (a), which makes clear that the consent to enter must be actual and not obtained by force, threat or deception. Paragraph (b) clarifies that it is immaterial that at the time of the alleged offence the accused had a right of occupation, so long as the accused did not ordinarily reside in the dwelling house. The essence of this amendment is seen in new section 105A (5) (b). This bill, once enacted, will ensure that the actual occupant can be safe in their own home and lawfully bar from entry former partners whose names may still be on the lease but who have ceased to call that building their home. It provides greater security, especially for women, following the breakdown of a relationship. These protections are entrenched by the new sections 110 to 113, which remove the concept of trespass by replacing the concept of "break and enter" with the concept of "enter without consent". New South Wales is not the first State to make these changes, as the High Court recently pointed out, and this legislation is modelled on that currently in force in Western Australia.

The bill also amends other provisions of the Crimes Act to ensure a consistent approach. For example, amended section 61J, which deals with aggravated sexual assault, guards against the circumstance where a former occupant of the home breaks in and sexually assaults a person therein and this would not be regarded as an aggravating circumstance if the assaulter's name was still on the lease. That is an implication of the High Court's decision that is incredibly undesirable. The amendment is a necessary response to the issue with the operation of the Crimes Act highlighted by the recent High Court decision. It is a measure to allow women to feel more secure in their own homes following a break-up. It changes the focus from a legal right of entry to the need to obtain consent to enter from the person who actually lives in the house. It is drafted in such a way as to provide a consistent approach across the whole of the Crimes Act. The bill also makes necessary consequential amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act and the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act and should be supported.

I thank the shadow assistant Attorney General, the Hon. Susan Carter, for her identification of the issue and hard work in bringing the bill to fruition. I also thank the member for Port Macquarie, who is the shadow

Minister for Women, for her work and support in preparing the bill. It is not an exaggeration to say that the bill may literally save lives. Everybody has the right to live safely in their home. The circumstances and outcome for the former female partner in *BA v The King* could have been much worse. It is important that all of us, but especially women, are protected from the sorts of abuses that occurred in *BA v The King* and that the criminal law responds with its full force, regardless of legal technicality, in order to protect former partners from violence and from threats to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Business of the House

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS

Mr GARETH WARD: In accordance with Standing Order 101, I postpone general business notice of motion (for bills) No. 11 [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2023].

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I fix the resumption of the mover's second reading speech as an order of the day for a future day.

Bills

GOVERNMENT SECTOR FINANCE AMENDMENT (GRANTS) BILL (NO 2) 2023

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 22 June 2023.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (10:32): I congratulate the member for Kiama on his outstanding work on behalf of the good taxpayers of New South Wales. He is not only an outstanding local member, as endorsed by his community, but also someone who takes a keen interest in matters of State. If members of the Labor Party had such an interest in public policy, we may see more than just a change to the icare Act appointing a union director to the board. In four months, that is the best that the former Minister came up with. The member for Kiama sits as an Independent and is coming up with more policy than the whole Labor caucus combined, it would seem. That is not very hard. Anyway, there it is.

Mr Steve Whan: Says the bloke who threw us into debt.

Mr MATT KEAN: I acknowledge the interjection from the member for Monaro and note that I was the Treasurer who kept the triple-A credit rating. The test of Labor's management of the State's finances will be whether or not it keeps the triple-A credit rating. I hope the member for Monaro will put his money where his mouth is and stand up in caucus and say that we must maintain the triple-A credit rating, unlike our counterparts in Victoria, including Dan Andrews, who had double the amount of debt to gross State product that we had in New South Wales, notwithstanding the fact that we experienced the same pandemic.

Mr Steve Whan: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The member for Monaro will be heard in silence.

Mr Steve Whan: My point of order relates, of course, to relevance. The member for Hornsby seems to be straying a long way outside the leave of the bill. As Mr Temporary Speaker knows, all interjections are disorderly and responding to them is equally disorderly. I ask you to draw the member back to the relevance of the bill.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I uphold the point of order. There is too much general discussion and not enough debate on the legislation. I draw the member for Hornsby back to the leave of the bill.

Mr MATT KEAN: I acknowledge the point of order taken by the member for Monaro, and I appreciate his audition for Cabinet this afternoon, although I understand he is on the wrong side of the ledger, factionally. The Government Sector Finance Amendment (Grants) Bill (No 2) 2023 provides that a breach of a mandatory requirement of the *Grants Administration Guide* or section 10.3A (2) of the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 is a breach of a ministerial code of conduct for the purposes of the ICAC Act, and that as soon as possible after approving a grant to which the *Grants Administration Guide* applies, a Minister must give details of the grant to each member of the Legislative Assembly in whose electorate a grant will be given.

The former Liberal-Nationals Government took vigorous action to strengthen the grants process. In fact, I was the Treasurer at the time that it implemented the guidelines recommended by the Auditor-General, and I am

very proud of that fact. The former Government supported all recommendations of the 2022 Productivity Commissioner and Department of Premier and Cabinet reviews of grants administration, including the adoption of the *Grants Administration Guide*. I was the chair of the Cabinet Standing Committee on Expenditure review that took that decision, and we applied it during the WestInvest process. That is what good governance looks like.

This Parliament has already further strengthened the grants process, with the support of the Opposition, by introducing a legislative duty for Ministers to comply with a mandatory requirement of the *Grants Administration Guide* and not to approve a grant unless satisfied of certain matters. Those provisions came into effect from 1 July 2023. However, in that Minns Government legislation there was no legal consequence for a Minister who breached those provisions. In the interests of ensuring transparency and accountability, the Opposition believes that there should be consequences for a breach of the *Grants Administration Guide* by making a breach of the Act a breach of a ministerial code of conduct for the purposes of the ICAC Act.

Taxpayers' money must only be spent in an efficient, effective and economical way that delivers value for money, and ensuring that Ministers do so in the exercise of their responsibilities is a key accountability mechanism. In relation to notifying local members when grants are to be announced, it is important that elected representatives are aware of taxpayers' money being spent in their electorates. This enables them to better scrutinise the spending of the Government and assess whether their electorate is receiving due consideration by the Government.

When the Coalition was in government, we had concerns about a similar proposed measure, in relation to both the administrative burden it may add for some extensive grants programs and privacy issues for some grants. However, noting that the new Government supported the measure when in opposition, the Opposition considers that the onus is on the Government to manage these matters appropriately to mitigate such concerns. After yesterday's events it is clear that this Government needs to be subject to the closest scrutiny to ensure that all decisions in relation to the expenditure of taxpayers' money are made on a proper basis. The bill will increase transparency in grants administration and further emphasise the need for Ministers to act with integrity. I again commend the member for Kiama for his fine work. This is an important area of public policy to ensure that taxpayers have confidence in the administration of public moneys in the form of grants. We commend the bill to the House.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (10:37): The Government opposes the Government Sector Finance Amendment (Grants) Bill (No 2) 2023. The bill makes two amendments to the Government Sector Finance Act 2018. The first amendment provides that a breach of section 10.3A (1) or (2) of the Government Sector Finance Act is taken to be a substantial breach of a ministerial code of conduct. Section 10.3A (1) and (2) impose certain requirements with respect to grants administration, including on Ministers as decision-makers for government grants. In particular, section 10.3A (1) provides that Ministers, among others, must not knowingly breach a mandatory requirement contained in the *Grants Administration Guide*. Section 10.3A (2) provides that a Minister must not approve a grant unless satisfied that the grant is an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of money, and achieves value for money.

The effect of the first amendment in the bill would be that a breach of those requirements under the Government Sector Finance Act would amount to a substantial breach of the New South Wales ministerial code of conduct. That proposed amendment is not necessary. Section 3 of the New South Wales ministerial code of conduct states, "A Minister must not knowingly breach the law." Section 10.3A (1) and (2) of the Government Sector Finance Act are legal requirements. Failure to comply with those provisions is therefore a breach of the law, and if done knowingly is a breach of the code.

Because the code is an applicable code for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, a substantial breach of the code may constitute corrupt conduct and may be investigated by the ICAC. The only practical effect of providing that any breach of section 10.3A (1) or (2) is a substantial breach of the code, as is proposed in the bill, is that even a minor administrative breach of those requirements would be treated as a substantial breach of the code. That goes beyond what is reasonable and would dilute and undermine the integrity of the ethical regime that applies to Ministers of the Crown under the code.

Another reason the Government opposes the proposed amendment is because it is critical that the views of the ICAC be canvassed on any amendment that would affect the code. Section 117 (4) of the ICAC Act provides that regulations may only be made under that Act on the recommendation of the chief commissioner, except regulations made under section 10 relating to disclosures of pecuniary and other interests by officers of the ICAC. The New South Wales ministerial code of conduct is an appendix to the Independent Commission Against Corruption Regulation 2017, made under the ICAC Act. The proposed amendment would indirectly impact the scope of Ministers' obligations under the code. As it is not clear whether the Chief Commissioner of the ICAC has been consulted on the proposal, it would not be appropriate for the first proposed amendment in the bill to proceed at this time.

The second proposed amendment in the bill would amend the Government Sector Finance Act to require a Minister approving grants to give details of those grants to each member of the Legislative Assembly who represents an electorate in which the grant would be administered as soon as possible after that grant has been approved. The *Grants Administration Guide* imposes rigorous requirements relating to the publication of grants information. That is information that must be published about upcoming grant opportunities and open grant opportunity guidelines. Information about grants awarded that must be published includes the program name and function, recipient name, recipient location, program delivery location, funding amount, program term, program benefit-cost ratio—where that is required—number of applicants, number of recipients, source agencies, and the decision-maker.

In addition, where a Minister awards or declines a grant in variance from the recommendation of officials, that must be published as well as the reasons for doing so. That information is captured on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder, which is designed to make information about grants accessible and transparent. Given the amount of information that must be made available about grants, requiring that all members be notified after a grant is approved in their electorate as well is unnecessary and unduly burdensome, at least in the way the amendment before the House is drafted. It may well create confusion. What does it mean for a grant to be administered in a particular electorate? Is it the grant recipient's electorate that is relevant, or is it the location of the project for which grant funding has been obtained? The amendment is also not specific about the time frame within which notification must be provided and the substance of the information that must be provided.

The Government acknowledges there are genuine concerns about the way grants have been politicised in non-government electorates and it will work to address those concerns in a sensible and practical way. As an alternative to supporting the second proposed amendment, those concerns could be addressed by way of amendments to the *Grants Administration Guide*. In particular, the guide could be amended to impose certain notification requirements where a grant is approved, but this could be done in such a way that the requirements are unambiguous and reasonably confined. For example, any such requirement would be clear about the time frame for notification, who must be notified and what is captured by the requirement and, importantly, including how the location of a grant is determined. Those details are properly dealt with in the guide rather than in legislation. The Government is seeking to update the guide this year, including dealing with that very issue.

The Government is staunch in its commitment to integrity in grants administration. We have already strengthened the existing framework for the regulation of government grants through the Government Sector Finance Amendment (Grants) Act 2023, which was the very first bill from this Government to be passed by this Parliament. That Act imposes additional duties on decision-makers in relation to government grants and underlines the Government's commitment to transparency in grants administration by making certain grants information open access under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. As I have already noted, we have also committed to further enhancing the *Grants Administration Guide* in the coming months. In that context, the Government does not consider that the bill is necessary or appropriate. The Government does not support the bill.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:44): In reply: I thank the member for Hornsby and the member for Summer Hill for their contributions to debate on the Government Sector Finance Amendment (Grants) Bill (No 2) 2023. To recap for those members who may not have had the opportunity to assess the detail, the bill seeks to do two simple things. First, it seeks to provide for a consequence for the breach of the grants framework that was supported by this House. I agreed with the Government's move to establish a framework around the assessment of government grants; I thought that was a very sensible change. When the Government presented the grants framework, there was no commentary or analysis or suggestion about what the consequences were for its breach. In fact, in that debate, I outlined exactly what the Minister just said about a breach of the law being a breach of the ministerial code. I reiterated that in my contribution to the second reading debate. That is, in fact, acknowledged.

But, given the seriousness that the Government has given to the grants framework, it is appropriate that a misappropriation of government funds—in the way that the Government established the threshold—should in fact attract some severity in how it is assessed and dealt with. That is a message not only to the political class but also to the bureaucratic class as to how seriously they should take the administration of government funds—taxpayer funds. Consequences of a serious nature tend to focus the minds of Ministers. Hence why I felt that having a general provision applying to that framework was insufficient. It required further analysis and severity so that it is clear to the government of the day—be it the current Government or a government of another complexion in the future—that when assessing and considering allocating government money for the grants process, it is given a greater level of attention how that money will be spent.

I speak specifically to the crossbench. If crossbench members think that it is important to have transparency and accountability in that process, and that grants be taken seriously, then they should support that part of the bill.

The second part of the bill relates to alerting local members to grants that have been issued in their electorates. That is just professional courtesy. It happens with some Ministers but not with others. I can say, being a former Cabinet Minister, that I always extended courtesies to members regardless of which side of the House they were on. Any member who served in this place when I was a Minister, be they on the blue or the red team, would acknowledge that. I know that some of my other colleagues were not always as charitable in how they addressed Opposition members, but that provision should be affixed.

I note the comments from the member for Hornsby. He is right that, when in opposition, Labor supported that exact provision. What a difference a few months makes. Now Labor is in government its members are saying that they do not feel the need to tell members of non-government parties when grants are issued in their electorates. Having been in government, I have seen the spreadsheets that are issued. All of them have the electorate in which the grant is allocated. It is quite clear. It is a requirement of the public service to produce that information. It is not difficult. It is just the case that this Government wants to ensure that its political allies get to announce grants in communities, and those who are not part of the Government either have to do its bidding in this place through deals to receive the largesse and favour of the Government, or it will get a local Labor councillor or Labor Federal member or some other person to announce the grant. It is just sensible professional courtesy to say to a local member who has been duly elected by their community that their community has received a grant that they can announce.

It is appropriate that the bill be supported for two reasons. One is that it builds on the transparency and accountability measures that need to be imported, because a lot has been said—rightly—about the seriousness with which the Government takes grants. If members believe in transparency and accountability, they will support that aspect of the bill. If they, as local members of Parliament, think it is a matter of professional courtesy that they be told when a grant is issued in their electorate regardless of who is in government, then they should also support that provision in the bill. I commend the member for Barwon, who previously brought that exact provision to the House. He said that it should happen. I agreed with all of his reasons then, as I do now.

At the time the then Treasurer said exactly what the Minister just said in the Chamber—that the Government would look at the particular arrangement and that it could amend the government grants guide. The Government can do that now. It has given no undertaking to do that. I listened very carefully to the Minister. The word was "could", not "should". The Government has no intention to change the government grants guide. It will continue to dish out grants to its political allies and not inform the local member who has been duly elected by their community. That does not just disrespect that individual; it disrespects the entire community that has elected that local member.

If members do not want to be required to have relationships with Ministers in order to get that information, and if they believe that, firstly, there should be some severity for breaching the grants framework and, secondly, it is a matter of course that local members should be advised, the bill is probably the least controversial thing they can vote for, because it will require both. It will deliver on the transparency objective that the Government says it is for. And it says something about the Parliament's respect for each and every one of its constituencies and the funds that are acquitted on behalf of taxpayers by the government of New South Wales, whoever that government may be. I commend the bill to the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes33
Noes43
Majority.....10

AYES

Amon, R
Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Cross, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Di Pasqua, S
Donato, P
Henskens, A

James, T
Kean, M
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A

Singh, G (teller)
Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W
Ward, G
Williams, L
Williamson, R

AYES

Hodges, M

Saunders, D

Wilson, F

NOES

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

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

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

PAIRS

Davies, T
 Griffin, J
 Marshall, A

Minns, C
 Crakanthorp, T
 Aitchison, J

Motion negatived.

*Members***MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON****MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS**

The SPEAKER: I wish a very happy birthday to the member for Davidson. I also acknowledge the upcoming birthday of the member for Blue Mountains.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I extend a warm welcome to the guests of the member for Upper Hunter, constituents from the member's electorate. I draw to their attention the exemplary behaviour that the member for Upper Hunter will display today. I also welcome to the Chamber a delegation from Sri Om Foundation: HH Sri Om Adisakthiyendra Swamigal; Mr Jayaraman Guruswamy, OAM; Mr Srinivasa R. Vasudevan; Mr Nitin Jayaraman; Ms Aarthi Vasudevan; and Ms Schweta Sharma. They are guests of the member for Riverstone. I welcome a guest of the member for Gosford, Zali Reynolds, a TAFE Vocational Award recipient joining us in Parliament as a young Wiradjuri leader from the Central Coast. I acknowledge a guest of the member for Tamworth, the Mayor of Gunnedah, Councillor Jamie Chaffey. Finally, I welcome students from Ashfield Boys High School, who are completing the Legal Studies and the Legislature program conducted by the Parliamentary Education team.

*Members***MINISTRY**

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House that:

- (1) On 3 August 2023, Her Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of the Hon. Tim Crakanthorp, MP, as Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter.
- (2) On 3 August 2023, Her Excellency the Governor appointed the Hon. Prue Car, MP, as Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.
- (3) On 3 August 2023, Her Excellency the Governor appointed the Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, as Minister for the Hunter.

*Question Time***MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:09): My question is directed to the Premier. Clause 12 of the schedule to the ministerial code of conduct provides that a Minister with a conflict of interest in a matter must abstain from making or participating in any decision or action in relation to the matter. Yesterday the Premier referred to what he called a "significant breach" of the code by the member for Newcastle. Did that breach include a breach of clause 12? If so, what was the breach?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:09): I made it clear to the House and to the public yesterday that there was a breach of the ministerial code, as I determined it, as a result of the Minister not complying with his obligations to provide me with information about potential conflicts of interest as well as a full list of property owned by members of the Minister's family. That is the context in which I made a decision about the breach of the ministerial code. I do have concerns, and I do have to report to the House that there may have been matters over the preceding four months that may have caused other breaches or may have cause for an investigation by the corruption watchdog, particularly in relation to those undisclosed properties and his actions as a Minister. That is a matter for the ICAC to investigate. The Government has referred it to ICAC, as per our responsibility. I want the ICAC to do its job, so I am not going to speculate on the inquiry before it has concluded its investigations.

URGENT CARE SERVICES

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (11:10): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier inform the House how the Government is expanding urgent care services?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:10): I thank the member for Fairfield for his question. It is an important question about healthcare services for the people of New South Wales. It is important because, as members across New South Wales know, emergency departments have never been under more pressure. That is particularly accurate during the busy winter period. We all thought after the COVID emergency we would be in a situation where there would be a decrease in services rendered in New South Wales public hospitals. Unfortunately, the exact opposite is the case, due to a tough flu season alongside having an aging population. Life expectancy is getting longer because modern medicine extends life in many happy ways. But it obviously puts more pressure on the health system in New South Wales.

It is precisely for that reason the Government can announce that it will upgrade urgent care services in three regions in New South Wales. It is expanding care, firstly, in the northern suburbs; and, secondly, in the eastern suburbs regions. Lastly, for the first time it is providing those services to residents in south-western Sydney—one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. It has an aging population that needs care at home, in nursing care or in aged-care services across the State. That means if a doctor, geriatrician, physician or nurse can render aid to an aged person at home or in an aged-care centre, then people will not be reliant on going to an emergency department for that urgent care. I inform the House that in the last quarter we saw the highest number of critically unwell patients presenting to emergency departments. That may be younger people, people who are suffering from flu-like symptoms or those who have acute COVID conditions and require emergency help. That is not to mention road trauma and road accidents.

At the same time, New South Wales had the highest proportion of non-urgent patients in the country. More than 13 per cent of emergency department attendees were patients in the non-urgent category. There is a confluence of events where there is a bad flu season, the remnants of COVID and an increase in non-urgent care in emergency departments. All that pressure is being put on frontline emergency workers to deal with it in real time. Often on weekends, after hours and when everybody else has gone home, they have to make difficult decisions about rendering care. This program gives care to families and individuals in their homes, taking pressure off the public hospital system. It is part of the Government's commitment— [*Extension of time*]

People who are eligible for urgent care services will get access to geriatricians, physicians and nurses in the home at no cost. As a result of the announcement, the Government anticipates that 10,000 extra patients will be treated at home every year. That is 10,000 patients who will not have to present to an emergency department in New South Wales. It comes at the same time that we are seeing a critical reduction in the number of GPs offering primary healthcare services within our community and, as a result, people are presenting to emergency departments. An interesting by-product of the policy pursued by the health Minister is that the hours the services are provided will increase from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. for care in the community and 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. for those seeking help in aged-care facilities.

Many people who have aged parents or grandparents will tell you that help is required late at night when family is not around or when there is a reduced number of nurses on shift in the aged-care centre. More often than

not, a call goes out for an ambulance or a paramedic to come to the aged-care centre and for a presentation at an emergency department. This will help that. It is an example of thinking outside the box and innovating in the healthcare sector to ease pressure on public hospitals while at the same time presenting better services to the citizens of New South Wales. It does not mean that we cannot invest in frontline health services. The Government remains committed to removing the wages cap and introducing safe staffing levels for public hospitals. But we have to do everything we can at the moment to reduce the pressure on our public hospital system and create world-class services for the citizens of this State.

MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:15): My question is again directed to the Premier. Yesterday, when referring to the member for Newcastle, the Premier said there were "concerns that he may have acted in matters in which he had a conflict between his public duties and private interests of members of his family". Will the Premier be up-front with the people of New South Wales and let them know what those actions and matters were?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:16): Okay. So we are going to get a lecture about being up-front with the people of New South Wales in relation to corruption matters, as if scrutiny was the byword of the previous Government. What an absolute joke. Let me explain why this is such an obnoxious and ridiculous question. I can walk through Sidoti, I can walk through Maguire. We can walk all the way through to the current shadow Treasurer, Damien Tudehope—

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: This is clearly a breach of Standing Order 129. It is not directly relevant. The Premier does not want to be up-front with the people of New South Wales and he is avoiding the question.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. There is no breach of Standing Order 129 at this point in the answer. The Premier is making preliminary remarks. The Premier has the call.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Leader of the Opposition is presenting himself as a paragon of transparency right now. That is utterly ridiculous. He gave an interview today where he said, "In other referrals to the ICAC in the past, we have known what the transactions are and we know who the players are." That is not an unreasonable point to make. The reason for that is because every time a referral was made to the ICAC, the media organisations knocked on the door first. There was never a referral from within the former Government. I can refer to it case by case. Let us go to Sidoti. Channel 7 reported on 11 September 2019 that there was a potential conflict of interest. He stayed in his job and refused to answer 107 questions in budget estimates. And only then was he stood down. Let us look at Maguire, the former member for Wagga Wagga. I am not holding the Leader of the Opposition accountable for the actions of Daryl Maguire—

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: It is under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The question is about the member for Newcastle and the matters and actions that the Premier has identified.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I am allowed to put it in context.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I have heard enough.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order—

Mr Ron Hoenig: I wanted to be heard.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I will hear from the Leader of the House.

Mr Ron Hoenig: To the point of order: The Opposition leader cannot ask a question that asks the Premier to be up-front with the people of New South Wales and not open up the topic of the former Government not being up-front. Opposition members have to ask their questions more tightly, otherwise they make directly relevant a response about them not being up-front and what the up-front test is.

Mr Alister Henskens: To the point of order—

The SPEAKER: I do not need to hear from the Manager of Opposition Business. I have upheld the point of order. The Premier has the call.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: We are going to leave that for the ICAC to investigate. That is the appropriate course of action.

[Opposition members interjected.]

Is it not? For the past two months members opposite have been saying that ICAC has been too tough, and now referring this to the corruption inquiry is somehow not enough. We took action because we noticed a breach and we referred it to the ICAC. At every single stage of the past 12 years members opposite waited for a media inquiry or an ICAC referral. The idea that we would accept a lecture at this point is utterly ridiculous.

RAIL MANUFACTURING

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (11:20): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport. Will the Minister inform the House about steps that the Government is taking to restore rail manufacturing in New South Wales?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:20): I thank the member for Blacktown for his question and for his advocacy for domestic manufacturing, in particular in the rail industry. It is exciting that last week I joined with the Premier and the member for Penrith in Western Sydney at a small, family-owned company called Sigra that produces components for Sydney Trains and makes braking and suspension components. It is a critical part of maintaining our trains and keeping them running for passengers across Sydney and New South Wales. We back the skills and the local know-how of local companies, big and small. They are critical to our rail manufacturing industry. Members opposite forgot about that. In fact, the former Premier said that we were not good at doing this stuff and building trains here. That is just wrong. New South Wales workers are great at building trains and, under the Labor Government, we will build trains here again.

We back local businesses, like Sigra in Western Sydney, and local companies that will benefit from our commitment to restore the rail manufacturing industry in New South Wales. We remember that members opposite had an obsession with buying overseas-made. In fact, they spruiked the supposed benefits of buying overseas-made trains, trams and ferries. They said, "Look at the sticker price. It's cheaper!" We know that was not the final price. We know that those trains, trams and ferries cost 40 per cent to 60 per cent more than the original sticker price. Taxpayers' money was wasted, and who lost out? Passengers. Some of the trains are still stuck in sheds here and across the world. They are not being used because of the failed policies of members opposite. Most importantly, as a result of their overseas obsession we lost thousands and thousands of local jobs. There has been a change, and the election of the Minns Labor Government means a new approach. We are going to work with local industry; we are not going to demonise them.

That is why I am pleased that last week in Parramatta I joined with my Federal colleague the Assistant Minister for Trade, Senator Tim Ayres, and 1,000 of the most important representatives—not 1,000. That would have been a very big meeting. It was 100. It is a big industry, but it is not that big! We joined with 100 of the most important representatives of Australia's rail manufacturing industry, including train manufacturers, academics and companies involved in research and development. There were representatives from transport and infrastructure development from every State and Territory. Our workshop on the future of rail manufacturing was an initiative of our Government and the Federal Government to start the process on repairing the damage done by those opposite. We are going to rebuild our domestic rail manufacturing industry. We have heard that we can work with industry. We have listened to them about what is working, what is not working and how we can drive further investment. *[Extension of time]*

We have captured the ideas from industry and other representatives and from our colleagues across the country to work out how to support local jobs and how to restart rail building in New South Wales. The industry told us that the way that State governments have bought trains often with larger, irregular one-off orders makes it difficult for them to plan. It does not provide a long-term incentive for training or investment in equipment and innovation. To develop a thriving and sustainable rail manufacturing industry, we need a national approach. If we can do that together, we will have the scale and capacity to deliver world-class trains and support local jobs. That is what this is all about.

Members opposite were obsessed with overseas-made products that cost taxpayers billions of dollars extra, left passengers stranded and, most importantly, exported our jobs. Unlike them, we have faith in and commitment to our local industry. We will work with them. It will be a long journey ahead to repair the damage that was done, but this is an incredible opportunity to rebuild rail manufacturing in New South Wales and across Australia. Last week in Western Sydney we brought the industry together and we began the journey. We sent an incredibly important message that we back local manufacturing. Things have changed, and the Minns Government will build the future trains that we need, right here.

BOWRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (11:25): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Bowral and District Hospital was due to have a stage two upgrade that was promised by the previous O'Farrell and Berejiklian governments but to date does not have one new bed and previous plans for building replacement have

been changed to building upgrades. Will the Minister today commit to meeting with me and the members of Public Health First in Bowral and commit to providing the funds promised to the community by NSW Health?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:26): I thank the member for her question. On the second part of it, yes, I will meet with the member and that community group. One of the most important things Ministers can do is engage with local members and their communities, and I know she is a terrific advocate for her local community. I will meet them. As the member is aware, the works on the \$55 million stage two Bowral and District Hospital redevelopment is currently in the delivery phase. In fact, I can inform the member and the House that some works have already been completed as part of stage two. I am informed that stage two of the development includes a new central sterilising services department, along with upgrades to the hospital's pharmacy services. Works on the new renal unit were completed late last year, which significantly increased the capacity of that unit—something that will benefit the member's community.

A new clinical services building was also completed in 2020 as a part of the stage one redevelopment. It included new adult and paediatric inpatient wards, more single rooms with ensuites, theatres, birthing suites et cetera. I can confirm that the centrepiece of the \$55 million stage two redevelopment will be a state-of-the-art outpatient centre, including a full suite of allied healthcare services. The hospital's allied health services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, speech pathology and dietetics will move into the new refurbished centre featuring a modern gymnasium and purpose-built treatment spaces next year. The centre, which was formerly the hospital's administration building, will include cardiac assessment, renal services, pathology and a suite of medical clinics. It has been designed to enhance the experience of both patients and staff. The Milton Park building is being retained and will be refurbished to accommodate back-of-house services in a central location, supporting the hospital's new clinical services building and the hospital campus.

As the member may be aware, in order to minimise disruption to the ongoing operations of the facility, the project will be delivered in a phased construction sequence, with further works scheduled to be completed progressively, between 2024 and 2025, something that Health Infrastructure frequently does. As many in this place would know, I am always happy to meet with my parliamentary colleagues from all sides. Last night I had the opportunity to meet with the member for Tamworth and Mayor Chaffey, who I think is in the audience today, to talk about the hospital in their region, which is a very important facility. As I said, I am more than happy to meet with the member for Wollondilly. This is an important project that her community certainly needs and deserves. I look forward to engaging with her on it.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (11:29): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health. Will the Minister update the House on what the Minns Labor Government is doing for women's health?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:29): I thank the member for the recent visit I had to her electorate to announce 20 additional projects, \$500,000 in total, for the culturally and linguistically diverse [CALD] community. I was there with the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Industrial Relations, two brave cancer survivors we on this side of the House are very proud of. I think everyone would be very proud of the tenacity and fight they put up.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Toughness.

Mr RYAN PARK: And that toughness, as the police Minister said. BreastScreen NSW is absolutely critical. I know—because I spoke on many occasions with the former health Minister about it—that one of the real challenges the former Government had was in pausing BreastScreen during the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused an enormous amount of concern within NSW Health. But BreastScreen is back. Last financial year, 371,000 women had their mammograms through BreastScreen services in New South Wales. That is a record number. We know that a mammogram is the key diagnostic tool to make sure that we get that cancer as early as possible. Unfortunately, one in seven women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. So when I say that BreastScreen is critically important to our community, I am not overstating it. Its importance cannot be underestimated.

I was pleased to be with the member for Liverpool, the Minister for Industrial Relations and the Deputy Premier in their electorates recently to talk to our CALD communities. We must ensure that we provide appropriate, culturally safe care in those communities that responds to their religious and cultural concerns. That is something we in NSW Health need to get better at. We must ensure that we are not looking at the community as a singular thing but as parts and that we are looking at how we can improve access to health care for those

different parts. We are also doing a lot more in relation to women's health care. I am really proud of Labor's commitment of \$100 million over five years to women's health services in New South Wales. They are some of the most important health services we deliver in our community. The reality is, with challenging primary health care and people's difficulty in accessing GPs and urgent primary care— [*Extension of time*]

Women's health services play an absolutely paramount role, particularly in dealing with some of the most vulnerable members of our electorates. I thank all members in this place, but particularly those on this side of the Chamber, who were very strong advocates for that commitment and that policy. All members should visit their women's health services, if they have not already. They provide absolutely critical care to really vulnerable women. But we are doing even more than that. Part of our commitment is to deal with vulnerable women during their pregnancies and the first few months after their children's births. These women sometimes have complex health needs or are in very difficult family situations or escaping domestic violence.

Part of our package for strengthening and supporting families is to ensure those women and their families get targeted individual support both before and after their children's births, through nurses, allied healthcare staff members and social workers. We want to keep those families together and, as I have said to this House before, to change the trajectory of health outcomes that result when we do not intervene in those early stages. This is an area of public health policy and reform that we need to continue to drive. When it comes to BreastScreen and diagnosis, we continue to do well, but we need to do better. Cancer survival rates in New South Wales are some of the best in the world, but they will continue to grow only if we get out there to targeted communities and make sure that we deliver the health care in a way that meets the needs of the community. BreastScreen is doing that. I encourage people to get out to their women's health centres.

MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:34): My question is directed to the Premier. When the Premier appointed the member for Newcastle as a Minister, what understanding of the member's family's substantial real estate holdings in the Hunter did the Premier have?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:35): I do not have a detailed understanding of Ministers' in-laws' personal property. I do not think that is necessarily a huge revelation to the House. I will just make a point. Unless there was a reversal of the onus and the presumption on all these matters to do with the ministerial code, complying with the code is always the Minister's or the member of Parliament's responsibility, whether it is about declarations of potential or actual conflicts of interest or something else, in their responsibilities as a Minister. That has always been the case. Is it so surprising that the member for Newcastle would be appointed the Minister for the Hunter? He was not the member for Dubbo. That would have been odd, if I appointed him as the Minister for the Hunter—

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The question was not about whose responsibility it is to make disclosures. The question was not about a justification—

The SPEAKER: Government members will come to order. I need to hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Mark Speakman: I am not asking about whose onus to make disclosures it was. I am not asking about the justification for appointing the member for Newcastle as the Minister for the Hunter. We just want to know the Premier's understanding at the time he made the appointment.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition. I actually listened very carefully to the commencing words of the Premier. I believe, while he may not have used the words that the Leader of the Opposition was perhaps anticipating, the Premier has been directly relevant. There is no point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The point is that Ministers in this Government and in previous governments have a responsibility to comply with the ministerial code. In this instance, we have received information about the member's family interests and I have taken action. It was not as the result of a media inquiry. It was not as a result of parliamentary questions. It was not as a result of a subsequent or succeeding ICAC investigation. We made a decision, in stark contrast to the shadow Treasurer, who resigned from his post as the finance Minister because he got questions from *The Daily Telegraph*. To declare and ignore was always the previous standard as put forward by the previous Government. We did not put that standard in place. I took action because I believed that there was a breach of the ministerial code. I referred that to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. If we look at the actions of the Hon. Damien Tudehope, a member of the other place, we will notice that, on 15 February 2023—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of the member for Wahroonga to the clock. The Premier has concluded.

EDUCATION POLICY

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (11:38): My question is addressed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning. Given that the OECD's recent report showed that the New South Wales education system is facing many challenges, will the Minister update the House on how the Government is driving change?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (11:38): I am very happy to answer the question from the member for Blue Mountains, a former teacher. I am confident in saying that she probably represents the largest concentration of teachers of any electorate in New South Wales, so she is a great champion of our single biggest resource: our public schools. Last year the previous Government decided to ask the OECD—not a small outfit—to look at its management of school policy reform. The OECD findings exposed the Liberal-Nationals Government's record on education as an international embarrassment.

The OECD report is nothing short of a condemnation of the way those opposite treated our teachers. It is international vindication for all those teachers who said they were ignored and undervalued by the previous Government. The OECD found that during the past decade the former Government took a "top-down" approach "with little input from the education profession", and that says everything members need to know. In fact, the OECD stated that it identified the former Government's lack of engagement very early on.

The SPEAKER: The member for Upper Hunter will cease having private conversations.

Ms PRUE CAR: Let us get this straight: The Liberals and Nationals were so bad when it came to supporting our schools that a team in Paris could see it from that far away. Under the Minns Labor Government, I am proud to say that that top-down approach to education is done. We are ruling a line under it once and for all; it is scrapped. I promise the people of New South Wales—the students, the teachers and the parents—that the corporatisation of education is well and truly over. I remind colleagues and everyone listening that the OECD—a very serious outfit—stated that it was struck by the former Government's corporate approach to education.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. It is my observation that the call has gone out. The behaviour of Opposition members changed suddenly as the Deputy Premier began her answer. I am watching members on my left very closely. I see the pattern and I will not tolerate it. If such behaviour continues, members will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr Edmond Atalla: Mr Speaker, they do it all the time.

The SPEAKER: I do not need advice from the member for Mount Druitt. Members will come to order. Audible conversation in the Chamber is disorderly, and I am disappointed in the members responsible. I know what is going on. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms PRUE CAR: It is very disappointing that Opposition members continue to engage in those tactics to try to distract me from telling the truth about what they did. They use those tactics time and again, and it just shows how seriously they take this. But the member for Mount Druitt gets a gold star for that interjection. The OECD report exposed the terminology the former Government used. [*Extension of time*]

The former Government called students, parents and teachers "clients". The OECD found that might not quite be appropriate when serving children, educating four- and five-year-olds, growing little brains and changing lives. They are not clients. They are children, teachers, parents, support workers and people who are devoting their lives to the education of our young people. The OECD pointed out something that teachers knew and were screaming at the former Government to realise. One reason we were elected was to fix the crisis of the administrative burden that teachers have been faced with constantly, which has seen so many of them leave the profession.

The OECD found that so many of the policies that were put in place by members opposite when they were in government were simply incoherent. One of those policies was called the School Success Model. It sounds a little bit Orwellian. It was the Liberal Party's pride and joy but did not result in anything at all. The OECD found that teachers, staff, students and parents did not understand what was required of them or what the School Success Model even was. It was the former Minister's pride and joy, but they did not understand what the parameters were. That is all because the previous Government and its education Minister simply had a policy of not consulting the profession when it came to educating our children. Members of this Government will pride themselves on doing that every step of the way. We are making great inroads, and I am proud to be part of this Minns Labor Government that is transforming education in this State.

MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:44): My question is directed to the Premier. What is the suspected corrupt conduct by the member for Newcastle that the Premier is aware of and has referred to the ICAC? Will the Premier try to keep it secret from the people of New South Wales?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:45): That is just obnoxious commentary from the Clouseau of this Parliament.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: At the end of the day, I do not think it is unreasonable for the Government to say that the Independent Commission Against Corruption, with all of its investigatory powers, is the appropriate body to investigate those claims. Government members have obligations to refer that on. I have made a decision to remove Minister Crakanthorp from executive responsibility while that inquiry takes place, fulfilling our obligation to give the people of New South Wales—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga rises on a point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I have not had one question without four or five points of order. At some point I am allowed to get an answer out.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I understand the Premier's frustration, but I need to hear the point of order.

Mr Alister Henskens: The question is directed towards the suspected corrupt conduct by the member for Newcastle.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: You are cherrypicking your question again.

The SPEAKER: This is not the way to resolve the matter.

Mr Alister Henskens: Is he allowed to behave that way? What is the suspected conduct by the member for Newcastle? That is what the question is about, not a deflection to ICAC and what is the role of ICAC.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will resume his seat. There is no point of order. The Premier will continue his answer.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: At the end of the day, the full brief that we have sent to the Independent Commission Against Corruption is the appropriate response from any government.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That is the decision that I made as Premier. I suspected a breach of the ministerial code and I acted. We are not in the situation that was the previous Government's standard practice, which was to report and ignore anything to do with suspected corrupt conduct or breaches of the ministerial code.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will not entertain the point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Person after person who was suspected of corrupt behaviour was only stood down after a media inquiry. That was the standard of the previous Government. We are being questioned about the past 24 hours, but this is important context. The shadow Treasurer was asked by *The Daily Telegraph* on 15 February—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: That matter has nothing to do with the question that was asked of the Premier.

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order? Government members will come to order.

Mr Alister Henskens: Can we stop the clock?

The SPEAKER: No.

Mr Alister Henskens: The matter that the Premier was going to about the shadow Treasurer has nothing to do with the question.

The SPEAKER: Is the point of order about relevance?

Mr Alister Henskens: It is relevance.

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. The Premier will continue his answer.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: He was approached by the media and only stood down at that point. Former Premier Perrottet, who is in the Chamber today, described Tudehope as "a person of integrity and honesty".

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Premier Perrottet said, "At all times he has undertaken his responsibilities as a Minister with the highest of standards." He was portraying him as Thomas More rather than a toll road tycoon. The former Minister had toll road shares while making decisions about toll roads, did not declare them and only stood down when the media made an inquiry—and now it is time for a lecture from the Opposition! [*Time expired.*]

STATE BUDGET AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro) (11:49): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in his capacity representing the Treasurer. Will the Minister update the House on the challenges facing the New South Wales budget and regional New South Wales?

The SPEAKER: The member for Hornsby will cease interjecting or he will be called to order. I warn the member. He is on a pre-call.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (11:49): I have never been on one of those, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Monaro for his question. For those new National Party members in the Chamber, they would do well to look at the example that the member for Monaro sets for regional New South Wales. That is someone who actually truly understands his community, unlike some of the flotsam and jetsam on the other side.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: They are very excited today, Mr Speaker, aren't they—terribly excited. They want to hear about the troubles in regional New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: I think the Minister is adding to the excitement. He will address the question directly. I call the member for Hornsby to order for the first time.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Recently I have been able to catch up with mayors and general managers from across regional New South Wales to have a chat to them about some of the pressures they are facing. Over the past couple of years a flood of people have moved to regional New South Wales, excited by the prospect of sharing in some of the great communities that are part and parcel of it. But they have noted there are some service pressures that were allowed to build up under the previous Government. I have been taking the opportunity to explain to them that the pressures regional New South Wales is under stem from some of the budget pressures the New South Wales Minns Government inherited from the previous Government. The fact is we are dealing with \$187 billion of debt—the highest debt level ever handed to an incoming New South Wales government. What does that mean? It means interest payments.

The SPEAKER: Opposition frontbench members will come to order.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Just as members opposite have to pay off their massive credit card debts, we have to pay off their credit card debt that they left us. At the moment it is \$7 billion a year, which is more than the police and the TAFE budgets combined. But what are the other pressures they are facing? Some are in health. Why? It is because there were more than 1,100 unfunded positions.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Some of the nurses that were unfunded were in the area of the member for Goulburn, in the Southern NSW Local Health District—26.6 positions.

The SPEAKER: The member for Oatley will resume his seat immediately.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Talk about flotsam and jetsam. The Leader of The Nationals has been quite loud during this answer. He was recently on 2DU radio where he described the budget position that those opposite left for us—he was part of the Cabinet that left it for us—as "a load of bunkum". Then he went on to claim—members will love this—that under the Liberals and Nationals there would have been a surplus. That is a load of bunkum. They could not find a budget surplus with a searchlight.

Mr Steve Whan: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Members on both sides of the House will come to order. The member for Hornsby will cease assisting the Chair. The time for the answer has expired. All members will come to order.

HUNTER PARK PRECINCT

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:53): As the planning Minister ran out of time to tell us about a Broadmeadow rezoning, I will direct a question to another Minister. My question is directed to the Minister for Lands and Property, and Minister for Sport. Last month the member for Newcastle told a Property Council lunch that he had been knocking on the Minister's door every day to see the business case for the proposed Hunter Park Precinct. After the member for Rockdale became a Minister, what communications did he have with the member for Newcastle about the proposed Hunter Park Precinct, including details of his family's real estate interests?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:54): I understand that the Acting Secretary of the Cabinet Office has been instructed to arrange for an urgent examination of all current major Hunter region development processes involving State government agencies. We want to be sure that governance assurance and decision-making processes are sound. When the Government receives advice on this matter, we will provide an update. Thank you.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: I am not asking what—

The SPEAKER: Has the Minister completed his answer?

Mr Stephen Kamper: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has completed his answer, so it is a moot point. The Leader of the Opposition has been in this place long enough to know that the Speaker cannot direct the Minister how to answer the question. The member for Wahroonga will calm down. The Minister has completed his answer. The Leader of the Opposition does not get a second bite of the cherry.

HOME BUYER SUPPORT

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (11:55): My question is addressed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is making it easier for home buyers to access Government support?

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (11:55): I thank the member for Leppington for his question—an outstanding member and an MP who represents one of the fastest growth areas in New South Wales. Whilst families were given a reprieve this week, our high interest rates are compounding financial difficulties for families. This Government understands the challenges that first home buyers are facing as they attempt to enter the property market. We now have 19 suburbs in Western Sydney that have median house prices of over \$2 million. Whilst that is good news for mums and dads who got in early, as they have their family home investment, it does make things a little more difficult for people who are trying to enter the market for the first time. That great Australian dream and aspiration is becoming ever more distant.

There is not a simple solution to this big problem but there are supply challenges, as we all know. New South Wales will require an additional 900,000 dwellings by 2041. The planning Minister is redeploying hundreds of staff—and I thank him—to focus on delivery of new houses and infrastructure. Both Minister Scully and Minister Jackson are providing the NSW Land and Housing Corporation with an expanded State significant development approval pathway. Why is that important? It is important because they can get on the job as quickly as possible. We know there is a challenge; we are not burying our heads in the sand. They are taking action and making it happen quickly. Another big challenge is the barriers when it comes to mortgages. Many families, particularly first home buyers and young families, are struggling to keep up with mortgage payments. We know that about 1,500 mortgages are taken out every single month in New South Wales.

Basically, 60 per cent of the market is being locked out if people do not earn up to around \$250,000. That is a substantial savings target, which makes it more difficult to move from renting to buying. The Minns Government is doing whatever we can to help. From 1 July, the First Home Buyers Assistance Scheme came into effect. This is a huge step forward. Buyers who purchase a property costing up to \$800,000 pay absolutely no stamp duty and no land tax. These concessions go up to \$1,000,000. It is a much better option and a much better proposal than a forever tax that was proposed by those opposite. Eighty-four per cent of first home buyers will benefit from this decision by the Minns Labor Government. There are so many things going on that we thought, as the Department of Customer Service, we had better go in and help. [*Extension of time*]

This will get even better because I will give members a tip. As a department, we have many different things across government that provide solutions, and this one in particular is about making sure that we can set up a one-stop shop. People do not have to be technical wizards to pull out their phone or iPad or whatever—after question time—to go to www.nsw.gov.au to find a link that takes them to first home buyer support. Why is that important? By answering about 12 very simple questions, within three minutes they will be provided a digital link where they can access all the support, grants and schemes that are designed to support first home buyers, families and communities. That is the role we can have when we have a first home buyer's grant.

We are supporting first home buyers through no stamp duty, which added thousands. Members opposite provided a forever tax. Those who want to learn how it is done can be quiet and listen. We want to not only provide support mechanisms for the people of New South Wales but also make sure that they can access them—that they are easy to get to and they know where they are. It does not get any simpler than this one-stop shop on the government website. Within a matter of three minutes people will be directed to where they need to go. Better than that, it tells them what is available to them. I tested it out with my daughter, but she said, "Dad, why would I ever want to move out of home?" I understand, but when she does, I will make sure that that website is one of her favourites. We will continue to work with all government agencies to ensure that all supports for people in New South Wales are readily available, easy to use and easy to find.

CONSULTING SERVICES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (12:00): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the revelations in the Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee hearing last week that millions of taxpayers' dollars are still being spent with the big four consultancy firms in spite of legitimate concerns about gaping conflicts of interest, how has the Government implemented recommendations from last year's upper House inquiry into consultancies, including those recommendations proffered and supported by his own Labor members?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:01): I am happy to take the question on notice and will provide a written reply.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES WEEK

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:01): My question is addressed to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty. Will the Minister update the House on the work done by the New South Wales Government and the Aboriginal Languages Trust in implementing the first Aboriginal Languages Week?

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) (12:02): I thank the member for Wallsend for her question and I acknowledge that she started her teaching career in western New South Wales looking after young Aboriginal kids. She understands more than most of us the importance of language and culture. I am pleased to update the House on the great work we are doing to help revitalise and celebrate Aboriginal languages across the State. New South Wales is actually leading the way in Australia when it comes to supporting Aboriginal languages.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Hear, hear!

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I acknowledge the interjection from the shadow Minister. We are the only jurisdiction in Australia with legislation in place that recognises the importance of Aboriginal languages and that is following through with a significant increase in funding for their revitalisation. I am proud that the Minns Labor Government has more than doubled the investment into Aboriginal communities to support their efforts to reawaken and reclaim languages. Language means everything to these communities—it is part of their past, it has shaped who they are today, and it must be preserved and enhanced for the future.

One way that we are helping to support communities is by establishing the first ever Aboriginal Languages Week, to be held every October. It will be held in October to coincide with the passing of Aboriginal languages legislation into law on 24 October 2017, which was a great day when we attended the other place. The purpose of Aboriginal Languages Week is to showcase the diversity of Aboriginal languages in New South Wales. This year Aboriginal Languages Week will kick off on 21 October with a free public festival in Sydney and then events will be held across New South Wales. Funding of \$250,000 has been allocated by the Aboriginal Languages Trust so that we can support as many events as possible, and I encourage organisations and communities to apply.

This new grant program followed closely behind our recent announcement of \$3.9 million in grants so far this year to Aboriginal community organisations and groups to support languages revitalisation. Grant recipients are spread across New South Wales from Ulladulla to Tweed Heads to Lightning Ridge and Condobolin. Grants range from \$7,425 for the Dunghutti Elders Council in South Kempsey to \$25,000 for the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation. One of the things I love most about my job is when I get to see how these great programs

work in practice. Last week I spent some time at the Gujaga Preschool and La Perouse Public School where I announced Aboriginal Languages Week. [*Extension of time*]

It was a bit like coming home for me, having spent a large part of my professional life as a primary school teacher and principal. The best part about the visit was witnessing the students learning with enthusiasm and speaking in Dharawal language. Seeing their passion and excitement when speaking their language was something extraordinary. One of the things that the language trust people said is that, now that the children are learning the languages, their parents want to learn as well, and that is a really important connection. Teaching and learning language is so important in connecting kids to their culture. We have lost, or we are losing, too many Aboriginal languages in New South Wales and it is a terrible shame. We have the opportunity to rediscover some of these languages and actually grow their usage. That is what we are doing with this significant increase in funding and the first Aboriginal Languages Week. We are fortunate and privileged to have the oldest continuous living culture in the world, and I look forward to all of us celebrating Aboriginal languages and culture this October.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:06): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit the moving forthwith of a motion, of which notice has not been given, relating to the making of an order for papers under Standing Order 269 relating to the sacking of the member for Newcastle as a Minister in the New South Wales Government and his referral by the Premier to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The reason for seeking the suspension of standing orders to move a motion for the production of these papers is as follows: During question time many questions were asked to distil the circumstances that gave rise to the sacking of the former Minister, the member for Newcastle. As a matter of democracy, the people of New South Wales are entitled to receive the answers and the details of the matters that gave rise to his dismissal as a Minister. I am moving to suspend standing and sessional orders in this place because the Government will have to give leave in the Legislative Council to suspend standing orders, and there is no guarantee that leave will be given. In any event, this is the people's House, the House where governments are formed and the House where the community elects its representatives. It is appropriate that a call for papers be made in this House. Integrity of government is a paramount consideration for all members of Parliament.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Transparency is important because it is the greatest disinfectant for corruption and enhances the accountability of government. The fact that the Labor Party promised integrity in government just four months ago in order to be elected to government means that proper transparency with respect to this matter is absolutely critical.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The ICAC augments our democracy; it does not replace it.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: There has not been full transparency in respect of this matter, only a carefully crafted media management strategy and opaque answers in question time by the Premier on behalf of the Government. Crossbenchers have often spoken passionately about integrity and holding the Government to the highest standard of integrity. I call on them—The Greens members and members representing the electorates of Wagga Wagga, Sydney, Lake Macquarie, Wakehurst, Wollondilly, Orange, Barwon and Kiama—to support this call for papers in order to ensure integrity of government and full transparency with regard to what happened here. I call on the Government, who campaigned on integrity, to support the suspension and the call for papers. This is essential to ensure there is a proper disinfectant for this breach of the ministerial code and possible corrupt conduct by the member for Newcastle.

We have recently seen the successful use of this process by the member for Sydney with regard to cashless gaming, which the Opposition supported. The Opposition has not sought to abuse this process, this being the first time that we have made a call for papers in this Parliament. We note that the Labor Party, when in opposition, frequently used the process of calls for papers in the Legislative Council to ensure the former Coalition Government was subject to stringent transparency. What is good for the goose must be good for the gander. This Government should not be held to a lower standard of accountability than it held the Coalition to when it was recently in government, especially when the Labor Party campaigned so strongly on integrity during the election.

The list of documents which we will be seeking has been circulated to crossbench members and to the Leader of the House. They include the following: documents relating to ministerial disclosures by the member for Newcastle under the ministerial code; documents relating to any decisions or actions taken by the member for Newcastle which the Premier relied upon in determining that there may have been a breach of the ministerial code by the member for Newcastle; documents relied upon by the Premier for the purpose of making a reference to the ICAC in relation to the member for Newcastle; in relation to the properties which were disclosed by the member for Newcastle or not disclosed by the member for Newcastle under the ministerial code, all documents relating to the addresses of properties, the registered proprietors of the properties, the relationship between the registered proprietors and the member for Newcastle, and the approximate value of those properties; documents relating to any approximate increase in the value of those properties; and documents relating to legal advice provided to the Premier.

The process with regard to the production of these documents will initially limit their inspection only to members of Parliament. I ask the crossbench to support this suspension of standing orders in the interest of the integrity of this Government.

The SPEAKER: Does the member for Wahroonga have a signed copy of that motion?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Please provide that to the Clerks. I call the Leader of the House.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (12:11): The Government was given about two minutes notice of the proposed suspension of standing orders. The Manager of Opposition Business suggested it is a matter that arose out of question time, but he made his contribution to this House from a written and prepared speech. I just make that observation. As this House is aware—

[An Opposition member interjected.]

Just carry the water somewhere else, member for Oatley. As this House is aware, the Government is a transparent government and it may well—

[Opposition members interjected.]

The SPEAKER: Opposition members were silent during the contribution of the Manager of Opposition Business. They will extend the same courtesy to the Leader of the House.

Mr RON HOENIG: The Government will support a genuine motion but not a stunt done on short notice, and that is precisely what it is—and you know it is, member for Port Macquarie. It is simply just a political stunt. If it is the will of the House at some point in time for there to be a call for papers then the Government would concur and be prepared to produce those papers, because it understands and accepts that the Executive side of Government is accountable to this House. However, as this House is aware, yesterday the Premier made a determination that there was a breach of the ministerial code. As a result of that breach, he sought the resignation of the Minister. That is the appropriate decision to be made if there is a breach and the Premier loses confidence in a Minister.

If there is a substantial breach of a ministerial code then the requirements of section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act come into force. There is an obligation for a person who reasonably suspects that a substantial breach of the ministerial code, or even the Code of Conduct for Members, has occurred to refer the matter to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. That is what the Premier has done. He has told the House, as has the Minister for Sport, that the Cabinet office is collating a variety of documents. The Premier himself does not have every conceivable necessary relevant document. As one can imagine, material has been provided that would be protected by various legislative requirements. That material should be protected. There may well be other sensitive documents that would be required some level of protection if produced.

If the Opposition genuinely wants production of the documents at some future point in time, and if that be the will of the House, then the Government will concur in respect of their production. At this point, the day after the Premier made a determination and a referral to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, that is the appropriate process to follow. As members know, the Independent Commission Against Corruption has coercive powers and can access material, and has a system of accessing material. The Independent Commission Against Corruption has considerable experience and expertise in investigating breaches of ministerial codes of conduct—including substantial breaches, as those opposite know—so the process must be allowed to take place.

As the Premier indicated during question time, as soon as the matters were brought to his attention and he was able to make a determination, he made such a determination. I do not accept that this suspension of standing orders and call for papers is a genuine attempt by the Opposition to hold the Executive accountable to this House.

My judgement is that it is a straight-out political stunt that the Opposition hopes will get a run in the media. The Leader of the Opposition and the Manager of Opposition Business, both of them reputable silks, know better than to use such a serious issue to pull this sort of political stunt.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:16): By leave: I speak on the proposed Opposition motion, which crossbench members received just moments ago. I acknowledge at the outset that I provided the template which the Opposition has used for this call for papers. I appreciate that. But I would say this: This matter is different to the matters raised in the call for papers I did. One of the key differences is that we know that the matter raised in the Opposition's call for papers has already been referred to the ICAC.

Even if inspection of the documents is limited to members, it is important that we in no way compromise evidence, that we are not given the opportunity to compromise evidence and that the ICAC has the ability to be able to look through the evidence without political interference. We know of many examples in this place where there have been parliamentary inquiries established for political reasons which potentially risk interfering with the work of the ICAC. That all said, I am prepared to work with the Opposition, the crossbench and the Government to ensure that an appropriate call for papers in the public interest is made, should that be required. I think we will have plenty of time to do that in the next sitting period.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (12:18): By leave: The Greens also take anti-corruption measures very seriously, and we value the work of the ICAC. As the member for Sydney outlined, it is critical that we do not do anything in this Chamber that could compromise the work of the ICAC. Given the very short notice provided, we have also been unable to seek advice about whether this is the most appropriate approach. So we will not be supporting the suspension of standing orders at this time but would like to flag our willingness to work with the Opposition, should that be required, in future.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:19): In reply: I thank members for their contributions on my motion to suspend standing orders. A call for papers could not interfere with evidence before the ICAC. The reason is that the papers are already in existence. We are only calling for papers that are already in existence. The proposed motion will give the Government 14 days to produce the documents. This Parliament is not sitting for another two weeks. So if the matter is kicked down the road, as some members have suggested, then that will result in a substantial delay in the people of New South Wales having fundamental democratic information that they are entitled to. We were all elected to this Parliament to promote integrity in government, and members' constituents all require us to obtain information that is relevant to the integrity of government.

The ICAC is not a substitute for democracy; it is an augmentation of democracy. We are here to represent the people of New South Wales. Each one of us in the 93 seats in this House represents the totality of people in our State who are entitled to vote for the Parliament of New South Wales. Parliament is not sitting for a couple of weeks. If members of the crossbench vote against the suspension, we are willing to work with them to get the documents, but I encourage them to support the suspension. As the member for Sydney very fairly pointed out, the terms of the suspension are identical to the suspension of standing orders that he previously sought. With the greatest of respect to him, the fact that there is a matter referred to the ICAC does not stop democracy. The fact that this Parliament previously supported a suspension of standing orders to debate the production of documents in exactly the same terms as we are seeking means that, in my respectful submission, there could be no real opposition to the suspension.

It is really important that we make a clear statement about integrity in government and the production of relevant information held by the Government to the people of New South Wales. This not a secrecy operation. Those documents are not the property of the Government or of anyone other than the people of New South Wales, because they elect the Government. The people of New South Wales are entitled to know the full details of what has gone on. They are entitled to receive the documents that are their property through their elected representatives. I encourage all members of Parliament who talk strongly about integrity of government to support the suspension of standing orders so we can debate the production of those documents within 14 days, as sought by my motion.

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

The House divided.

Ayes33
Noes51
Majority.....18

AYES

Amon, R

James, T

Singh, G (teller)

AYES

Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Cross, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Di Pasqua, S
Henskens, A
Hodges, M

Kean, M
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W
Ward, G
Williams, L
Williamson, R
Wilson, F

NOES

Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, L
Butler, R
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T
Finn, J
Greenwich, A
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
McGirr, J
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
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S (teller)
Wilkinson, K

PAIRS

Davies, T
Griffin, J
Marshall, A
Williams, R

Crakanthorp, T
Minns, C
Aitchison, J
Car, P

Motion negatived.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit the consideration forthwith of general business notices of motion or orders of the day (not being bills) up until 1.30 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: COMMITTEES

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit the moving of a motion forthwith, of which notice has not been given, regarding the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation.

Motion agreed to.

*Committees***JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES FROM PRIVATISATION****Establishment and Membership**

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That a joint select committee, to be known as the Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation, be appointed.

- (1) The committee will inquire into and report on how the Government can prevent and stop privatisation of local water utilities with reference to:
 - (a) how local water utilities and their assets can best be protected from privatisation, forced amalgamations and sell-offs;
 - (b) reviewing governance and other legislation relating to the potential privatisation of local water utilities; and
 - (c) any other related matters.
- (2) The committee will consult with key stakeholders as required.
- (3) The committee may consider legislative or other regulatory changes.
- (4) The committee is to consist of five members of the Legislative Assembly, including two Government members and three non-Government members, at least one of which must be a crossbench member; and five members of the Legislative Council, including two Government members, one of whom shall be chair, and three non-Government members, at least two of which must be crossbench members.
- (5) The Hon. Stephen Lawrence, MLC, shall be the chair of the committee.
- (6) All Legislative Assembly committee members be nominated in writing by the Government and Opposition Whips to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by 18 August 2023. Any changes in membership, including the crossbench member, shall also be so notified.
- (7) That at any meeting of the committee six members shall constitute a quorum, provided that the committee meets as a joint committee at all times.
- (8) The committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales and other States and Territories of Australia.
- (9) The committee will have leave to sit during the sitting or any adjournment of the House.
- (10) The committee report by 30 November 2023.
- (11) A message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the Legislative Council agree to the resolution and nominate five of its members to the proposed committee.

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Debate resumed from 29 June 2023.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:37): In reply: I take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who contributed to debate on this very important motion, which ultimately acknowledges many of the issues that commuters have been confronting under the former Government and the current Government. I look forward to telling the House about some updated advice that I have. Previous instalments throughout our rail network resulted in serious failings. Commuters are rightly frustrated yet are hopeful and excited by the action being taken by this Government to amend the issues throughout the network and subsequently remove their frustrations. Will it happen overnight? Of course not. Those things take time. They must be done methodically and sensibly so that we do not have to go through it all over again.

Some colleagues on the other side of the Chamber took the opportunity to engage in banter and play political games around this matter. That was not the purpose of the motion. Its purpose was to provide colleagues with the opportunity to come into the Chamber to raise issues and concerns so that the Government is made aware of them. The Minister for Transport and her team are doing a wonderful and amazing job. She is a very hardworking Minister with a very big job, but she has paid a lot of attention to the motion. I thank her and her team for that.

I am delighted to advise the House that I have an update on some of the work the Government has been doing to progress the Rail Repair Plan. As of 2 August, the current high priority defects have been reduced by 75 per cent. Sydney Trains have removed 708 of the 1,916 targeted high priority defects in the plan. Last week, it

removed 52 high priority defects, reducing current high priority inspection backlog by, as I said, 75 per cent. Sydney Trains have also completed 91 of the 144 targeted inspection backlogs in the plan. As of 2 August, a total of 30 speed restrictions have been removed, with 18 restrictions remaining and they are all with contained in a removal plan.

Industry stakeholders, including freight companies and unions, have been briefed and the plan has been positively received. I can substantiate that from the feedback I am getting from my community. It is a direct reflection on the Government making the needs of commuters a priority—the way it should be. It is not the politics but the people on our trains that matter most. I know that is exactly my focus, as it is the focus of the Minister and the Government. All of my colleagues are focused on that as well. Public transport is there to provide a service to the public. Not too many matters in public transport are more important than our rail network and our bus routes. I thank the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes48
Noes32
Majority.....16

AYES

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

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

Park, R
Quinnell, S
Saffin, J (teller)
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Shetty, K
Smith, T
Stuart, M
Tesch, L
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Warren, G
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)
Di Pasqua, S
Henskens, A
Hodges, M

James, T
Kean, M
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

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

PAIRS

Aitchison, J
Car, P
Crakanthorp, T
Minns, C

Marshall, A
Griffin, J
Davies, T
Williams, R

Motion agreed to.

GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY PROJECT

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (12:48): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges that Medlow Bath and Hartley Valley communities are now being heard by the recently elected Government regarding their concerns about the Great Western Highway project.
- (2) Thanks the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads for her prompt action in meeting with these communities and taking the time to consider and respect their opinions and requests.
- (3) Commends Medlow Bath Residents Association and Hartley Valley Progress Association for their advocacy and commitment to their shared vision of improved outcomes for their communities, safer roads and the integrity of the Blue Mountains and the Hartley Valley.

The New South Wales Government has committed to defer the bulk of the Great Western Highway upgrade program, essentially the "Toole tunnel". The Government has instructed Transport for NSW to defer the program excluding the Medlow Bath and Coxs River Road projects, which are currently in delivery. The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads is across the issue following a community engagement day in the Blue Mountains and Little Hartley.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Bathurst has interjected several times. He will be called to order if he does so again. He will remain silent. It is very rude for Opposition members to have audible conversations at the back of the Chamber. Members will come to order.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: After hearing concerns from my community about being excluded from consultation under the previous Government, the new Minister for Regional Transport and Roads asked Transport for NSW to review the Coxs River Road and Medlow Bath projects in line with community feedback. As a result, Transport for NSW refined the Coxs River Road design to reduce potential impacts on the community by, for example, further improving safety at the Baaners Lane intersection and opening the road to traffic at an 80 kilometre per hour speed limit.

The Medlow Bath project was also modified after listening to the concerns of the community at a site visit. Changes included increasing the lane widths to 3.5 metres and removing a U-turn bay in Bellevue Crescent that would have required the demolition of a property. All other projects associated with the Great Western Highway upgrade program are on hold in line with recent Australian and New South Wales government announcements. A formal review of the Great Western Highway upgrade program will be undertaken, and the Australian Government has also asked for a more detailed review of the program.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Terrigal will come to order.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: The Great Western Highway is one of Australia's most historic roads and a key east-west connection in and out of Sydney. The New South Wales Government has progressively upgraded sections of the highway over many years to make it safer and more reliable. However, there were many concerns under the previous Government, and it is important to listen to community concerns when we undertake major infrastructure. Construction is underway for the Coxs River Road upgrade, which includes upgrading part of the existing highway at Little Hartley to a four-lane divided carriageway. Having listened to the community, there will be realignment of parts of the existing highway to create a local service road and upgrades to the intersections with Browns Gap Road and Baaners Lane.

However, despite a range of modifications to both upgrade programs that impact two little communities, we live in an imperfect world. For the benefit of those communities who are worried on several levels about changes that are going ahead, I put on record that I will continue to advocate for them. I note some of the concerns for the record. The Little Hartley valley community want Transport for NSW to hold a town hall style meeting with Ertech, the contractor, to update the community and allow them to ask questions together—not one on one, with a lack of transparency, as happened under the previous Government. I am in the process of organising that town hall. They also want some Great Western Highway upgrade funds to be diverted by the Government and allocated to addressing Victoria Pass. It is now over two years since Victoria Pass was damaged.

The previous Government undertook rectification and scoping works on that convict road pass but, other than that, little has happened. As we move into bushfire season, the community is concerned. They are reminding us of the vulnerabilities along both the Bells Line of Road and the Great Western Highway through the mountains, including Victoria Pass. The community tells me they are anxious to see Victoria Pass addressed and not left to continue to languish, neglected, and further deteriorate, as it has been for the previous decade. I am working on this matter with the Minister. She is aware that I consider Victoria Pass a priority. It was not under the previous Government.

The upgrade to four lanes at Medlow Bath is in delivery. Transport for NSW has prioritised Medlow Bath to address known safety concerns and improve intersection and highway access treatments, including a shared pathway and a new pedestrian bridge—this time in consultation with the local community. The station precinct upgrade including the pedestrian bridge will be integrated with the Transport Access Program. Community representatives have provided input as part of the development and finalisation of the design, and Transport for NSW is now following the Minister's direction, working closely with heritage experts to protect non-Aboriginal heritage items in Medlow Bath and to remove some of the centres, such as the Elsie Langford Centre, in a way that acknowledges people in the community.

Again, I note for the record that in an imperfect world the Medlow Bath community still hold concerns. I will continue to advocate for that little hamlet, which was ignored under the previous Government. There is noisy work happening at night using chainsaws for tree removal. That can be disturbing to a community, and so we are making sure that alternative temporary arrangements are made. Others have told me they welcome short-term pain for long-term gain in the name of safety and easing of traffic congestion. But the place looks bleak; there is a trail of damage and destruction of old trees. I will finish where I began. I will continue to listen to the community, advocate on their behalf and share their vision for safety outcomes.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (12:56): It is alarming that a motion has been brought to the House by the member for Blue Mountains around the Great Western Highway project. I remember the member for Blue Mountains going on the record to oppose the much-needed developments and improvements for the Great Western Highway. It is a road that will benefit those people who live in the mountains, making it safer for them, and a road that will benefit those people who live in the Central West as they travel to and from Sydney. The Great Western Highway is a national disgrace. It is in need of a major upgrade. It was the Liberal-Nationals Government that put \$2 billion on the table to ensure that the highway would be duplicated from Lithgow through to Katoomba. It was the work of the former Government that secured another \$2 billion from the Federal Government to ensure that the road would be constructed. The Federal Government put forward its money for the eastern and western sections of the Great Western Highway.

When you build major roads and major projects some will be in favour of them. But it is also important that governments listen. I acknowledge the member for Blue Mountains saying that the Minister met with community members. Today in this Parliament we have a motion about a Minister slapping herself on the back, saying, "Good on ya. You had a meeting with people in the community." But this was happening the entire time; it was already going on. Transport for NSW representatives were meeting with community groups. I remember when I was the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, I met with members of the community from Medlow Bath. They sat in my office. But I did not come and move a lazy motion to claim how good I was because I sat down and met with a few people.

Anyone who uses the Great Western Highway knows that every time there is a major event in the Central West, and every time it is a weekend or long weekend, there is congestion. You find that the road is backed up; you find that there is congestion. It impacts on people being able to travel to and from home safely, it impacts on freight and it impacts on productivity, which is why the former Government invested to ensure that the road would be upgraded. The member for Blue Mountains should hang her head in shame. It is her Government that has not taken the fight to the Federal Government about the need to fund the project.

When major projects are built, you look at investments with an 80-20 split. The Great Western Highway is the only road 50 kilometres outside of Sydney that is not duplicated. The investments that went into the Pacific Highway had an 80-20 investment split. The Princes Highway was another project that had an 80-20 investment split. The Federal and State governments worked together. But then this is what happened: The current Federal Government came in a bit over a year ago and said, "We are going to defer the project. We are going to defer any further progress on this particular road." Then the NSW Labor Government got elected, and what did it do? Typically, it did not do anything.

The Government has got a new policy of a cancel culture. It wants to cancel projects in New South Wales. The Government does not have any transformative projects that it wants to invest in for our communities. These projects are critical for our communities. There is not a day that goes by that I do not receive information telling me that the road is closed because a tree has fallen on it. The road gets shut down because it has a single lane in both directions. That means that it can take people six hours to travel from Sydney to Bathurst on a long weekend and that people sit in traffic unnecessarily. The Labor Government needs to see this project as a priority. It needs to ensure that it is investing in the Great Western Highway. We have had co-design committees. I remember one co-design committee that was established with the community of Blackheath. I will tell you what happens on a Sunday afternoon. The community—

Ms Trish Doyle: They were your branch members.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Well, you weren't there. I met with our community, and they told me that they do not go out on a Sunday afternoon after two o'clock because of the amount of traffic that is backed up. It is not safe for them to go out after two o'clock on a Sunday. That is not right. The former Government had the visionary idea of putting in a tunnel. It investigated the opportunity to put in either two short tunnels or a long tunnel. The investigations and the geotechnical work came back, and the best option was to build an 11-kilometre tunnel. That would have been a game changer because it would have been Australia's longest road tunnel. It would have been made a huge difference for people that are travelling through the Blue Mountains.

Again, Labor claims that it was not funded. The 20 per cent from the former New South Wales Government to build a project of this size was all there. There was nearly \$2.5 billion. The Federal Government has already put in the east and west sections of the road. Importantly, I am calling on Labor members to stop patting themselves on the back because they have had a few meetings. I am asking them to actually invest in projects that transform lives and make a difference to the people of this State. We have got a government that is going back to the 16 years when Labor built nothing. Labor has a record of doing nothing. It is time that Labor stopped being lazy, took its Federal colleagues on and started standing up for the people of this State.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (13:03): I support the member for Blue Mountains and her motion, which is talking about listening to, engaging with and working with community. Sometimes, that is about changing or altering projects. Sometimes, it is about finding a different or better way to do things. Sometimes, it is about the time of the day a person does their work or the day of the week they do their work or the consequences of their work. That is what the motion is about. I sat there and listened to the member for Bathurst speak for the past seven minutes, and I had a flashback to when my kids were five- and six-year-olds and nothing was ever their fault. I would find them with Nutella all over their face and the jar on the floor, and I would ask, "Did you do that?" They would go, "No, I did not do that."

The member for Bathurst spoke about problems with traffic, unsafe roads and how urgent and critical this piece of infrastructure is. The Coalition was in government for 12 years, and this thought bubble only came up in the past 12 months. It is almost like members opposite were saying, "We are about to get kicked out. We need something to hang our hat on so that we can criticise the incoming Government because we are not going to be there anymore, so we are going to announce this thing." That thought bubble went all the way up through Infrastructure NSW, which actually did some serious thinking about this. The advice from Infrastructure NSW, based on the cost-benefit analysis for the project, was to not do it and that it does not stack up.

It reminds me of another significant project to connect the Central West that was announced by the then Government—the Bells Line of Road. The Bells Line of Road was going to be revolutionary. It was going to be an incredible piece of infrastructure that would create incredible access for the Central West. It was on the cards for about a year, and then it disappeared. That is the problem with some of the infrastructure announcements that used to happen under the former Government. Members opposite would say, "We are going to do it. We can have it all. There is plenty of money out there." It turns out that they cannot do it, there is not plenty of money out there and it is a silly project.

The member for Bathurst, after 12 years in government, just spoke about communities who do not go out on the road after 2.00 p.m. because it is unsafe and dangerous. That is on his watch. That is on his dime. He cannot blame the member for Blue Mountains or the Government, which has been in government for less than six months. He says, "That is your fault. You are not doing it right." For goodness sake, let us be sensible about this. It is a sensible motion. Work is being undertaken on that road. The works, ultimately, are going to improve the road in some ways, but they are going to have an impact on the local amenity in other ways. The nature of roadworks is that the better roads are, the more traffic they attract. More lanes and infrastructure are needed, and we keep going and going and going. That is why some people talk passionately about public transport as an option, because it can move the masses in more efficient ways.

The member for Blue Mountains' motion is about listening to and consulting with community. While pork-barrelling of funding was taking place under the previous Government, in some instances—and not all instances; there were some wonderful Ministers in the previous Government—local MPs, if they were not part of the Government, were pork-barrelled out of the conversation. I think that happened to the member for Blue Mountains, which is a great shame. I acknowledge that the member for Lane Cove is in the Chamber. When he was the corrections Minister, he made sure that I was involved in every decision and conversation about that. Those are the types of qualities that we want in this place because they are noble and honourable.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (13:07): Before I contribute to debate on the motion, I make a comment about how cold it is in the Chamber. It is freezing. I can barely think. I had to make that comment because I am so sick of coming into this place when it is so cold.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Put some more coal on.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: It is all right for men in woollen suits. I speak in support of my colleague the member for Blue Mountains and her motion, which backs in her communities of Medlow Bath and the Hartley Valley concerning the issues they have raised about the rollout of the Great Western Highway project and its impacts on their communities. As the member said, this is a motion about community and community engagement. It is a motion about listening and giving voice to community. That is democracy. We are representatives of our communities in this place. We also live in a culturally and participatory democracy and communities expect to have a say—more than a say sometimes. It is up to us to balance that duality of being in a representative democracy with a participatory democracy.

In some respects, there are similarities between the member for Blue Mountains' community and my community. Our communities are both very participatory, they are used to having a say and being engaged. That is a good thing; it is healthy. That is why I am pleased to back the member for Blue Mountains. All communities need to be heard. The message I was hearing was that under the former Government the Blue Mountains community was not being heard on the Great Western Highway Project. But they were being heard by the member for the Blue Mountains and they are also being heard by this Government. The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads has been out there. The member for Bathurst talked about people patting themselves on the back for having a meeting. That is fine. Sometimes people have to pat themselves on the back for having those meetings because they are important.

I turn now to some projects in my community that were mooted under the previous Government, including in 2019 the Dawson Street project. Dawson Street cuts across Ballina Road—which is actually the Bruxner Highway—and separates communities from getting into the CBD and broader surrounds. An election promise was made about traffic lights being installed there et cetera. That went on for quite a few years, and I met with the communities. Then, all of a sudden, there was a change. No, we were not going to put the lights there. We were going to do it somewhere else on that particular street. That community was not listened to. We still need to deal with that matter because the floods put a lot of things on hold, but we are kickstarting it again. That community, first of all, felt heard and then unheard. I am now trying to get them heard again. The Minister has heard them loud and clear.

The Alphadale intersection in my community is really dangerous. Transport NSW needs to know that there will be so many accidents there before it will do certain things. It is just one of those intersections everybody avoids. I got the community heard. I have an election commitment that we are going to put a roundabout in there. That is what we do. It is good to have those meetings. *[Time expired.]*

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (13:12): In reply: It has been a delight to hear some sensible commentary from my colleagues. I thank the member for Cessnock and the member for Lismore for their contributions to this debate. Their efforts in listening to community and bringing those issues to this place are exemplary. For the record, I take on board a couple of the comments made by the member for Bathurst. In the last term of the former Government there were people that he chose to listen to and that he directed Transport for NSW to listen to. However, there were many people across a number of communities that he directed not to be heard.

Major infrastructure projects cannot move ahead if we do not listen to and include our communities. No-one knows better than the locals about amenity. Over the years I have made that same point about a string of 27 villages which exist within a World Heritage listed national park. We need to take onboard the amenity of those villages. When we upgrade old convict roads we also need to take onboard the concerns of constituents about what those upgrades might mean to the environment. In the former Government the member for Bathurst just wanted to get a stack of B-double trucks from the Central West to Sydney on a highway through my community, and back again faster. He did not give a hoot about my community and its amenity. It was not about the safety of the road. Everyone understands that when you load up a road and increase its capacity the road is less safe. The safety improvements that the previous Government talked about, and offered up unfunded promises on, were not about safety or caring for community.

I address a couple of points made by the member for Lismore. I acknowledge that many people in my community were split over the previous Government's proposal for a tunnel. They were sold a pup. There was an unfunded promise that this tunnel would be the golden bullet that would solve all the problems around congestion. I was told by someone who worked in the department at that particular time that there would not be much change from \$15 billion to create nine kilometres of a tunnel in the mountains when there were other things we could do—moving freight to rail, improving public transport. I remember standing with a group of people and saying, "That is \$15 billion for a small section of a tunnel that will actually create more problems than it fixes". The member for Lismore and her community could do with that \$15 billion. If anyone can give me an argument that stacks up against that, please do so. Her community is hurting. We were talking about expanding the highway to four or six lanes and a big tunnel when her community was suffering beyond measure from losing a lot of their road infrastructure. For the record, not one person could argue against that. I commend the motion to the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes41
Noes33
Majority.....8

AYES

Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, L
Butler, R
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Daley, M
Davis, D
Dib, J
Finn, J
Hagarty, N
Harris, D

Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Kamper, S
Kirby, W
Leong, J
Li, J
McDermott, H
McGirr, J
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
O'Neill, M
Park, R

Quinnell, S
Saffin, J (teller)
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Stuart, M
Tesch, L
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Warren, G
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)
Di Pasqua, S
Henskens, A
Hodges, M

James, T
Kean, M
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

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

PAIRS

Aitchison, J
Car, P
Crakanthorp, T
Minns, C

Marshall, A
Williams, R
Davies, T
Griffin, J

Motion agreed to.

BUS INDUSTRY TASKFORCE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism) (13:26): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that the Government has launched the Bus Industry Taskforce to address the devastating impacts privatisation has had on networks across the State, including in the electorate of Swansea.
- (2) Notes that constituents have consistently contacted the Swansea electorate office to express their discontent with the termination of the former 350 and 349 services, as well as to advise of service cuts and cancellations.
- (3) Congratulates the Government on taking this significant step towards rectifying the issues to improve our local services.

In 2015 those opposite, without the support of the community, privatised Newcastle buses.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The Clerk will stop the clock. I inform the Minister that we will continue with this motion after lunch.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: That is great news, because we have a lot to say. I have many supporters and they all have a lot to say about this motion. The former Premier and transport Minister promised that the privatisation would deliver to the Hunter "a world-class transport network". Nothing could have been further from the truth. The network overseen by those opposite was and still is a basket case. The privatisation has resulted in cuts to services, longer travel times and children being left at the side of the road, unable to get to school. Since the privatisation of the Newcastle transport network, I have lobbied to restore the services cut by the Liberals.

I wrote to multiple former transport Ministers, lobbying for the return of the 350 service. This much-loved service ran directly between Swansea Heads and Newcastle and was used by workers, students and other travellers. It was cut by members opposite as soon as the service was privatised. Instead, passengers were required, originally, to transfer to three and then two different bus services. It has improved slightly in that commuters now transfer to only one additional service. But it is still unacceptable. Time and again members opposite have turned their backs on our communities and refused to restore those vital services.

Labor was elected to fix our broken transport system, and that is exactly what it is doing. In May the Government announced the creation of the Bus Industry Taskforce, which is to make recommendations to improve the reliability, quality and effectiveness of bus services right across New South Wales and definitely in the Hunter. The task force will make recommendations to the Minister to improve the performance of bus operators. It will examine the service delivery and asset management models, including the contract and performance management framework, transparency in activities and the related capabilities required; service planning, including equality of service—that is a notion that was never considered—right across the community and related community engagement; infrastructure and technology that supports the effective delivery of bus services, including the transition to clean energy; arrangements relating to the employment of drivers, mechanics and other key personnel; and other steps to improve performance, including legislative amendments, regulatory changes, and contractual and other related actions.

The task force will also consider the parliamentary committee's report into the privatisation of buses. The task force has already provided advice to the Minister for Transport to address the bus driver shortage. That includes convening a bus industry round table to bring forward practical solutions to the workforce shortages and suggestions to improve bus service delivery, making it quicker, easier—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): In accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, debate is interrupted. I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism) (14:31): The action taken by the Government in setting up the task force has already been quite successful. I was so pleased to join my good friend the Minister for Transport at the Newcastle bus passenger forum last week. How refreshing it was to see a transport Minister actually engaging with our communities! The forum was so well supported by the community, who are passionate about restoring our bus services and delivering for our community once again. I met with a lot of people from the electorate of Swansea who relayed to me the devastation that the privatisation of Newcastle bus transport has caused in their lives.

John, who lives at Marks Point, has a disability and works at Warabrook. He used to be picked up at 5.30 a.m. on the 350—I have mentioned the 350 already—and he would arrive at work a bit before seven o'clock, and he would get home in the evenings at about 4.30 p.m. His life has changed considerably. He now often has to get a taxi to get his workplace in Warabrook. In addition to that, on occasion he is now getting home after six o'clock. That is just one example. I provided hundreds of examples to the former Government, which literally took a "talk to the hand" approach. The people in the community that I represent have been so let down, and I am so proud to be part of a government that is doing exactly the opposite.

There are so many horror stories since the service was privatised. Elderly people have been unable to get to local shopping centres. In the area around Valentine, Croudace Bay and Eleebana, there is no bus after 6.00 p.m. People there cannot go to church at Belmont on a Saturday night unless they get a lift with another parishioner, because church starts at 6.00 p.m. It has changed people's lives profoundly, and there was never any consideration for the people who use the service. As the Minister has told us time and again, the Liberal Government of yesteryear put money and profit before people. It has changed people's lives to such an extent that they are socially isolated from their communities and no longer participating as they did. The number of attendees at bingo at the 16-foot sailing club has reduced considerably. Some might laugh and think that is not a big deal, but seeing the same people each week is a big deal to those for whom it is their one outing. They are hugely important to our communities.

I am so proud that our Minister for Transport is in our community having genuine conversations with the people who are affected and saying to them, "We are going to try to change this mess". The Minister brought with her a team of professionals from Transport for NSW, all engaging with people and talking to them about their

issues and how we can fix the problem. I am so excited to be part of a government that is actually working on the ground and doing the job that we said we would do. That is truly amazing, and my community are just so goddamned relieved.

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (14:35): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the motion. We oppose the motion, but I thank the member for Swansea for moving it. For 12 years members opposite were in opposition, and the first motion that they move in government is a big pat on the back for the Government establishing a task force. The member for Swansea waited eight long years to finally get into government and moved a motion saying, "We are doing a task force." There is no big public policy and no big change, just the Government outsourcing that decision to a task force.

It is not just the member for Swansea. The *Business Paper* also includes the member for Granville giving the Government a pat on the back for a review of timetables, the member for Heathcote giving it a pat on the back for a review of the transport system, the member for Coogee giving it a pat on the back for the bus task force, the member for Campbelltown moving a motion in relation to a task force, and the member for Charlestown moving another motion saying, "Well done, pat on the back; we have done another review." James O'Doherty wrote a very interesting piece in *The Daily Telegraph* on 9 June 2023 entitled "Once upon a review in the name of a clear picture for NSW Labor". The article states:

If the amount of governmental reviews launched since Labor came to power is anything to go by, it's a wonder Premier Chris Minns doesn't need a full-blown inquiry to decide what to order for lunch.

It goes on to say that more than 15 reviews have been launched since the March 2023 election, some of those being the comprehensive expenditure review, the strategic infrastructure review, the toll review, the Sydney Metro review and a review into Sydney Trains. The reviews just keep going on and on. It is quite ironic that Government members are doing so many reviews because they also had an election commitment to reduce the use of consultants. The article goes on to note:

Labor says all of its reviews are needed, in part because it's been so long since they were last in office.

As a promoter of public policy, I find it very disheartening that election commitments can now simply be about saying, "Guess what? Our policy is to do a review—to establish a task force." Regarding the job ahead for the Government, the article finishes by stating:

That job will become even harder when the multitude of reviews report back and the government needs to make some tough calls.

In the past week or so we have seen that the Government will have to make some tough calls, particularly regarding what is in or out for the Sydney Metro. Opposition members look forward to seeing what the Premier and the Cabinet will decide. Going into the midwinter break, I was discussing with my colleague from the other place the Hon. Christopher Rath, MLC: What is this Government? Having been raised in the 1990s, I was a great fan of the television show *Seinfeld*, which is a show about nothing, and that is exactly this Government. It is a *Seinfeld* government—a government about nothing.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 76. The member's contribution has nothing to do with the disastrous privatisation of our buses in New South Wales—absolutely nothing. He is trying to be a comedian. Laughing in the face of people who have been left on the side of the street is not very becoming—not even for someone who is a Liberal.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I have heard the point of order. The member for Davidson will return to the leave of the motion.

Mr MATT CROSS: I note the member spoke about privatisation—how interesting. What does a certain former Premier think about privatisation? None other than Bob Carr wrote *Run for Your Life*. I do not think he will mind me quoting from his book, because it means that people are reading it. When it came to privatisation, Bob Carr said:

Our privatisations also made this point. There were three big ones—the TAB, freight rail and coalmines—but because the Ministers won over the relevant unions, when it came to the last two potentially controversial ones, they got through the system without attention.

There we go—Bob Carr, Mr Pro Privatisation. He continued, "If we had been a conservative government, these neat successful privatisations"—

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: Again, it relates to Standing Order 76. The member is flouting your ruling. He should come back to the issues at hand, which relate to the privatisation of the bus network across this State. I do not need to hear excerpts from a book, but what is clear to me is that the member has demonstrated that he cannot write speeches.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The Clerk will stop the clock. The motion refers to the Bus Industry Taskforce and its effect on Swansea. It refers to the discontinued 350 and 349 services and rectifying the issue for local services. The member for Davidson will return to the leave of the motion.

Mr MATT CROSS: Mr Temporary Speaker, I note your comments. The motion includes the word "privatisation". I am just quoting what Bob Carr thinks about privatisation, and clearly the truth hurts. Returning to the motion, I found it interesting that on Facebook on 21 December 2017 the member Swansea stated:

School bus services will be restored, after relentless community pressure. I have been advised by the CEO of Keolis Downer that the schools in town currently serviced by the 350 will continue, and will now be known as route 550.

When the Minister talks about cancelled bus services, I think she really means that they have just been "renamed" bus services.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Order! The member for Swansea will come to order. She will have the right of reply.

Mr MATT CROSS: When I go to the website to see if there is a bus from Swansea Heads to Newcastle West via Adamstown to Newcastle Interchange, it is called route 14, not route 550. What do other members from the Central Coast think of the buses? Regarding new bus contracts, I note that the member for The Entrance said, "I'm sure my community will be pleased that long-time local operator Red Bus will continue as our local bus operator." [*Time expired.*]

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (14:43): I am the chair of the bus passenger forums for the Bus Industry Taskforce and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport.

Ms Yasmin Catley: And a great chair at that.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: First, I start by thanking the Minister for moving this important motion. I note that her motion refers to bus services across New South Wales. They have been absolutely destroyed by the former Government. If Opposition members think they have been untouched by that, they should take a look at the motion of the member for Miranda. She too has raised concerns about the implications of privatisation of buses on her community. I note the member for Wakehurst is in the House, who, like Labor members from the Hunter, has been among the first to participate in bus passenger forums that have been a critical part of our Bus Industry Taskforce. Government members established those bus passenger forums because we want to ensure that passengers are at the heart of our decision-making. The former Government destroyed buses and public transport in our State.

I know all Labor members in the House are impacted by it. Every single day children are left behind and unable to get home or to school. People are unable to access healthcare services. They are being left behind because of the former Government's privatisation agenda. In my electorate, 31 bus routes were changed and over 60 bus stops were ripped out. People have been unable to get where they need to go. That is why this Government established the Bus Industry Taskforce. Key recommendations have already come forward and we are addressing the bus driver shortage. We hit the ground running on this issue because we knew how important it was.

Mr Michael Regan: Running with a task force.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: That is it. Now we have our Bus Industry Taskforce and our passenger forums. We have met in Wakehurst. As I have just said, we have started with the Hunter but there is one coming to all members soon—even Opposition members. Unlike when Opposition members were in government, we will be engaging with their communities to make sure that the buses and the transport system works. We do government differently on this side. We are not going to be excluding members or passengers from the conversation.

[*An Opposition member interjected.*]

The community from your area want to be engaged. As an assistant to the Minister as the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, not a day goes by when I am not contacted by people who have been deeply impacted by the former Government's privatisation agenda that absolutely destroyed public transport in this State. We are now addressing the problem. Our bus passenger forums have already started; they will be coming to you soon. We will be reaching out to each and every member from all sides of the Chamber because we care about everyone in this State—unlike you guys who excluded us when we were in Opposition.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order: I ask that the member for Coogee direct her very angry comments through the Chair.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I uphold the point of order. The member for Coogee will direct her comments through the Chair.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Members on this side of the Chamber do government different. We engage with the community.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: You have task forces, reviews.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: We absolutely do. Our task force is here. We have already got key recommendations and we are doing it. There is much more to come. As I said, buses are a key part of the transport system in this State. We are here to fix it. We are passionate about it because we want to make sure that people can get where they need to go, they can access healthcare services and they can get their kids to school.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Members will come to order.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Kellyville) (14:47): I back in the comments of the member for Coogee that members on that side of the House "do government different". I agree with that. We got a glimpse of that yesterday. Their actions are different to what other governments do regarding conflicts of interests and ministerial standards. I will just park that comment there for the time being. I come to this debate as someone who has spent 22 years in the private bus industry. Just to give an idea of how the private bus industry was born, let us go back perhaps 60, 70 or 80 years when government could not, and would not, invest in public transport in outlying metropolitan areas of Sydney and some regional areas. Some of those public transport operations that commenced predominantly as school bus runs were operated by people who just had a simple station wagon and were bringing their local friends' and neighbours' children to school. They were awarded contracts and that is how the private industry was born.

I am a great supporter of the private bus industry, having been in it for 22 years. I can state very proudly that, under Glenorie Bus Company prior to it forming together with Hills Bus, in those 22 years we never missed one route run—not one—because of the efficiency and dedication of the hundreds of people who worked in that particular company and our dedication to supporting our community. That is not to say that that happens in all companies, but one thing I do say is that the private bus industry is bound by contracts, and contracts are awarded and approved by the government of the day. A very interesting contract was issued on 10 July 2023 by the Labor Government, which does things differently from the former Government—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Order!

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: It was awarded in the Central Coast. Someone who would know that area pretty well is the local member for The Entrance. I quote for the record what the member for The Entrance said—

Mr David Harris: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Before I call the Minister to take his point of order, I point out that it was lovely and quiet in the Chamber before the member for Terrigal came in, so I am holding him responsible. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr David Harris: My point of order relates to Standing Order 76. The motion specifically refers to public buses being privatised. The Central Coast has never had public buses, so what the member is saying is irrelevant.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: To the point of order: There have been many comments made on both sides of the Chamber in regard to the private bus industry. One member in particular said how inefficient it was, how bad it was and how it would be changed. That is completely relevant in relation to the issues I raised about the contracts in the private bus industry.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I will take the matter under consideration. I ask the member for Kellyville to return to the substance of the motion.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: It is important that the Government is engaging with its community, and no doubt the community would engage with its members, so members would know better than most people exactly what is happening. The member for The Entrance has put on record his great support for the Red Bus company at The Entrance.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

Mr David Harris: It operated for 70 years, Ray. Come on! This is rubbish.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: It is not rubbish at all.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Order! The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Yasmin Catley: My point of order relates to Standing Order 76. The member is flouting your ruling and he is doing so deliberately. He does not know what he is talking about in relation to the geography of the Central Coast. In addition to that, the motion is clear. Would it be helpful if I read it out, Mr Temporary Speaker?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): No, that is not necessary. I appreciate that the member for Swansea has referred to Standing Order 76. She will have the right of reply in a few moments.

Ms Yasmin Catley: I know, but I am trying to provide some assistance.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The member for Swansea can do that when she replies to the debate. I know the member for Kellyville listens with interest to speeches in reply for feedback on his contributions.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Maybe I could give the motion to him for assistance?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): No, the Minister will not pass papers across the table. The member for Kellyville has the call.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: There is a great deal of support across New South Wales by various communities, whether they be Liberal, Labor, Nationals or Greens voters, in relation to the private bus industry. Under the "very different Government" on that side of the House, as we have been advised today, Bob Carr did one very important thing when he was in power. The rail system was so inefficient from midnight to dawn that he put in place NightRide buses, run predominantly by the private bus industry. I speak very highly of the private bus industry.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (14:53): It is not surprising at all that members opposite oppose the motion to put in place a task force. They created the mess that the Minns Government is now committed to fixing. I thank the member for Swansea for bringing the motion before the House and the member for Coogee for being the chair of the bus passenger task force. It is important for us to get out into the community to talk to the drivers, to the stakeholders—who are the passengers—and to the schools to ensure that the services we deliver going forward are exactly what they need. Let us talk about the impact of the former Government signing contracts with U-Go Mobility in region 10. I can talk about that personally because within my electorate of Heathcote that contract was signed at the eleventh hour. The former Government chose the cheapest option. It was not based on experience or quality of service but on cost. And you get what you pay for, right?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Order!

Ms MARYANNE STUART: You ousted a longstanding operator, Transdev, which had provided a good service over two decades. That put the safety of my community in question every minute of every day because you signed that contract. Let me talk about U-Go Mobility officially taking over on 1 July this year.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The Clerk will stop the clock. I advise the member for Kellyville that I am busting to kick someone out of the Chamber. Members will come to order.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: The standing orders state that the member should direct all comments through the Chair and not across the table.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The member for Heathcote will direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms MARYANNE STUART: Mr Temporary Speaker, let me remind the Opposition through you that the U-Go Mobility operation took over from 1 July this year and buses have been regularly cancelled or late. Students have been stranded on the side of the road. A mother rang me in tears about the fact that her children—a five-year-old and a seven-year-old—were dropped off on the other side of Sutherland and had to walk over three major roads to get to their primary school. Students all around region 10 have been stranded on the side of the road with buses driving past schools, refusing to stop. A 92-year-old was stranded for hours waiting for a service. That contract was signed by the previous Government based on cost, not on experience and not on service delivery. My office has been logging incidents daily, with more than 200 complaints. I have called the principal of every school that has been impacted by these services to express my anger and disappointment with the service. A resident with cancer missed treatment due to the bus not turning up.

All we want is a bus service that is reliable and buses that show up on time. It is not very hard. I thank the drivers; they are doing their best. They have had an operator that has not given them support and has not briefed them, and that is thanks to the contract signed by those now sitting on the other side of this Chamber. This Government, with the task force, will consult with drivers, with schools and with passengers. We thank the drivers, some of whom have not even been paid on time, and we will be consulting with them in the circumstances where they now work from depots. We will do the job and fix up the mess that those opposite have delivered for the people of New South Wales with this service. [*Time expired.*]

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (14:57): I thank the member for Swansea for bringing this motion to the House. Similar to her electorate, my office in Wakehurst also receives a lot of correspondence from commuters dissatisfied with late or cancelled scheduled bus services. We know that when public transport is reliable and frequent, people use it; it makes their lives easier and drives down congestion for everyone in the community. In the lead-up to the election and since, I was very vocal about the need for bus services on the beaches to essentially be fixed. There is no doubt that the perfect storm, from a fully public bus service on the northern beaches to a privately run service, combined with the pandemic, has had a significant knock-on effect. The level of cancellation of bus services in particular has been way too high. It is an issue I am following closely and will continue to advocate for on behalf of the people of Wakehurst. I personally use this service to get to Parliament, to meetings in the city and to my favourite sporting events at the Sydney Cricket Ground—including tonight.

I am continuing to listen to my community. I encourage residents of Wakehurst to contact my office—and the task force—about their expectations and what they need fixed. I am continuing to engage with Keolis Downer, the private operator of buses on the northern beaches, and holding them to account about their progress in hiring drivers, overcoming the driver shortage and playing their role in addressing the issues. To be fair, I am encouraged by their reports that the number of bus drivers they are employing is increasing. In relation to recent timetable adjustments, I made my expectation clear that the full timetable will be restored by the end of the year.

I will continue to work with the Government to make sure that Transport for NSW is maintaining proper oversight of this essential public service and that recommendations to the bus task force are robust and implemented as fast as possible. How is it that a contract is written in such a way that it encourages service cancellations over buses running late? It is extraordinary. As we have heard, kids are being stranded on their way to school. My nephews, aged 10 and eight, along with a bunch of other kids, were left behind. They had to call their mum to come back to get them. It is not right. Schoolkids, HSC students, are running late for their exams and being told they will fail because the principals cannot wait an hour for them to get to school. It is wrong.

There are also permanent route cancellations—the list of problems goes on. This contract also failed to provide any consideration for public schools to have buses available to take students to school sport. Seriously, who wrote this contract? People are late for work—an hour late. That is not acceptable. I welcome the Government's task force. I note that the last bus passenger forum was held in Dee Why. It was a successful event, and I thank the Minister and the member for Coogee for attending. I received a lot of positive feedback about it. I thank everyone who participated. It was well and truly oversubscribed because everyone wants this issue fixed—so let's get on with it. If it takes a task force to do it, so bloody be it. I encourage the community to make submissions. I look forward to interim reports from the task force being made publicly available within the time frames originally stated, and to the swift implementation of recommendations that alleviate bus driver shortages and get buses up to the quality the community expects.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (15:01): By leave: I speak in support of the motion. The privatisation of bus services in New South Wales has been a disaster for commuters, particularly in Sydney's inner west and in my electorate of Balmain, where bus services are the primary mode of public transport. I, too, hear almost daily from members of my community that the bus services are not up to scratch. Cancellations, late running services and services that are already full by the time they reach their bus stop are common complaints. The bus that I catch to Parliament often does not stop. It sails past every morning because it is full. People are forced to walk two or three stops in the opposite direction to try to get on. If people do not feel like they can rely on these services then they stop using them altogether. This puts extra strain on our overstretched road networks and contributes to higher transport emissions because everybody gets in their cars and drives instead.

The introduction of the Bus Industry Taskforce is indeed welcome. I know that residents across my community will be paying very close attention to its findings and recommendations. But let us be honest. We already know what the issue is: It is privatisation. Unless the Government commits to bringing region 6 back into public hands when the contracts expire in 2026, the Bus Industry Taskforce will potentially not solve the problems in my electorate. Fast, connected and safe public transport is at the heart of an efficient and socially just city. Our ailing public transport and traffic congestion brings stress and frustration to people across the State. It costs families precious time and has a negative impact on the economy. Encouraging public and active transport can address these issues and have a positive effect on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and it makes our communities healthier.

During its last term, the former Liberal-Nationals Government cut the direct 445 to the Balmain East wharf, forcing people to change at a park that is only about a kilometre away from the ferry stop. This unnecessary and frustrating change is such a disincentive for people to use the bus service. It should be reversed. For so many in the electorate, the 370 bus route provided a really important connection, and yet that service was cut. It needs to be restored. And we cannot forget the ridiculous service from Annandale to the city that actually requires

passengers to take a bus from Annandale back to Rozelle to change buses in order to then travel directly to the CBD. That route means bus passengers need to double back and travel away from the city in order to get the bus that goes in the correct direction. It is clear that there needs to be a service from The Crescent and Johnston Street directly to the CBD, rather than going via Rozelle.

I take a moment to address the lack of reliable connectivity between the different modes of transport. In Balmain we have an ongoing issue with the inability of the transport planning to ensure that the connection between ferries and buses is convenient for passengers. I continue to receive reports, almost weekly, of buses leaving just as the ferry offloads passengers. The passengers are left to wait in the dark for a later bus, often for extended periods of time, or to try to walk up a very steep hill to get themselves into the peninsula. An adjustment of the timetable by just a few minutes, or some flexibility on the part of the drivers, would solve this incredibly frustrating problem.

During the election, the new minority Labor Government's candidate stood alongside the now transport Minister and made a number of commitments on these issues, as well as on our local ferry services. A Bus Industry Taskforce is a very welcome first step, but I again call on the Government to honour its commitments and take further steps to systematically deliver the public transport improvements for the people of New South Wales that we need. I congratulate all of those members of my community who have been such strong advocates for public and active transport. I am absolutely committed to ensuring that these systemic changes take place.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (15:05): By leave: I thank the member for Swansea for moving this motion, and I thank members on both sides—in particular, the member for Davidson—for granting me leave to speak on this important issue. I will speak on behalf of my community and what is occurring in region 10 at the moment. I have here an announcement from the Minister for Transport directing Transport for NSW to step in to manage day-to-day operations in region 10, alongside U-Go Mobility, as of last Monday. It is good that the Minister listened to calls from me and parliamentary colleagues on both sides, including the member for Heathcote, telling her that something had to be done and done urgently.

By way of introduction, the Sutherland shire and many other parts of Sydney have had a private bus operator for decades. In fact, Punchbowl Bus Company took me to school, to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School at Oatley and to Marist Catholic College Penshurst. I think they probably transported the Premier to school as well, as we attended schools in the same area. They have been operating in our community for over 75 years and have had a very good track record of taking people in my electorate from point A to point B. I acknowledge the great work of Punchbowl Bus Company. I also want to acknowledge their many drivers. I believe over 80 per cent of their workforce has gone to the new operators for region 10. But let us put everything on the table. Transport for NSW and U-Go Mobility had months and months to prepare the takeover, the contract, and knew well in advance the required services that they would need to manage into the future. So if they knew they could not maintain these services, there should have been ample notice and proper communication—

Ms Maryanne Stuart: You shouldn't have signed the contract then.

Mr MARK COURE: You've had your turn. There should have been proper communication with our community across the St George and Sutherland shire.

Ms Maryanne Stuart: It falls at your feet.

Mr MARK COURE: I raised this personally with the Minister's staff and with Transport for NSW prior to the new operators starting—and because of her interjection I will note that the member for Heathcote was in that forum as well. It is now clear that it was never investigated. We were assured—members on this side, members on that side, the member for Heathcote—that with the new operator everything "would be under control". Well, clearly it was not. In particular, there should never have been a situation where school services were suspended, where school communities were only notified on the day that there would be no school bus service operating. I look forward to seeing the findings of this review. Our communities just want their bus services back. They do not want services cut. Many services in my community which used to run every 10 or 15 minutes are now 30 minutes, 45 minutes or an hour between.

I thank the member for Swansea for moving this motion. Again, I thank members on both sides for granting me the right to speak on such an important motion. I will continue to fight on behalf of my community to bring our buses back. I look forward to seeing the findings of the review. Our communities want our buses back. Our communities want our services back. We do not want our services cut. Many services in our community that used to take 10 or 15 minutes now take half an hour, 45 minutes or an hour. I thank the member for Swansea for moving this important motion and members on both sides of the House for granting me the right to speak to it. I will continue to fight for my community to bring our buses back.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:09): By leave: It was hard to find the words to seek leave to speak in this debate because of the hypocrisy that I just heard from Opposition members—former Government members—who said, "Please, we want our buses back. Our communities want our buses back." Who destroyed the bus network in New South Wales? They did.

Ms Yasmin Catley: And who was the Parliamentary Secretary for transport?

Ms JENNY LEONG: Indeed. The member for Oatley was then Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure. I cannot believe it. I find it unfathomable to even comprehend the idea that we are now seeing members of the former 12-year Liberal-Nationals Government crying, "Oh my goodness. I have this problem with my local school. The community just wants to be able to catch a bus." Seriously. They caused this disaster by pursuing their privatisation agenda. The Greens thank the member for Swansea for bringing the motion to the Chamber and acknowledge that the new Minns Labor Government has brought into play a task force to examine the issues. Let us be clear: The task force is necessary to consider the massive challenges ahead. But we must acknowledge absolutely that privatisation has failed and anything other than a commitment from the new Minns Labor Government to bring the buses back into public hands is unacceptable.

It is not enough just to critique privatisation. It is important to renationalise and bring services back into public hands. That is absolutely critical. The privatisation agenda delivered ongoing cancellations, constant delays, fewer services, longer travel times and terrible outcomes for workers. Privatising inner west buses was completely disastrous and created dangerous conditions. After the buses were privatised, my electorate office started receiving phone calls from local people. The back streets between Enmore Road and King Street are very narrow—members might be familiar with them. People were ringing in a panic, thinking someone had stolen a bus because bus drivers were driving down their quiet back streets. The drivers were not adequately trained and did not know the routes so were turning down side streets in the back of Newtown and Enmore. In addition, bus stops were closed.

I look forward to the details of when the task force will consult the community about inner west and inner-city bus services. I thank the Minister for Transport and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport for their commitment to inform us so we ensure our communities engage with that process. Let us be clear: While it is welcome that the bus task force's remit will include engaging directly with communities and hearing about the impacts of privatisation, it is not enough for this Government simply to talk about the disastrous impacts and deflect the blame and responsibility onto the dudes behind me. We need a commitment to bring our bus network back into public hands, because any public transport system that is run by private operators will be driven by profit motive over and above the interests of passengers—families, communities and young people who use the bus services.

The private operators' priorities will always be different. Privatising our bus network means running it for profit instead of providing a quality public transport system that meets the needs of and delivers for our communities. If we are committed to the idea of creating jobs and having a world-class public transport system in this State, we must recognise the importance of keeping the system public. I cannot stress that enough. I remember many years ago standing with the unions and the Labor Party, which made a commitment to oppose the privatisation of inner west buses. We promise to make sure that the new Labor Government keeps future bus services in public hands.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism) (15:13): In reply: This is an important debate because it is such an important issue. I thank members representing the electorates of Coogee, Balmain, Newtown, Kellyville, Heathcote and Wakehurst.

Mr Gurmeh Singh: What about the member for Oatley?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I write my own speeches. I definitely do not need assistance from the member for Coffs Harbour. Why do Opposition members think the member for Wakehurst won his seat? I will tell them. The decisions they made to privatise public transport and make it inaccessible for people contributed to his great success. I congratulate him, and I enjoy working with him. I also agree with the member for Newtown. The member for Oatley said, "Our community wants our buses back. Our community wants our services back." I remember how, as the then Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, he was shocked at the amount of correspondence from the Swansea electorate office about serious transport problems.

I said to him, "I hope you never have to experience that." Guess what? He sat in Cabinet, did nothing about it and allowed it to happen. And now it has happened to him. I feel extremely sorry for him, because I know exactly what he is going through. But, again, does the 6 per cent swing to Labor at the last election not ring alarm bells? The member for Oatley is now on a 0.8 per cent margin because of the mistakes he made. He should ensure that he never makes them again. He should make sure that he stands up for people and is honest in what he says.

He had an opportunity, and he did not take it. I also thank the member for Davidson. He had a 10.9 per cent swing against him.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I call the member for Davidson to order for the first time.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: The member for Davidson is the Labor Party's best asset, because people with his attitude do not care about bus services or people being left on the street. The member for Wakehurst told us about his young nephews. That story is repeated over and over again in all our electorates. I want the member for Davidson to speak to all my motions because he is the Labor Party's greatest asset. There is no doubt about it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I call the member for Davidson to order for the second time.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: He is "Mr 10.9 per cent our way". I love it.

Mr Mark Coure: This has nothing to do with the motion.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I am thanking everybody. I thought I was being very polite and kind. I return to the motion. I congratulate the Minister for Transport. She has put our buses back in the right lane. People will be at the forefront of every decision this Government makes. The Minister for Transport has made this her number one priority. It is the first thing she did as Minister, and the community that I represent is so thankful.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I call the member for Oatley to order for the first time.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Community members were so happy to sit with the Minister and the large number of officials around her and outline their concerns. But it was more than that. They gave the Minister and the Transport for NSW officials their ideas about a public transport system that meets the needs of the people of New South Wales. I know it is a new, creative idea, but we are committed to it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes51
Noes34
Majority.....17

AYES

Atalla, E	Harris, D	Piper, G
Bali, S	Harrison, J	Quinnell, S
Butler, L	Haylen, J	Regan, M
Butler, R	Hoenig, R	Saffin, J (teller)
Car, P	Holland, M	Saliba, D
Catley, Y	Hornery, S	Scully, P
Chanthivong, A	Kaliyanda, C	Shetty, K
Cotsis, S	Kamper, S	Smith, T
Daley, M	Kirby, W	Stuart, M
Davis, D	Leong, J	Tesch, L
Dib, J	Li, J	Vo, T
Donato, P	McDermott, H	Voltz, L
Doyle, T	McGirr, J	Warren, G
Finn, J	McKeown, K	Washington, K
Greenwich, A	Mehan, D	Watson, A
Hagarty, N	O'Neill, M	Whan, S (teller)
Hannan, J	Park, R	Wilkinson, K

NOES

Amon, R	Kean, M	Sloane, K
Anderson, K	Kemp, M	Speakman, M
Ayyad, T	Lane, J	Taylor, M
Clancy, J	Layzell, D	Thompson, T
Cooke, S	Perrottet, D	Toole, P
Coure, M	Petinos, E	Tuckerman, W
Cross, M	Preston, R	Ward, G

NOES

Crouch, A (teller)
Di Pasqua, S
Henskens, A
Hodges, M
James, T

Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D
Singh, G (teller)

Williams, L
Williams, R
Williamson, R
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Aitchison, J
Crakanthorp, T
Minns, C

Marshall, A
Davies, T
Griffin, J

Motion agreed to.**UNCLE WES MARNE****Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (15:25):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Congratulates Uncle Wes Marne on celebrating his 101st birthday on 25 April.
- (2) Recognises Uncle Wes Marne is an Aboriginal Elder from Bigambul country and has continued to serve the Mount Druitt community for a number of decades.
- (3) Acknowledges that Uncle Wes is a storyteller, poet and custodian of his grandfather's Creation and Dreamtime stories.
- (4) Notes that last year Uncle Wes Marne published his first book of poems, *Through Old Eyes*, and has received an honorary fellowship from Western Sydney University.
- (5) Wishes Uncle Wes Marne a very happy birthday and many more happy returns.

I do not envision a division on this motion—but we never know what those opposite will do. It is a great honour to bring to the attention of the House a truly remarkable individual from the Mount Druitt electorate, Uncle Wes Marne. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Uncle Wes on reaching the extraordinary milestone of his 101st birthday, celebrated on 25 April this year. As well as congratulating Uncle Wes on this auspicious occasion, I would like this Parliament to recognise and appreciate the immense contribution of this esteemed Aboriginal Elder from Bigambul country. For several decades, he has been a stalwart in the Mount Druitt community, tirelessly dedicating himself to the betterment of the lives of those around him. His unwavering commitment to the community has left an indelible mark on the hearts of countless individuals.

Uncle Wes Marne's journey is one that exemplifies a life dedicated to service and the preservation of culture heritage. He is a beacon of wisdom and a living embodiment of the rich cultural heritage he carries with him. His journey has been one of resilience, determination and a deep-rooted commitment to preserving and sharing the knowledge and traditions of his people. One of the most captivating aspects of Uncle Wes's life is his role as storyteller, poet and custodian of his grandfather's Creation and Dreamtime stories. Those stories are more than just tales; they are the essence of his people's history, spirituality and identity. Through his captivating storytelling, Uncle Wes has kept those ancient narratives alive, passing them down to future generations and ensuring that they remain an integral part of the cultural fabric of our community.

Last year Uncle Wes Marne achieved another significant milestone when he published his first book of poems, aptly titled *Through Old Eyes*. This beautiful collection of poetry offers a profound insight into the wisdom and experiences of a life well lived. His poetic expressions touch the soul, evoking emotions and reflections on the past, present and future. It is with immense pride that I note Uncle Wes' honorary fellowship from Western Sydney University. That prestigious recognition highlights his significant contributions to academia and the broader community. His dedication to preserving culture and heritage and sharing traditional knowledge has enriched the educational landscape and contributed to a more inclusive and diverse learning environment.

As we come together to congratulate Uncle Wes Marne on his achievements, let us also reflect on the wisdom and inspiration he has imparted to us all. His journey serves as a shining example of the power of resilience, determination and passion to shape a meaningful and purposeful life. As we honour him today, let us also reaffirm our commitment to supporting and uplifting our Aboriginal Elders and custodians of culture. Let us listen to their stories, learn from their experiences and cherish the invaluable contributions they make to our society.

We celebrate Uncle Wes Marne's remarkable journey as an Aboriginal Elder, poet, storyteller and custodian of culture. His life has been a tapestry of love, service and dedication, enriching the lives of everyone he encounters. I congratulate Uncle Wes Marne on his remarkable journey and on the significant impact he has made on the lives of so many. He continues to inspire us all to build a nation where all cultures are respected, where Indigenous voices are heard and where we can walk together on the path of reconciliation and unity. I congratulate Uncle Wes. May he celebrate many more happy and fruitful years.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:30): I thank and commend the member for Mount Druitt for bringing the motion to this House. I also acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. I also acknowledge the lands that I represent, which belong to the Birpai people, and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. First and foremost, happy birthday to Uncle Wes Marne. Reaching his 101st-year milestone is an incredible achievement. But, more importantly, we celebrate the wonderful contribution that Uncle Wes has made to his community, which the member for Mount Druitt shared with the House, particularly in relation to his storytelling. I congratulate him on the release of his book of poems. What an incredible achievement.

I take the opportunity to reflect on NAIDOC Week, which of course we celebrated not that long ago from 2 to 9 July. NAIDOC Week, as we know, is an opportunity for us all to learn about and celebrate the oldest continuing culture on this planet. It is also a time to celebrate and acknowledge the culture, the excellence and the achievements of not only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country but also—for us as local members—those in our communities. The reason I raise NAIDOC Week, of course, is that the theme this year was "For Our Elders", encouraging everyone across the State to celebrate and to pay homage to the Elders like Uncle Wes Marne in our communities. We must learn from the Elders, who are the cultural knowledge holders and who are key to guiding us on the path to reconciliation and to a better future for all.

Their stories, like those that have been shared by Uncle Wes Marne, reflect on the past struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through many generations. But we are also able to learn from them that there is much to celebrate about their culture. The future path we take and the decisions we make must focus on truth-telling and reflect on the knowledge and experience of our Elders. Nowhere else in the world is there a 65,000-year legacy from which we can learn. It can guide us into the future to pave the way for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I think all of us acknowledge and appreciate that we are so privileged to have the opportunity to learn from a culture with such a legacy.

I am proud that the New South Wales Liberals and The Nationals in government worked hard to support our Aboriginal communities. We demonstrated our commitment to listening to our First Nations people. I acknowledge the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, who is in the Chamber, and I am confident that he will continue that work respecting their knowledge and insights. Of course, we did it through our initiative called OCHRE. I acknowledge the previous Aboriginal affairs Minister, my former colleague Victor Dominello, who developed a community-focused plan for Aboriginal affairs in New South Wales. Central to that OCHRE plan is working with and supporting Aboriginal communities by building strong partnerships that have at their heart respect for Aboriginal culture, leadership and decision-making.

Again, I pay respects to our Elders—like Uncle Wes Marne—past, present and emerging and acknowledge the opportunity that we had during NAIDOC Week to celebrate them. The electorate of Port Macquarie has some amazing Aboriginal Elders. I refer in the first instance to Uncle Bill O'Brien, OAM, whom I often, thankfully, get to share the stage with while he does welcomes to country. If members have not heard Uncle Bill's welcome to country, it is worth listening to. It is an incredible story that not only reflects on our local environment but also puts to us as a community what we should be doing to make sure we have a strong path to reconciliation by working together. Elders like Uncle Bill O'Brien provide guidance, leadership and encouragement to the next generation of Elders.

It would be remiss of me not to mention also Aunty Rhonda Radley, who is a very dear friend. I always feel so proud when she refers to me as "sister". She has worked incredibly hard at protecting and revitalising Aboriginal language across our community. I also take the opportunity to acknowledge Uncle Brian King, who is one of our very valued school learning support officers. He has worked, supported and nurtured students at Hastings Public School in my electorate for the past 11 years. Uncle Brian's longstanding career has seen him support students from kindergarten all the way to upper primary, and he has been instrumental in engaging with and guiding many of those students with his approachable and very nurturing personality.

I commend Uncle Brian for his commitment to education and his enthusiasm for sharing his vast knowledge of Aboriginal culture, history and experiences, which no doubt have enriched the students' understanding of and respect for the land on which they live and learn—that is, Birpai land. I return to the person at the centre of this motion, Uncle Wes Marne, and once again wish him a happy 101st birthday. On behalf of the electorates that we all represent, we want to say how privileged we feel to have him as part of our community,

especially in Mount Druitt, and acknowledge the incredible work that he has done to make sure the stories he tells provide guidance and leadership on reconciliation to all those who have had the privilege of meeting him. Happy Birthday, Uncle Wes Marne.

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) (15:37): I thank the member for Mount Druitt and take the opportunity to congratulate Uncle Wes Marne on reaching the remarkable age of 101 on 25 April this year. I was lucky enough to meet Uncle Wes recently in Penrith, where he did an acknowledgement of country. Uncle Wes' life is a story of hardship, resilience, community service and accomplishments in preserving culture and traditional knowledge. Uncle Wes is a Bigambul man. Born in 1922 in southern Queensland, he grew up near Stanthorpe on country and in culture. Living on country as a young child, he learnt many traditional Dreamtime stories, bush survival and ceremony from his grandfather. His grandfather taught him how to hunt and gather food and resources from the bush sustainably.

From his mother and aunts he learnt the importance of interconnectedness between family, people, animals and country based on the system of skin groups and totems, which has stayed with him until this day. Uncle Wes' time on country came to an end in 1932 when his family was forced to march to Deadbird Mission at Ashford. From this period onward, he quickly learnt about the harsh realities of the day. Aboriginal people were forced to wear tags when they travelled from the mission to Ashford, and every day police would remove Aboriginal people to ensure they were not in town after 5.00 p.m. Uncle Wes attended school for just three months at the age of six, before being sent to work as a water boy for men working at ringbarking camps.

In the intervening years Uncle Wes worked and lived in regional areas of outback Queensland and New South Wales. He showed great resilience in the face of hardship, being locked up for nine months for being in a town after 5.00 p.m. and working numerous jobs, including on the railway and on tobacco plantations. Many years later, in the 1960s, Uncle Wes moved to Sydney. During this time he was invited by the Department of Education to visit schools and share his people's Dreamtime stories, but he was not allowed to share anything else. He was told not to speak of the ugly truth of Australian history, of the dispossession of land, massacres, forced people movements and the Stolen Generations. But Uncle Wes had other ideas. On the urging of a Catholic school principal in Westmead, he began telling these stories of oppression, his stories of oppression.

Uncle Wes eventually settled in Mount Druitt, where he is recognised as an Elder of great esteem. He is known for supporting young people at risk and visiting prisons to mentor Aboriginal men to regain the confidence they need to help themselves. He is a founding member of the Mount Druitt and District Reconciliation Group, organising annual reconciliation walks for the community. Uncle Wes also regularly performs smoking ceremonies, undertakes acknowledgements of country and is a sought-after speaker at community events.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (15:40): In reply: I commend the motion to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

NORTH COAST TOURISM AWARDS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (15:41): Tourism on the Coffs Coast is a success story we can all be proud of and participate in. The 2023 North Coast Tourism Awards celebrated our operators whose perseverance, pursuit of excellence and vision put our region on the map. All of them are winners, but I recognise the following enterprises that brought home medals: Giingan Gumbaynggirr Cultural Experience, Pacific Bay Resort, Lindsay Russell from Broken Open Productions, the Big Banana Fun Park, Woopi Brewing Co., and Lydia Crossingham and Neil Manson from The Observatory Holiday Apartments. I congratulate our other Coffs Coast finalists: Coffs Harbour Butterfly House, Wajaana Yaam Gumbaynggirr Adventure Tours, Coffs Harbour Trike and Private Tours, Coffs Coast Accommodation and The Observatory Holiday Apartments. I thank each of them for the important role they play in driving economic growth across the Coffs Coast, employing hundreds of people with great jobs and keeping our economy growing in the face of adversity.

ZALI REYNOLDS

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) (15:42): Zali Reynolds from Hamlyn Terrace, who is here at Parliament today, was recognised at the 2023 NSW Training Awards regional ceremony held in Newcastle. The awards night highlighted the most outstanding apprentices, trainees, students and businesses that champion training, trainers and training organisations in the

Central Coast and Hunter regions. Zali was named Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year. She is currently completing a certificate III in allied health assistance, and she is employed by the Central Coast Health District while studying at Northlakes High School. Recently I met Zali speaking at the Aboriginal school-based apprenticeship and traineeship information day for year 10 students across the Central Coast. I congratulate Zali on receiving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year award and her ongoing achievements. I wish Zali luck for the State finals later this year. She wants to go on to be a doctor and I am sure that she will make it.

RAYMOND TERRACE MAGPIES RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FUNDRAISER

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (15:43): There truly is nothing like the camaraderie of a close-knit community football club and how they rally around their own. Raymond Terrace Magpies Rugby League Football Club, under the presidency of Luke Handsaker, displayed a perfect example of this when it came together for its annual ladies day last weekend. I was delighted to drop in to support their wonderful cause as they fundraised for a very special young person. Mackenzie Papworth is a beautiful 13-year-old Raymond Terrace schoolgirl who is fighting a rare form of lymphoma, devastatingly only four years after losing her mum to cancer. With a dress code of "50 shades of pink", the club turned on the event of the year for this special girl and her family so that she can continue her treatment with some financial peace of mind. There were jersey auctions, best dressed prizes, kicking competitions and so much more. I thank Shenae Handsaker for her hand in it all. This is what our community does best, looking out for each other. I am sending all my best wishes, and this Parliament's strength, to young Mackenzie.

OAKHILL COLLEGE

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (15:44): The Oakhill College Parents and Friends Association Gala Fair is an annual event held each year in my electorate. This year the fair was held on 22 July and was a resounding success. The fair was held on a warm winter's day and the wonderful Oakhill community certainly enjoyed it. The generosity of the community was on display throughout the entire day with staff, parents, sponsors and students working together to make the event a success. The gala day included fun activities for all including rides, book stalls, market stalls, a cake stall, a chocolate wheel, food vans and much more. I specifically thank the sponsors for providing items for the stalls, raffles and chocolate wheel. During the day parents and friends of the community were able to witness the spirit of the Oakhill sporting teams in action. I congratulate all the sporting teams who provided a wonderful sporting display. I congratulate and recognise Michelle Scarsbrook, who is the president of the Oakhill Parents and Friends Association. I also recognise all those involved for their skills and work to provide to the community a successful gala day.

WELLBEING STRATHFIELD

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (15:45): Last Thursday I had the pleasure of hosting a brain health seminar as part of the Wellbeing Strathfield initiative. Brain health is a topic important to my constituents, with over 200 community members coming to the Strathfield campus of the Australian Catholic University on a cold winter's night. We invited Professor Daniel Chan, Professor Anne Tiedemann and Dr John Cullen as our expert panel, given their experience as researchers and practitioners in the field of neurodegenerative disease, geriatric medicine, and physical activity and health. The Parliamentary Secretary for Health, and member for Bega, opened the event by sharing his warm wisdom gained from his time as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. Each expert updated the audience about the newest research in their field and shared practical tips on how to promote brain health. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. I extend a warm thank you to all our esteemed guests for volunteering their time to support the wellbeing of my community and to the Australian Catholic University Strathfield for the venue.

SECONDLIFE RECRAFTED

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:46): I congratulate a small family business based in Saratoga that has taken out one of the Australia Post Local Business Heroes Awards for 2023. SecondLife Recrafted, a business run by Mark and Katie Silvia, was one of 100 businesses out of 4,000 Australia-wide to be awarded the Australia Post Heroes Package, worth close to \$6,000. The couple received promotional material, shipping discounts, office equipment and business coaching to support and boost their small business. Operating for just over a year out of a home workshop and office, SecondLife Recrafted specialises in handcrafting home and kitchenware products from recycled timber. Crafted from reclaimed timbers, each of the handmade products is unique and filled with its own history. A written backstory about the origins of each piece is included with every purchase. Mark and Katie's SecondLife coasties collection has been well received by residents who appreciated the recrafting of recycled timbers sourced locally from their own Central Coast suburbs. Congratulations again to Mark and Katie.

SREBRENICA REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (15:47): On 11 July I joined the Australian Bosnian-Herzegovinian Cultural Association and the Bosnian community in commemorating Srebrenica Remembrance Day. I often join cultural groups in my community to celebrate the best of culture, customs, language and religion. However, events like this are just as important, not just for the community who suffered but all of us. It is incumbent on each of us to learn from history to ensure it does not repeat. The massacre of over 8,000 Bosniak Muslims in Srebrenica in July 1995 was a horrendous tragedy. Indeed, Europe had hoped it had left such events behind it following World War II. With the war in Ukraine, this year's event was particularly poignant, and I acknowledge the Bosnian community's solidarity with the people of Ukraine. I thank the Australian Bosnian-Herzegovinian Cultural Association, Amir Sahinovic, the Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and all the speakers and performers at this year's important commemoration.

ADRIAN VERBUNT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (15:48): I extend my congratulations to Mr Adrian Verbunt, known to his friends as "Ad", who was awarded the prestigious life membership by the Corowa Men's Probus Club. The award acknowledges his unwavering dedication and remarkable service over the past 30 years. At 93, Ad is the surviving foundation member of the Corowa Men's Probus Club. It is a testament to his enduring commitment. From the moment he arrived in Corowa in his early 20s, he became an integral part of the Corowa community. Overcoming the language barrier, he quickly adapted and successfully established himself in the construction industry. Driven by his deep-rooted desire to give back to his community, he immersed himself in numerous volunteer roles for organisations such as the Corowa Lions Club, the rescue club and the historical society. Ad's story continues to inspire us all. I thank him for his commitment and service to the people of Corowa.

BENGALI NEW YEAR

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (15:49): On June 18 I was delighted to attend the Bengali New Year Festival held at Fairfield Showground. I have made many Bengali friends over the years, and I know firsthand the community's significant contributions to Western Sydney. I thank Bangabandhu Council Australia for working hard to organise such a wonderful event and for bringing the wider Western Sydney community together in a celebration of culture, joy and tradition. The event hosted delicious food, as well as vibrant cultural dances and performances in traditional attire. I thank each of the performers and vendors for making the day extra special. I also commend the work of Sheik Huque and other board members of the council for their hard work and effort in serving our community.

KAREN STUTTLE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:50): I commend and acknowledge the dedication and kindness of local Grenfell resident Karen Stuttle. Karen has devoted her time to helping others by making free dinners for people in need in the community. Following her passion as a trained chef, Karen started Mountain of Joy when she lived in the Kurrajong Heights area. During this time, Karen supported locals through fires, floods and a pandemic, with thousands of meals heading out the door. Now in Grenfell, Karen provides meals every second Saturday for up to 65 people in the community and delivers the meals to their door. She is helped by the Grenfell community by way of donated goods so that she can continue her work in the community for people struggling to make ends meet. I thank Karen for providing such a generous service during times of high cost of living and other financial pressures. Her work is truly appreciated.

EAST HILLS ASPHALT DIVERS CLUB

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (15:51): I recognise the East Hills Asphalt Divers Club, which has raised more than \$100,000 for various well-deserving charities in the local community. The club was established in 2003 and has grown to 115 members. In addition to its charitable endeavours, these motorcycle enthusiasts travel bi-monthly to small country towns, where they visit and spend money in various businesses to help the local economy thrive. One of the more unique fundraising activities that the club runs each year is the Australia Day mud crab racing event, with proceeds going to Father Riley's Youth Off The Street program and to supporting our local East Hills Junior Rugby League Club. The club also raises funds for deserving local families with children with special needs to help purchase mobility vans or assist with medical expenses. I acknowledge the executive team, Keith Hooten, Vince Adams and Narelle Davis, and all members, including my friend Peter Hellyer, for their hard work in raising funds and the generosity shown towards our local community.

LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (15:52): I recognise and commend the invaluable work of Josie Parata and Lighthouse for the Community. Josie and her incredible team support people in our community

who are enduring the toughest of circumstances. Lighthouse for the Community was founded to "walk hand in hand" with people impacted by domestic and family violence, homelessness and addiction. Since launching as SMS Lighthouse in 2009, this remarkable organisation has expanded and evolved. It now has support programs for men and women and provides dynamic support for people enduring significant challenges. Lighthouse for the Community was established for a very serious reason. The organisation is a direct response to the previous lack of services and networks on the northern beaches that Josie has experienced firsthand. I thank Josie and her team and, as her MP, I reaffirm my commitment to supporting the incredible work they do.

ST JOHN EYE HOSPITAL, EAST JERUSALEM

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:53): As the convenor of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of St John Ambulance, last week I had the privilege of visiting the St John Eye Hospital in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. I was given a tour of the facility and met local doctors and nurses who are changing the lives of thousands of patients across the region. For 141 years St John Eye Hospital has treated patients, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or ability to pay for surgery. The hospital's eye health programs in the West Bank have been supported by the Australian Government since 2019 through The Fred Hollows Foundation. In 2022 the hospital saw over 142,000 patients and undertook 6,000 major sight-saving surgeries. In a region with high rates of poverty, the hospital's services are valuable and important in ensuring that individuals have access to quality health care, including specialist eye units, complex surgical procedures, 24-hour eye emergency treatment and outpatient services. I thank the chief executive officer, Dr Ahmad Ma'ail, and Lord Prior Mark Compton for organising the visit and for their selfless dedication to the vulnerable members of the community in the Holy Land.

CONRAD WADE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (15:54): I express my deep sense of admiration for a remarkable young soul from my community, Conrad Wade. He is a Badgerys Creek local and student at James Erskine Public School. In November 2020, at the age of seven, Conrad's life took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Throughout his arduous battle, Conrad has displayed extraordinary courage and resilience, bravely confronting the disease head-on. Despite the challenges of entering remission only to have the disease reappear, Conrad has stood strong. With unwavering determination, he has conquered every challenge that has been thrown his way. In a testament to the strength and love of my community, James Erskine Public School has rallied to organise the "Together with Conrad" fundraiser to support Conrad's family. They believe that together, with a powerful wave of love and generosity, they can help Conrad in his journey. Our community stands with Conrad Wade. God bless.

PINK SARI INCORPORATED

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:55): I acknowledge the seventh anniversary of Pink Sari Incorporated [PSI], an organisation that I have proudly supported since its inception in 2016. Pink Sari is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to lessen the impact of cancer in South Asian communities through the promotion of early detection initiatives and information campaigns. Previously, in its capacity as the Pink Sari Project in 2014, PSI helped to increase screening rates in South Asian communities by over 17 per cent. Over the past seven years, PSI has successfully delivered a variety of culturally responsive and innovative initiatives, including *Portraits in Pink*, a photo essay of breast cancer survivors, and *Melodies*, a nationwide songwriting contest urging women to self-check regularly. Along with many other "Pinkaholics", I was pleased to attend the seventh anniversary lunch on 16 July. I acknowledge the efforts of the core committee, including President Shantha Viswanathan, Anoop Johan, Dr Rugmini Venkatraman, Aparna Tijoriwala, Rupa Parthasarathy and Viji Dhayanathan, as well as the many volunteers and supporters.

FRANCIE MORRIS

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (15:56): It was fantastic to have been able to visit and personally congratulate local Bathurst resident Francie Morris on the occasion of her 106th birthday. This remarkable lady can lay claim to being the region's oldest resident, and I know that she is passionately proud of the city she has called home throughout her life. It is fair to say that a highlight of this special occasion was receiving a birthday card from King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla, as Francie has been a staunch supporter of the royal family. Francie also fondly recalls receiving a card from the late Queen Elizabeth II on her 100th birthday congratulating her on that milestone. There is no place like home; just ask Francie. She has lived in the same house on Vittoria Street with her late husband Arthur for 77 years. Francie might be slowing down a bit these days, but she continues to enjoy social outings with friends and family, especially her weekly visits to the Bathurst Golf Club for lunch and a game of cards with who she calls "the girls". The Bathurst community congratulates and wishes Francie a happy birthday.

COLEDALE RSL CLUB

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (15:57): Returned and Services League of Australia sub-branches and clubs play a pivotal role in our society. RSL sub-branches and clubs organise commemorative services like those on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. RSL sub-branches and clubs provide safe spaces for veterans and servicemen and women to come together and share their stories. And RSL sub-branches and clubs are tasked with ensuring that the memories of the brave men and women who served our country so bravely are passed down to our youngest generations. I am lucky to have over half a dozen RSLs in my electorate of Heathcote, one of them being Coledale RSL Club. This year is particularly special for the Coledale RSL Sub-Branch and Coledale RSL Club, as it celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary. I was fortunate to attend a dinner marking the achievement last weekend. The occasion was not lost on the club and sub-branch members, the community, the wider veteran community or me. I congratulate the club again on 75 wonderful years.

SCOTT RICHMOND AND DYLAN BRAY

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (15:58): I recognise entertainers Scott Richmond and Dylan Bray, the creators of the popular children's entertainment show *Ozzie*, for their recent efforts in raising \$19,011 for the Sports Access Foundation. Scott and Dylan created the popular character Ozzie in 2020 by launching a series of educational videos aiming to spark curiosity and ignite passion in kids. Ozzie lives by these key messages: be curious, give everything a go and always stay keen! Building on the show's success and inspired by the Matildas, Scott, who plays Ozzie, broke the world record for dribbling a soccer ball by dribbling a ball 320 kilometres from Canberra to Seymour Shaw Park in Miranda. In doing this he hoped to not only raise money for the Sports Access Foundation but also show children "they can achieve anything in life if they go about it the right way and they plan right and prepare right". I congratulate Scott on breaking a world record and thank both Scott and Dylan for their efforts in raising funds for this very important cause.

PATTEN FAMILY

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (15:59): I congratulate the Patten family on the outstanding artwork they created to honour the NSW Police Force. Concerned about the media's negative portrayal of the police, local Riverstone mum Sandi Patten worked with her children, Ryan and Riley, together with the children's cousin Isabella to create a handcrafted timber shield resembling the police crest in honour of the Riverstone Police Area Command for its exceptional service. Using a wood round, they began by burning the design and later added vibrant colours to their masterpiece. After many hours of work, they were happy with the outcome. The artistic family took the opportunity to present the handcrafted police shield at the Riverstone Police Station open day. Commander Scott Bingham expressed his delight upon receiving the heartfelt gift and thanked them for their kind present, which will be prominently displayed at the station. I congratulate Ryan, Riley and Isabella on their beautiful dedication in recognising the important work of the police and say well done to mum Sandi for her exceptional parenting skills.

SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (16:00): Today I bring to the attention of the House the social justice club at Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay, which recently organised a clothing exchange and bake sale that raised proceeds for youth homelessness charity Youth Off The Streets. This wonderful event brought together the whole school community to contribute to the second-hand clothing drive to help support Youth Off The Streets. I was very impressed by the students' dedication to this important cause, and I particularly acknowledge Bodhi Aroni and Avin Dabiri from the social justice club for their work. I thank the school leaders who I had the pleasure of meeting: Anna Finance, Cassidy Newman, Patrick Hubbard and Mia Williams.

CHALDEAN FESTIVAL

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (16:01): On 4 June 2023 I had the pleasure of joining my community in commemorating the valuable contributions made by the Chaldean Australian community at the Chaldean Festival. The event celebrating their culture, heritage and traditions took place at Fairfield Showground and featured an array of traditional foods, folk dances and beautiful cultural attire. I also had the honour of meeting His Grace Mar Amel Nona, the Archbishop of the Chaldean Catholic Diocese of Australia and New Zealand, who kindly shared his knowledge and wisdom with me. As the indigenous people of Iraq, the Chaldean community in my electorate hold a significant role in preserving their important heritage and culture. I thank the festival committee for their efforts in organising this event, and I look forward to the ongoing contributions they will continue to make to my electorate.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN OVERTON, AM, OAM

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (16:02): Today I recognise the life and legacy of the late Alan Overton, AM, OAM. Alan was chairman of both the Parramatta Eels football club and Parramatta Leagues Club between 1985 and 2009. Alan had a passion for sport and went to great lengths to ensure local students had access to sporting opportunities through his involvement with the Parramatta Eels and Parramatta Leagues. His history of service began at the age of 18 when he undertook national service. Following this, Alan was involved in the building of Ronald McDonald House Westmead in 1996. For his work in our community Alan was the recipient of many accolades, including the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1994 for starting a Scout group for handicapped children. Alan's impact on the local area cannot be measured. The community has lost a fantastic man, and we will be forever grateful for the work and service he dedicated to Parramatta and the surrounding districts.

ALAN SHEPHARD

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (16:03): I congratulate Mr Alan Shephard on his ninetieth birthday and on his long contribution to the Eurobodalla community. Alan was born on 12 August 1933. He joined Moruya Rotary District 9705 on 28 November 1997 and has served as club president. In recognition of his contribution to the community through his various services, including fundraising at the Moruya Jockey Club race days, Rotary auctions, Australia Day celebrations, rodeos, car shows and the Moruya jazz festivals, Alan was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship, named after the founder of Rotary. Mr Shephard ran a surveying business locally and provided pro bono services to local Aboriginal land councils and local churches. In addition, having been a Legacy ward as a child, Alan has contributed back to Legacy by organising monthly outings and lunch for Eurobodalla war widows. I look forward to helping him celebrate a wonderful life of community service on 11 August in Moruya.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW FINDLAY**TRIBUTE TO KERRY PAKI**

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:04): I acknowledge the recent passing of two of our beloved Mosman Junior Rugby Club [MJRC] parents, Andrew Findlay and Kerry Paki. It has been a heartbreaking week for our MJRC community. Andrew Findlay, who played for Mosman, tragically lost his life at 51. He was a loving father to three amazing children, Iggy in the under-10s, and Lexi and Toby, who also play for MJRC. His wife, Lizzie Kemp, is also a valued community member as the under-10s age group manager. We also mourn the sudden loss of Kerry Paki, a treasured member of our community who tragically lost her life at 42. Kerry was a loving mother to her four beautiful children, Thomas in the under-12s, Abbey, Emily and new baby Lucy. She was a loving wife to Bardia, who has been a devoted coach to the MJRC for the past five years. Kerry brought passion and commitment to the players of the age group. My deepest condolences and the condolences of our community go out to the families. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to the Mosman Junior Rugby Club community at this extremely sad time.

AUNTY DR MATILDA HOUSE-WILLIAMS

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro) (16:05): I honour and congratulate Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams, a proud Ngambri Elder who lives in Queanbeyan. She has been an institution in Queanbeyan for many decades. She recently won the National NAIDOC Female Elder award category, a very well-deserved award for somebody who has been active in helping her community and our community since the 1960s. Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams grew up in Yass but moved to Canberra in 1963 and took an active role in the community from then on. She was involved in things like the 1967 referendum, campaigning for a yes vote. Not surprisingly, she is now again campaigning for a yes vote later this year. She worked as an Aboriginal liaison officer in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and was involved in founding the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Aboriginal Health Service. She also founded the Ngambri Land Council in Queanbeyan and did many other important things for our community.

BEN'S BITES

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (16:06): I acknowledge Ben Binskin, the visionary behind Ben's Bites that is a new culinary venture recently established in Top Ryde. Ben's Bites is a local partnership, using the premises and facilities of another popular local business, Birdies, which was founded and is operated by Stephanie Doyle. Birdies is a mini-golf and sports bar establishment while Ben's Bites does burgers, fries and other great food. It is a perfect match, made even better by a focus on supporting local suppliers and businesses. The meat is from the Top Ryde butcher, the bread from Top Ryde Baker's House and everything in between is sourced locally. We know that after COVID-19 many local businesses, especially those in the catering and hospitality sectors, were doing it tough. Sometimes a little bit of innovation and collaboration is all that is needed to inject new life. I wish

Stephanie and Ben all the very best with their new collaboration. I encourage those living in Ryde to support local business and invite those from outside Ryde to come and see what the Ben's Bites and Birdies collaboration is all about. I congratulate Ben and Stephanie and their respective teams on bringing this great initiative to life.

CLANCY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (16:07): I recognise the achievements of Clancy Catholic College at West Hoxton in my electorate. On June 5, I popped in to pay principal David Fetterplace a visit to hear about the wonderful things happening at Clancy. It was fantastic to learn from Mr Fetterplace that last year Clancy achieved some great academic results. There were 137 band 6s achieved across the 2022 year 12 cohort, with 27 students receiving an ATAR of 90 and above. Clare Casha was able to achieve the highest ATAR of any student from Clancy Catholic College ever, with further HSC all-rounders Stella Coppola, Ana Dimitrova, and Andrew Zaccagnini. I pass on my congratulations to all those high achievers. I know a bright future lies ahead for every one of them. I thank the staff at Clancy Catholic College for all they do to support our children's education.

NEWPORT BREAKERS RUGBY CLUB WOMEN'S TEAM

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater) (16:08): I congratulate the Newport Breakers Rugby Club's women's team on winning the inaugural Joy Johnson Cup. The team had a decisive victory over Lindfield Blue on Saturday 29 July 2023, marking the end of a spectacular season. From struggling to get enough players at the beginning of the season to forming a team of many first-time players, the Breakers women's team prove that hard work and dedication pay off. As a big fan of rugby, it is fantastic to see locals participate and enjoy a sport so close to my heart and to those of my community. I congratulate the whole team: Chloe Verman, Ella Johnstone, Ellie Woollard, Holli Raaff, Holly Lay, Lara Grzechnik, Luca Wannell, Sarah Randall, Lucy Parkinson, Renee Ramsay, Riley McKay and Georgia Harvey. Supporting more women to participate in sport is a community effort, and the Newport Breakers women's team is an inspiration to so many young girls and women in our community. They have done well.

FINGAL BEACH HUMAN WHALE

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (16:09): This winter, we have been having a whale of a time in Port Stephens. The whales have been spectacular, leaping and breaching as they head north on the humpback highway. On land, the people of Port Stephens and our visitors have been in awe. We love whales so much that our community comes together each year to celebrate those massive, magnificent creatures. This year, just moments after a whale and her calf lingered in Fingal Bay, over 1,300 people gathered on Fingal Beach to form an outline of a 100-metre-long humpback whale. We call it the human whale, and I suspect I am not the only parliamentarian who can lay claim to being a blowhole. The man behind the human whale is a local legend, Frank Future, who forms us up each year. The event has now grown to be beautiful with the help of Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club, who hosts a tasty barbie, and local groups spreading the word on the importance of marine parks and marine conservation. Many thanks to Frank Future, Moonshadow-TQC Cruises, Imagine Cruises and everyone involved. Our human whale is not only a heap of fun; it shows that when we come together as a community we can achieve something truly special.

ST BAKHOMIOS COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (16:10): I recognise St Bakhomios Coptic Orthodox Church in Kirrawee, which has been at the heart of the Coptic Orthodox community in the Sutherland shire since 1991. Originally operating out of Sylvania High School's hall, the church moved to its permanent home in Kirrawee in 1993, upon its consecration by Pope Shenouda III. Since then the church has continued to grow, offering Sunday school education and Coptic language classes in addition to regular church services, and even an open day on 21 May. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the Very Reverend Father Tadros El-Bakhoumi along with Father Bakhomios Erian and Father John Sorial. I also acknowledge the church council of Zakaria Attia, Amgad Lotfy, Amir Riad, Adel Hanna, Fady Awad, John Riad, Michael Yacoub, Samir Salama, Emil Guirguis, Ramy Bishay and Sameh Younan. I acknowledge St Bakhomios Coptic Orthodox Church for the years of service to our community and wish the congregation well as it continues to grow the Coptic Orthodox faith in the Sutherland shire.

MAORI WARDENS AUSTRALIA

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (16:11): Maori Wardens Australia is a voluntary service working within the Māori community to promote the teachings of the tupuna—ancestors—to help with kaupapa—principles—for Māori people living locally. Maori Wardens has been active since 1860 and has a proud tradition. Maori Wardens Australia has branches in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales, with a branch in my electorate, at the Ponds. Recently Maori Wardens Australia celebrated its annual Matariki Day

festival at Nurragingy Reserve in conjunction with Blacktown City Council. I was fortunate enough to attend along with New Zealand Consul-General Bill Dobbie and Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasdale. Matariki Day holds immense significance to the Māori community, symbolising the start of the Māori new year. It honours the past, celebrates new beginnings and encourages unity within the community. A huge crowd attended this year's festival, enjoying stalls, food and performances showcasing the heritage and traditions from Māori culture. I extend my gratitude to Rawiri Ti and Maori Wardens Australia for an exceptionally well-organised event. Their endeavours have brought immense joy and fostered unity within our community. I look forward to celebrating with the diverse community in the future.

ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SYDNEY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:12): I commend the Rotary Club of North Sydney for all its incredible work for our community, especially navigating the challenges of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. The club has had a successful year of fundraising and charitable activities and has supported many local organisations, such as Mary's House, which supports women and children fleeing domestic violence, and Phoenix House, which supports young people who have additional needs. This year it assisted at D-Caf meetings for people with dementia and with morning teas every month at the Crows Nest Centre. The club ran the Christmas barbecue for the residents of our major public housing estate, Greenway in Kirribilli, and the Tree of Joy project, gathering thousands of gifts to distribute to those in need. It sponsored local students to attend the National Youth Science Forum and the Model United Nations Assembly. I thank and acknowledge the newly re-elected president, Toni Field, OAM, who will continue the outstanding work she has done in the past. I thank also Ross Waugh, Denis Booth, Peter Fitzgerald, JiJi and Sam Lee, Peter Lulic, John Taylor, David Field, Mal Sharpe and all the club members for their continuing service and compassion for those in need.

ALBIE JONES

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:13): Recently I had a lovely work experience student, Albie Jones, in my office. Here are his words:

Over the last week I have learnt a lot about what work is like in an electorate office, and about work in general. Coming into work experience, I had no experience of working in an office setting, making my time in the electorate office an eye-opening and interesting experience. I became acquainted with the technology used in the office, from using campaign central to discovering entire Microsoft word features I previously had no idea existed. I especially enjoyed my visit to state parliament, where I got to see question time up-close, and quickly came to understand why they call it the bear pit. It was great to see such lively debate regarding the important issues we face as a state, even when things got a little intense. Doing work experience at the electorate office has undoubtedly been time well-spent and a fascinating experience, and my only source of disappointment is that it only lasted one week. Thank you to Trish and everyone at the electorate office who made this experience possible.

EDUCATION WEEK

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (16:14): With this week being Education Week I thought it would be appropriate to speak about a couple of engagements I had over the course of this week with some of my amazing local schools. I acknowledge Eastwood Heights Public School, Epping Boys High School and Marsden High School for hosting me at their various P&C meetings over the past week or so, as well as Smalls Road Public School, who had a public open day just yesterday, which I was able to attend on my way to Parliament. We have amazing local schools in Ryde, with an amazing community. I acknowledge the principals, the P&C presidents and all those parents who give so much time and effort to make the schools the great functioning places they are. The future is bright for education all across New South Wales but particularly in my electorate of Ryde. I acknowledge all the amazing schools and thank them very much for having me.

Private Members' Statements

RYDE SPORTS FOUNDATION SPORTS STAR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (16:15): I acknowledge the nominees for Ryde Sports Foundation's Sports Star of the Year award, which stands as a testament to the exceptional accomplishments of some of our great local athletes. This year highlights the journey of 12 remarkable individuals who have etched their names into the annals of Australian sports history, showcasing their exceptional prowess and inspiring our nation. In the world of sports, remarkable individuals shine not only for their exceptional skills but also for their dedication and spirit. Taylor Glassie is one of those, who, at the age of 30, stands as a beacon of excellence in men's netball.

As the captain of the New South Wales men's netball team for two years and a member of the Australian men's netball team, Taylor has been instrumental in pushing the boundaries of this traditionally female-dominated sport. His recent participation in the international series alongside the Origin Australian Diamonds is a testament to his prowess and determination. Taylor's words reflect his humility and camaraderie, as he expresses his gratitude for being featured alongside the women's team and acknowledges the pioneers who paved the way for this groundbreaking opportunity.

Eighteen-year-old Jack Dwyer emerges as a rising star in the challenging world of water polo. His role as a goalkeeper demands exceptional skills, and his achievements in the FINA Youth Water Polo World Championships and as part of the New South Wales under-18 team illustrate his immense potential. Despite his youth, Jack has already displayed leadership qualities by coaching in the junior competition, showcasing a commitment to both personal growth and community involvement.

In the Dragon Sports Association, Jim Tzakos, 55 years young, has left a lasting mark. With five appearances in the New South Wales State team and contributions to the association's governance, Jim's dedication is commendable. His recognition in this Chamber further validates his significant contributions to his club. Jarrod Emeny's journey is a poignant reminder of the resilience that defines sportsmanship. A tragic accident left him wheelchair-bound, but Jarrod's unwavering determination led him to excel in wheelchair basketball. Representing New South Wales in the junior national championships and garnering praise for his leadership skills, Jarrod's story is one of triumph over adversity. Taylor, Jack, Jim, and Jarrod encapsulate the essence of sports: perseverance, leadership and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Their stories inspire us all to reach for the highest goals and embody the true spirit of competition.

As the 2022-2023 line-up unfolded, new stars emerged to capture the nation's attention. Tim Brown, a force to be reckoned with in the sport of padel, seamlessly transitioned from tennis to become Australia's premier competitor in the sport. His story exemplified the transformative power of determination and adaptability. Kyle Shaw, a local football star, showcased his meteoric rise from local clubs to representing New South Wales All Schools. His exceptional journey illustrates his potential for future greatness and he has made an invaluable contribution to North West Sydney Spirit Football Club. Jess Johnston, a versatile athlete in both athletics and netball, left an indelible mark. Her prowess in throw events, coupled with her remarkable netball skills, showcased her unique versatility and dedication. Alexandra Bradbury, fondly known as Lexie, made an impact in gymnastics through her natural talent and unwavering commitment. Despite many challenges, Lexie's dedication to excellence shone through, paving the way for even greater accomplishments. Ethan Moos, a rising star in wheelchair racing, has displayed remarkable resilience in the face of adversity.

Nicholas Platonov emerged as a sensation in judo, captivating hearts with his consistent success and commitment. His ascent to the top ranks of the sport signify to me as a former judoka—albeit a very amateur one—a very promising future. In another sport very familiar to me, cycling, I acknowledge Andrew Phillips. He has embarked on a whirlwind journey, demonstrating rapid progress and securing a spot on the international stage. His remarkable trajectory showcases the rewards of dedication and hard work. Alison Miller, a luminary in netball, radiates composure and poise on the court and has been a massive asset to the Eastwood Ryde Netball Association Hawks. Her skills have been unwavering.

A special note should go to our amazing local newspaper, *The Weekly Times*, which throughout the awards has followed our local heroes and promoted their journeys, on occasion giving them their first opportunity to showcase their incredible efforts. The Ryde Sports Foundation's Sports Star of the Year awards are a tribute to those exceptional individuals and shed light on their extraordinary journeys. It all culminates in a big awards night tomorrow at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, and I look forward to attending and congratulating them all in person. I congratulate our athletes and wish them all the best for the future.

WADALBA EAST RELEASE

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) (16:20): Not a single member in this Chamber would be surprised at the revelation that we are in a housing crisis, and one of the answers to both getting people into homes and helping them afford rent is supply. That is why I bring to the attention of the House a very frustrating situation that has occurred in my electorate over 10 years regarding an area known as the Wadalba East release. For 10 years the mum-and-dad landholders in that area tried to get a rezoning to supply housing to the northern part of the Central Coast, right in the middle of my electorate. Finally, they were successful and got a rezoning through the elected members of the council. With great excitement they started to do their planning, to supply the reports that the council requested and to submit development applications [DAs].

As part of that process I spoke to the then Parliamentary Secretary, Adam Crouch, and he secured a grant for \$1.4 million under the Housing Acceleration Fund to design sewer and stormwater infrastructure to help that development proceed. One of the criteria was that councils had development-ready housing. The owners of the land invited me to a meeting with their planning and environmental consultants. I invited along council representatives Alice Howe, David Farmer and Rik Hart. I also invited Robyn Parker, the six cities commissioner for the Central Coast, and Scott Goold from the Department of Regional NSW. The landowners told us their story, and I was absolutely stunned. The grant to design sewer and stormwater infrastructure for development-ready housing was instead used to de-risk the development. That involved redesigning the whole development, meaning

that all of the work the residents had done was now invalid and the DAs that were submitted were rejected or not heard at all. I could not believe that the money that was given by the State Government to help accelerate housing was essentially used to stop housing.

The council had reasons around environmental factors and all those sorts of things, but we have to stop shifting the goalposts. If a rezoning was passed by all the members of the previous council—not much got through that council unanimously, so it must have ticked a lot of boxes—it should then have proceeded through the final steps for people to submit DAs and for the actual development to go ahead. Tomorrow I am meeting with the councillors again to hear their side of the story of what happened, but I have real concerns that the grant was not used for the purpose for which it was given. If that is the case then it may need to be reviewed and a refund given back to the State Government so that it can be used where housing can actually be developed.

The stories the residents told were amazing. They were asked to do an environmental corridor that had to be 30 metres wide. Fair enough—they did that, paid the money, got the consultants and went back to the council. The council said, "No, we want 40 metres". At every point, they ticked the box they were asked to and then were told to do something different. In the main they are not rich people; they are mum-and-dad landholders who are using their own money to do report after report. They even offered to do the design of the sewer and stormwater and the council said, "No, we'll go out to tender", but then they did not; they went out to tender for the de-risking. Three local companies were approached to put in a tender, but they did not because they did not think it fitted the criteria of the grant. It went to a Sydney company that came in and did it. Tomorrow I will be asking some serious questions about that, and if we do not get good answers then there have to be consequences. In a housing supply shortage we have to build houses, not stop them.

AUSTRALIA BANGLADESH BUSINESS FORUM

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I welcome the guests of the member for Macquarie Fields who are in the gallery: Mr Abdul Ratan, Brian Laul, M. Z. Ahmed Rubel, Shoel Khan, Mohammed Zama, Muzammel Husain, K. M. Islam, Syed Rahman, Torun Rahman and Mohammed Rahman.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (16:26): I welcome those people from my local community, who do such great work. Our immigrant and multicultural communities have long been part of the backbone of businesses in Australia. The Australian narrative includes many people coming from overseas and bringing with them their ambition, their determination and an entrepreneurial spirit by which they make valuable contributions to our nation, both economically and socially. They open and run many great businesses, both large and small, which are the lifeblood of many of our towns and suburbs and infuse our economy with innovation and a global perspective. A great example of that is the local Australian Bengali or Bangladeshi community in my local area of Macquarie Fields.

Last month I was pleased to attend the inaugural gala night and awards ceremony of the Australia Bangladesh Business Forum [ABBF], together with a number of State and Federal parliamentarians from both sides of the divide, as well as local councillors. It was hosted at Ottimo House in Denham Court. The ABBF was founded only last year, but its membership already includes 300 Bangladeshi-owned Australian businesses. It promotes business collaboration and investment for the diaspora and strengthens trade relations between Australia and Bangladesh. The ABBF has had immense success in such a short time in bringing together many enthusiastic, creative and forward-thinking business leaders who are helping to grow and innovate our local economy. The awards ceremony was a great opportunity to recognise the achievements of our Australian Bangladeshis.

I also commend the ABBF president, Mr Abdul Khan Ratan; the general secretary, Mr Brian Laul, who is also Campbelltown Citizen of the Year; the members of the executive who are here tonight; and those who have helped out for their enormous efforts in establishing the ABBF and supporting business and entrepreneurship in our local area. I also note that Abdul and a number of the executive members are in the gallery today. I welcome them to the New South Wales Parliament, Australia's oldest Parliament. Their presence in the gallery is a great delight to me, as their local member, and I recognise the contributions that they make to our local community.

The ABBF is of special importance for the Macquarie Fields electorate, because many Australian Bangladeshis have chosen my local electorate to be their home, build their businesses and raise their families. They play an important role in our communities by being active citizens and they add to the diverse fabric of our local area. In the outer suburbs, where small businesses are the main economic driver, the initiatives taken by many in the community in opening their own businesses opens more economic and employment opportunities for everybody in their local area. The founding of the ABBF also feels like a natural step from last year's fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh. It is important to note that Australia was among the first countries in the world to recognise an independent Bangladesh. Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabhandu.

Our countries have a longstanding and valued friendship as democratic Commonwealth nations in the Asia-Pacific region and our economic ties are growing and strengthening year to year, with New South Wales being at the forefront of that. In 2021-22, our State's two-way merchandise trade with Bangladesh was worth \$684 million. Important sectors include education services, agriculture, energy and minerals. Those sectors generate thousands of jobs in our State. However, beyond the balance sheet the people-to-people connections and bilateral relationships and friendships are just as valuable. New South Wales is proud to have a strong Bangladeshi diaspora and welcomes many thousands of Bangladeshi students to some of the world's finest education institutions that are located in New South Wales. Our education sector plays an important role in helping to foster cultural understanding and knowledge exchange that can bring our two countries even closer together.

I believe it is necessary that we understand that the many economic potentials that exist for Australia and New South Wales are found in the Asia-Pacific region. Not only is the region geographically significant to us but it is also economically, socially and politically important for our nation's future interests. This is where most of the world's new economic opportunities will be realised over the coming decades. Therefore, it is valuable to have an association like the ABBF that helps to build those links between us and Bangladesh, which is one of the most promising Asian economies in the region. The ABBF stands as a great springboard for the further development of commercial ties between New South Wales and Bangladeshi businesses. I am very passionate about the growing relationship between our neighbours and making the New South Wales economy innovative and dynamic for the benefit of our hardworking people. Once again, I thank very much Abdul, Brian and the executive of the ABBF for all their hard work and efforts to make our community a better place.

NARRANDERA WATER SUPPLY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (16:31): I speak about an issue that, while important to all Australians, takes on an added level of significance for communities in regional New South Wales, including those in my electorate of Cootamundra. The issue is water, which is the absolute lifeblood of rural and regional towns. Our livelihoods depend on it, and in many towns and villages the supply of reliable drinking water can be an ongoing challenge. But I stand here today concerned that addressing the problems around water security in regional New South Wales is not at the top of this Government's to-do list.

The Premier was spot-on when he said that all residents in New South Wales have a right to a safe and reliable supply of clean water. I cannot agree more. However, I fear he and his Government do not quite grasp the seriousness of the situation facing regional New South Wales when it comes to clean water access and security. To illustrate the additional challenges associated with water supply issues outside metropolitan areas, I highlight the plight facing residents in the town of Narrandera, located in the western corner of my electorate. Narrandera is home to close to 6,000 people. It is a beautiful country town. The Premier was so impressed by a photograph of the mural on the town's water tower that he shared the image with his 20,000-odd Instagram followers. But in the interests of accuracy, the Premier might want to correct his post that mistakenly identifies the water infrastructure as an old silo.

It may seem trivial to nitpick about a social media post, but it goes to the lack of awareness the Premier seems to have when it comes to the crucial issue of water in our regions. That Insta-worthy water tower with its spectacular mural masks an ongoing issue for the town. While we can always rely on a friendly welcome and great coffee when we visit Narrandera, sadly, residents cannot always rely on the supply of clean water. Whilst the water meets the Australian drinking water guidelines, due to aging infrastructure the town supply cannot always be counted upon to deliver water that is in keeping with the community's expectations.

Many residents have contacted me with their concerns, including one local mum who told me "some days the water is so discoloured and smells so awful that you would never dream of drinking it", and that they have "often had to resort to buying bottled water, especially for the kids". Other residents tell me stories of being forced to throw out clothes because the water they are washed in ruins the fabric, while others have complained about experiencing skin rashes after bathing.

I am in regular contact with Narrandera Shire Council members, who are doing what they can to alleviate the situation, including the supply of domestic filtration systems for residents who need them. But that is essentially a bandaid solution. The bigger problem is not going away. I invite the Premier to visit Narrandera as soon as possible and, in addition to promoting local tourism through his social media accounts, to take the time to sit down with the local council and residents to hear firsthand the water issues they are facing. But of course this problem will not be fixed just by talking about it. I call on the Premier to commit to funding the critical water infrastructure that Narrandera needs, including a new filtration system and pipeline network to ensure that its water is fit for purpose and capable of sustaining this thriving community now and into the future.

With the Labor Government's first budget just weeks away, I remind the Premier of the importance of initiatives like the Safe and Secure Water Program, and call on him to increase the Government's investment in

this space. It is now time for the Premier to show that he governs for the entire State and to do what is needed to alleviate water security issues in the regions generally, and more specifically, in the Insta-worthy township of Narrandera. Communities throughout regional New South Wales deserve nothing less.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:36): I recognise the important and incredible contribution of culturally and linguistically diverse community groups, and their volunteers, across Western Sydney. The electorate of Prospect is lucky to be the home to a remarkable multicultural community of people from all over the world. Our community is home to individuals and families whose heritage is represented by a range of cultures: Maltese, Assyrian, Chaldean, Tamil, Egyptian, South Sudanese, Kurdish, South-East Asian, Armenian, Aziri, Palestinian, Jordanian, Arabic, Lebanese, Māori, Pacifica, Bosniaki, Equatorial African, Telugu, Bangladeshi, Sikh, Irish, British, and our Australian First Nations people. No doubt I have missed one or two.

We also have culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations such as the Maltese Community Council of NSW, the Maltese Voice, the Assyrian Democratic Movement, the Assyrian National Council of Australia, the Assyrian Cultural and Social Youth Association, the Chaldean League, the Consortium of Tamil Associations, the Sydney Tamil Manram, the Tamil Valarchi Manram, the Australian Egyptian Forum Council, the South Sudanese Equatorial Communities Association, the South Sudanese Community and Youth Association of NSW, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Armenian National Committee, the Homenetmen Ararat or the Smithfield Armenian Scouts as we call them, and the Armenian Youth Federation—just to name a handful of incredible volunteer associations in our community.

Those community organisations, and many more, diligently serve Western Sydney in a multitude of different ways, including creating spaces to gather for festivals, food, art showcases, and sporting competitions; advocating for the specific social, religious, and political needs for their communities; creating a sense of belonging and safety; opening and improving community schools to promote and maintain their languages; publishing and distributing local newspapers or media; and engaging in dialogue with community leaders and government bodies and, in fact, each other. They contribute greatly to our thriving social fabric and sense of belonging in Western Sydney. The roots of all of their cultures, languages and traditions continue to thrive and evolve every day because of the work of those organisations and the volunteers that engage with us.

One of the many challenges that our culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations face is resourcing, whether it be finding space to organise meetings and festivals or finding volunteers to organise events or teach at language schools on weekends. It is no easy task for our volunteers to take valuable time away from their work, families and loved ones to contribute to our community. However, time and again I have seen our volunteers channel their interests and passions into action. Every single day our volunteers make a tangible difference and better the community they are seeking to support.

It is in places like Western Sydney, where there are many multicultural and diverse backgrounds and where people face significant struggles every day, that volunteering is needed most. Whether it is through a deep connection to culture and language, dedication to family, strong community bonds, or a devotion to offering the utmost hospitality to those who wish to join their community, the Western Sydney community must be praised for creating a welcoming, supportive and enthusiastic space for individuals and families to work or call home. As a multicultural community, we rely on the passion of volunteers every day. I sincerely thank all of our culturally and linguistically diverse community groups for their continued commitment to improving and strengthening the lives of people in Western Sydney.

GAS INDUSTRY

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (16:40): My constituents support a transition away from gas. The Northern Hemisphere's severe heatwave points to a devastating future of global boiling that will only be stopped with strong and fast emissions cuts. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sixth assessment report, its most comprehensive review of climate change, urges governments everywhere to stop burning fossil fuels before it is too late. New South Wales is working towards 100 per cent renewable energy supply under the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap to guarantee a clean, modern, efficient and affordable system by 2050 at the latest, but we have no road map away from gas.

Gas is a polluting fossil fuel predominantly made up of one of the most destructive greenhouse gases—methane—and produces other significant pollutants like nitrogen oxide. Methane leaks occur during the entire gas life cycle, from extraction and transportation to use. Gas is increasingly being extracted from coal seams and shale layers using invasive methods like hydraulic fracturing and fracking with poisonous chemicals. The gas available for extraction is increasingly below agricultural and biodiverse land, putting our food bowl and threatened species at risk. Gas is a serious health and safety threat, particularly in the home, where it is associated with asthma and

lung disease, especially among children. Earlier this year, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission indicated that a ban on new gas stoves could be considered due to health concerns.

Gas is not cheaper than renewable energy, with prices exposed to volatile global prices for liquified natural gas, which are not predicted to come down in the foreseeable future. Gas requires an additional connection fee to electricity. Analysis by the Climate Council estimates that households, on average, can save \$1,000 a year by switching from gas to renewable energy and energy-efficient alternatives. The three household gas uses are heating, hot water and cooking. All have clean, green and economical alternatives.

Places with much cooler weather are phasing out gas, including the Netherlands, Norway, New York and Quebec. Reverse-cycle air conditioning is now the most efficient and affordable way to heat the home, and the greenest way when connected to renewable energy. There have been advancements in hot water with solar hot water, electric instantaneous and heat pump systems all providing alternatives. Even cooking with gas is out of vogue with world famous chefs endorsing induction cooking as the more precise way to cook. Today I co-hosted an electric barbecue at which hatted chef Danielle Alvarez created superb dishes without gas. She is part of a coalition of chefs, doctors, climate scientists and real estate developers working towards removing gas from kitchens worldwide under the Global Cooksafe Coalition. Coalition ambassadors include other great Sydney chefs like Neil Perry, Christine Mansfield, Palisa Anderson and Clayton Wells.

We must establish a road map to transition homes and businesses. Gas companies are currently quoting over \$1,000 to disconnect freestanding homes, and replacing appliances and equipment is costly. As more people disconnect, the cost of running the gas network will increase and those left will be paying even more when they have less means. Renters are especially vulnerable because they cannot make the necessary changes to their homes. Support for low-income earners and incentives for rental properties will be needed. We need to stop gas connections in new homes. Those gas connections will become obsolete, creating significant future challenges and costs for owners and residents, particularly in apartments.

The transition must include extraction. Mining is the only industry in New South Wales that has rising emissions and we will not get to net zero with a business-as-usual approach. I am especially worried that we are set to destroy the vital Liverpool Plains food bowl to extract an archaic, dying and unnecessary fossil fuel. During the caretaker period, government authorities signed off on the reactivation of coal seam gas wells in the plains that risk draining the water from the artesian basin—water we rely on to grow food that feeds the country, and indeed the world. That we would contemplate such a threat to a vital source of life demonstrates the absurdity of our relationship with gas. It is time to break up.

Victoria will ban new gas connections in homes next year and has a Gas Substitution Roadmap with incentives to switch to efficient electric appliances. The ACT Government has set a date to transition away from gas to renewable electricity by 2045 and has an issues paper on preventing new gas connections. New South Wales needs a modern, clean and sustainable energy network that does not include the use of gas. I call on the Government to establish a road map to transition the State away from gas to full renewable electrification.

OVERSEAS SKILLS RECOGNITION

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (16:46): I have known Kim for about 30 years. For most of the time I have known him, he has been a driver by profession. He is obviously a very good driver, having done it successfully for almost three decades and providing a comfortable life for his family in south-west Sydney. He came here from Cambodia via New Zealand in the early 1990s. He escaped his homeland after the Khmer Rouge wiped out his entire family. Had he been caught he too would have been killed because of his education: He was a dentist. While he has been able to have a fulfilling career and give back to his chosen country, I wonder how else he could have given back had there been effective pathways in place to upskill and retain his qualifications. His story is not unique. Thousands of qualified engineers, health professionals and other skilled migrants have arrived at our shores in decades past without their qualifications being recognised.

Settlement Services International released a report in June entitled *Billion Dollar Benefit: A Roadmap for Unleashing the Economic Potential of Refugees and Migrants*. The report explores the skills shortage facing Australia and provides solutions as to how we can enhance our economic productivity by looking inward rather than overseas. We do that by addressing the chronic under-utilisation of Australia's skilled refugees and migrants, and the structural barriers that hold them back. Overcoming those barriers is not just a job for the Government, but for employers, NGOs, unions and refugee-led organisations.

The report had five priority solutions. Firstly, fixing the broken skills and qualifications recognition system through a national body. The report estimated that changes to licensing guidelines could add up to \$5 billion to the Australian economy each and every year. Secondly, instating protections for migrant workers. According to a Migrant Workers Centre survey of more than 700 temporary visa holders, almost two-thirds of respondents

reported being paid less than minimum standards, and one-quarter reported other forms of workplace exploitation like forced or unpaid overtime. Protecting migrant workers is also critical to maintaining the integrity of the labour market and to protecting Australia's reputation as a destination of choice.

The third solution was reviewing the right to work of people on temporary visas. Denying work rights can lead to a loss of skills, increase reliance on the social welfare system, prevent newcomers from feeling included and make it harder to break into the job network at a later stage. Furthermore, confusion about the eligibility of visa holders to work often leads businesses to exclude anyone who is not a permanent resident or citizen. The fourth recommendation is to scale innovative tripartite partnerships between the public, private and NGO sectors. Aligning diverse stakeholders around a shared agenda can unleash the unlimited potential of refugee and migrant talent in our local communities. I have seen this firsthand as both a local councillor and as a director of NGOs in the settlement services sector.

Lastly, the fifth recommendation is to reform the English language requirements so they are fit for purpose. When English requirements are higher than necessary, they arbitrarily limit access to talent and, in the process, hold back critical sectors of our economy. Many overseas-trained clinical staff struggle to pass the English language criteria, which are set at a medical doctor standard by the health practitioner regulator. This has a cascading impact for migrant patients, who miss out on access to clinicians who speak their language. This is particularly true in places like south-west Sydney, where there is a high population of culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

This road map for reform has been endorsed by 40 organisations with the goal of embracing the expertise, background and lived experiences of refugees and migrants, not because it is the right thing to do—which it is—but because it is the smart thing to do. Tapping into the proven technical expertise and experience of refugees and migrants already in Australia can plug the critical skills gaps in our workforce, provide sustainable employment pathways for arriving migrants and add billions to the Australian economy. It just makes sense. And who knows? The next Kim to arrive here might genuinely have a choice between continuing to be a dentist or being my preferred driver the next time I need to get from Kemps Creek to the city.

SCOUTS AUSTRALIA GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (16:51): I acknowledge the Greater Western Sydney Region division of Scouts Australia for its fantastic community outreach and advocacy. Madam Temporary Speaker, I also recognise your contribution to the Greater Western Sydney Region Scouts and the time that you have spent with them. Scouts Australia is one of the most well known and highly regarded community engagement organisations. Scouts is an avenue for primarily young people between the ages of five to 25 to engage in outdoor recreational activities. Scouts Australia was founded in 1908. The organisation's objective is to connect like-minded young people in their respective local communities. Since its founding, the organisation has grown to over 70,000 active members across Australia. The organisation is split into five primary groups—the youngest being Joey Scouts, followed by Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts, and then Rovers.

Each branch of Scouts Australia engages with the specific needs and challenges of their respective age groups. Scouting instils a sense of confidence and self-achievement in people of all ages as they develop their skills socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally. Members from all ages are able to engage with activities which challenge them, and perseverance in the face of difficulty is rewarded. The movement adheres to the Principles of Scouting. These principles provide members with a framework they can apply to all aspects of their lives. The key principles are summed up in the Australian Scout Law as "Be respectful", "Do what is right" and "Believe in myself". These principles and laws are the foundation for all Australian Scout members as they interact with others and their communities. They provide Scouts with a clear direction and purpose as they participate in their local troops.

Scouts Australia is part of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, which hosts over 40 million members from 169 countries across the globe. This affords members an appreciation of a bigger movement beyond themselves. Scouts Australia is divided into regions. These include the Greater Western Sydney, Hume, Hunter, Coastal and Sydney Metropolitan regions, among a number of others. The Greater Western Sydney Region has many Scout groups organised into districts. In the Winston Hills electorate these include the Blacktown and Parramatta Districts, with groups in Kings Langley, Toongabbie, Blacktown, Winston Hills and Northmead.

Beyond traditional Scouting activities, members of the Greater Western Sydney Region Scouts regularly engage in charity and community outreach work. Local groups host fundraisers, donate various goods and work within their communities during events like Clean Up Australia Day to make their area a better place. Each Scouting region and group has its own respective awards which are given to members for achieving excellence. Some of these awards include the Joey Scout Challenge Award, given to the youngest member of Scouts Australia; the Cub Scout Grey Wolf Award; and, of course, the Queen's Scout Award. Distinguished service to

Scouts Australia is also recognised. Members who go above and beyond in service of their group can be awarded the Silver Emu, the Silver Koala, the Silver Wattle, the Outstanding Service Award or the Meritorious Service Award.

I extend my thanks to the Greater Western Sydney Region Scouts organisers, including region president Ross Grove, chairperson Debbie Howlett, treasurer Ross Howlett and Commissioner David Stopps, JP. I also thank Blacktown District Commissioner Elena Lombardi and Parramatta District Commissioner Tracey Hansford. These executive members play a crucial role in organising the many regional Scout activities that support local Scout groups. I cannot name everyone involved in making this organisation run as it does, but I extend my thanks to them for their efforts and service. Hard work often goes unrecognised in our local communities, so I take this opportunity to thank them for making our community a better place. Scouts Australia is a fantastic organisation which encourages service and growth in all areas of life. I am extremely pleased to have the Greater Western Sydney Region branch and its groups in the electorate of Winston Hills. They continually promote community values and make the electorate a fantastic place to live.

CONSUMER SCAMS

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (16:55): I speak about the impact of scams on both Fairfield and our nation. Whether it be fraudulent emails or text messages, false billing and invoices, fake dating and romance plots or bogus investment schemes, scams are a big deal in Australia. The ACCC reports that Australians lost at least \$3.1 billion in 2022, an increase of 80 per cent on total losses recorded in the previous year. This growth is not surprising given our increasing reliance on technology. Such reliance is building ever-expanding pathways for scammers to reach us both domestically and globally. This includes through mediums such as SMS, dating apps, websites, social media, emails and phone calls. No-one is immune from the reach of scammers. I personally get targeted multiple times a week. Scammers learn and adapt from their failed attempts and persist until they succeed. The fact is we do get tricked and are getting tricked more often.

In light of the current threat environment, the people of Fairfield are extremely concerned. They are more at risk given limitations relating to English literacy, digital literacy and general scam awareness. Coupled with high unemployment, rental stress and low income, this has meant that the impact of a successful scam is felt more heavily. People are already living on the brink. A successful scam can tip our most vulnerable over the edge. I am pleased to report that governments at all levels are taking strong action. Federally, the Government has adopted a multilayered approach. Some measures include: the recent establishment of the National Anti-Scam Centre; working to develop higher standards of practice for banks, telecommunication companies and social media platforms to disrupt scammers; introducing measures to block SMS scams; and the development and execution of public awareness and education initiatives.

At a State level, various agencies such as the NSW Police Force and Service NSW nest within the Federal umbrella to provide investigation, intelligence and community engagement capabilities. As a testament to this whole-of-government approach, just last month in Fairfield Chris Bowen hosted a forum bringing together Federal Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones and Senior Constable John Weiling of the NSW Police Force to engage with more than 300 local residents about scams and how to protect themselves. My job is to continue with the work already underway. I will liaise with all levels of government and the wider community to bolster Fairfield's scam IQ and resilience. This includes adopting measures focused on culturally and linguistically diverse communities as well as efforts to improve the reporting of incidents to map the harm caused. Existing strategies to address Fairfield's English and digital literacy are also critical, given the increased threat posed by phishing emails and messages. We are living in an increasingly complex digital environment. I cannot promise things will get better overnight, but I will do my best to help as many as I can.

BATHURST COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (16:59): It gives me great pleasure to thank Bathurst Community Transport and to acknowledge the hard work of those involved with that organisation. Bathurst Community Transport offers a subsidised transport service to eligible community members to help them remain independent in their own homes. It ran the first ever community transport buses, which have been operating since 1978. Now there is community transport in every local government area in Australia. It is another great idea that has come out of Bathurst.

Bathurst Community Transport began in 1978 when some visionary councils identified a need for transport and began hiring buses to bring residents from Oberon and Blayney into Bathurst for shopping once a fortnight. From those small beginnings, it has now grown its fleet to 10 vehicles and has some 30 staff and volunteers that work at the organisation. I thank them for the work they do in our local community. I thank Kath, the volunteers, the drivers and the management team, because the work they do and the difference they make to the lives of people in our community should never be underestimated. I had the opportunity to visit Bathurst Community Transport

recently and it is nice see that people are starting to travel again. Since COVID the organisation has found that numbers have been a bit lighter than in the past, but people are starting to go shopping and attend important events in our local area.

When we look at community transport organisations, the tyranny of distance is becoming a thing of the past for local residents as they reach their twilight years. It is great to know that Bathurst Community Transport has opened up more seats for its town car in the city, providing opportunities for people to get to where they need to go in a safe and efficient manner. I want to get the message out that the organisation does not only help the aged to attend medical appointments. In reality, that is just the beginning. The service can assist people over the age of 65 years to go to a wide variety of places in the area and beyond, including attending health, beauty and wellbeing appointments, visiting the supermarket for grocery shopping, taking part in recreational activities such as bingo and even having social visits.

We are fortunate to have Bathurst Community Transport right on our doorstep, doing all it can to support older members of the community, because it is important that they are assisted to retain their independence for as long as possible. Making use of the services that community transport offers could not be easier. People just have to get in touch with the service to make their booking in advance. The driver will collect the person from their home and take them where they need to go. Return trips can be arranged, as can regular bookings for people who need to get to the same place each week. The organisation uses a town car, which is a shared vehicle. It is also important to highlight the fact that Bathurst Community Transport is a godsend for some people experiencing isolation or loneliness. Even if they are not mobile or they are mobility challenged, the vehicle can cater for people with wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Many clients of the organisation live alone, and so getting picked up in the town car gives them the opportunity to interact with the driver and have a good chat. In some cases, it might be the only interaction that person has during an entire week.

Benefits also come from volunteering as a driver with Bathurst Community Transport. It can bring meaning and purpose to a person's life while increasing their self-esteem and wellbeing. Volunteering can help to relieve stress and alleviate symptoms of depression. As well as having a positive impact on a person's community, volunteering can improve relationships. I thank the drivers who give up their time; I know their efforts are always recognised and appreciated by my community. Bathurst Community Transport volunteers receive full training, a uniform, out-of-pocket expenses for reimbursement and a wonderful sense of wellbeing and inclusion in a great community organisation. This is a good-news story from our local area. As the local member, I am proud to support Bathurst Community Transport and all it does for the community.

TRIBUTE TO MERRILL J. FERNANDO

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (17:03): I offer tribute to the life of Dilmah founder Merrill J. Fernando, a tea maker, a humanitarian and a disrupter, who passed, surrounded by family, two weeks ago. At 93, he has left a great legacy and spread the Sri Lankan tea brand to all corners of the world. Dilmah tea has been a household name in Australia since supermarket giant Coles agreed to stock the shelves with Dilmah in the 1980s. Who can forget the iconic "Do try it" ads that rocked our TV screens for so long, featuring the smooth and dulcet tones of Kamal. Dilmah tea remains a family business which, at the time, was able to disrupt a colonial economic system that prevailed for centuries by being the first tea grower in the world to offer tea grown, picked, packed and sold directly to Australians.

The Dilmah tea brand's connection to Australia is crystal clear. Dilmah's CEO, Dilhan Fernando, son of the late Merrill J. Fernando, stated last year, "There is no territory that has greater emotional or practical relevance and importance to the Dilmah story than Australia", with Australia dubbed as the birthplace of the global tea brand. Indeed, the Sri Lankan Australians in my electorate of Riverstone are very proud of that. Dilmah's core motto was "Every cup of tea is a cup of kindness". Far more than simply a motto, it is indicative of its dedication to serving humanity, which is a central tenet of the business. A little-known fact about the iconic tea brand is that 15 per cent of its profits go to charitable and environmental causes. The Dilmah brand's commitment to humanity is to be commended. I have been told by Sri Lankan Australians that what made the tea brand so special to them was the fact that it put their small island nation on the map and was symbolic of great pride.

So it is only fitting that in this tribute to the great life of Merrill J. Fernando that we acknowledge the power of all businesses around the world to make a positive impact through their products and actions. Merrill J. Fernando was not only one of the earliest disrupters but also one of the first business leaders of corporate social responsibility. Closer to home, while on the campaign trail, I met with the chief monk, the Banthay, of the Lankarama Buddhist temple in Schofields. It is a beautiful Buddhist temple situated where I grew up in the heart of my electorate of Riverstone. The temple is an oasis of serenity and peace, hidden among the chaos of the housing explosion surrounding it. Central to the Lankarama temple is the bodhi tree, an offshoot of the tree where Buddha sat and received enlightenment.

When invited to meet with the venerable Bantay, I was offered a hot cup of tea. As I looked down at my cup, the visuals of the crisp purple tag of the Dilmah Pure Ceylon Extra Strength tea bag, contrasted against the shiny back cup, caught my eye. The taste was just as good as the appearance and as fulfilling as my surroundings. From now on, when I walk around the bodhi tree, I will be reminded of the gift Dilmah has given to the world, far beyond great tea. To quote Mr Fernando:

We come into this world with nothing, we leave with nothing. The wealth some of us acquire is owed to the efforts and cooperation of many others around us. Let us, therefore, share that wealth, while we are still around, so that the good will and contentment created thereby may make our world a happier place for others too.

I pass on my condolences to the friends and family of Merrill J. Fernando.

ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (17:08): I have long been an advocate for accelerating the uptake of rooftop solar, and I want as many households and businesses as possible to enjoy the benefits of the transformative, miraculous technology that captures abundant sunlight from otherwise unused roof space and turns it into clean, free electricity. I am proud of the work of Northern Beaches Council during my time as mayor to increase rooftop solar on its own buildings and to increase uptake in its community. Council alone is saving millions of dollars. Over 17,800 premises on the beaches now benefit from solar power, which is reducing our carbon emissions by approximately 100,000 tonnes every year, and council has set an ambitious target for the Northern Beaches local government area of 50 per cent of suitable premises with solar installed by 2030. It saves money and helps the planet; it is a no-brainer.

Many local groups and individuals share a vision for the northern beaches to lead in rooftop solar uptake. I particularly recognise and thank the Solar Alliance and ClearSky Solar and Clean Energy for Eternity Northern Beaches, as well as the Northern Beaches Climate Action Network. New South Wales has an important place in the solar energy history books, with researchers at the University of New South Wales with the Australian Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics making numerous technological breakthroughs from 1989 onwards. They have revolutionised the industry and helped bring solar to the masses. But we desperately need more. Today, Australia leads the world in per capita uptake of rooftop solar. Some 33 per cent of houses in New South Wales have rooftop solar. With such a strong rate of uptake, it is easy to think the job is done, but that is absolutely not the case. In fact, recently rooftop installations have stalled.

There are well over a million homes in New South Wales which could have rooftop solar but do not. Why? That is a great question. Overcoming the up-front cost barrier for rooftop solar is the key. That is why I am championing an interest-free loan program for residential solar. Here is the pitch: Offer home owners up to \$15,000 in interest-free loans to install rooftop solar systems without a cap or a postcode qualification—or disqualification, as it turns out. Without pricing the environmental benefits, the policy's benefit-cost ratio—using public service speak—exceeds two within the first year and exceeds five within 10 years. The benefit-cost ratio continues to rise strongly after the loans are repaid and the solar panels continue producing emissions-free electricity.

The closest policy is the Australian Capital Territory's sustainable household scheme. It provides 10-year loans of up to \$15,000 for a range of energy efficiency products for households and community groups. The Australian Capital Territory has seen a sizeable uptick in rooftop solar installations as a result. The need to increase rooftop solar is only becoming more urgent as the entire electricity system transitions off centralised coal-fired power. With coal-fired power station closures fast approaching, distributed energy on rooftops can add much-needed generation capacity. Rapidly expanding rooftop solar, including in residential, commercial, industrial and publicly owned sites, such as schools and hospitals, in combination with battery storage, must be an urgent priority. Increasing uptake of rooftop solar in the short term will set us up for a cheaper, cleaner, electrified future.

I am encouraged to see momentum building behind the "Electrify Everything" idea and its champion, Saul Griffith from Rewiring Australia. A fully electrified home with all-electric efficient appliances, rooftop solar—even an electric vehicle—is cheaper and cleaner, and it is the future. Analysis by Rewiring Australia shows that those actions together can slash between \$3,000 and \$5,000 annually from energy bills. That is much higher than any rebate given by this Parliament. With the impacts of climate change bearing upon us and only getting worse, we must urgently and decisively implement the transition to renewable energy. July was the hottest month on record globally. The sea ice melt in Antarctica is literally off the charts. Nearly every day there is fresh news of records being smashed, defying even many scientists' expectations.

Members elected to this place, and especially those holding office in the Executive Government, have a duty of care and an obligation to act. Increasing distributed rooftop solar is an important piece in the puzzle of reaching net zero whilst very meaningfully reducing the cost of living. I look forward to continuing my advocacy

on expanding rooftop solar, working with people in my community and across the State, including my parliamentary colleagues, whilst I am in this place. It is very easy. It is non-fuss: maximum impact, minimum effort. I seek the collective support of members in the House to just get this done.

DIVERSITY AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (17:12): I congratulate the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety on passing the State Insurance and Care Governance Amendment (ICNSW Board) Bill 2023, which provided for two nominee directors on the icare board: one for employees and one for employers. One of the big reasons I supported the bill is because it was at least partially about diversity on boards. That is particularly important to me because I represent one of the most diverse electorates in the State. I have long been an advocate for diversity and inclusion. It is a simple point that minority communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and all Australians—regardless of their background, regardless of where they come from, what language they speak, what religion they practise, what they look like, what they sound like, what colour their skin is—should be able to feel a sense of belonging in Australia.

The reality is that modern Australian society is diverse. If one looks around at our streetscapes and walks around in our communities, we have an enormous amount of diversity. But that diversity has not penetrated into lots of institutions, particularly institutions of power. That includes parliaments, benches of judges on the Supreme Courts, and the boards of directors of companies and organisations large and small. Boards are important. Not only do they provide the governance for an organisation—both strategic direction as well as supervision and operational management—but there is an important leadership role for boards. Who gets on the board is an example to other people, and particularly for young Australians, about who belongs and who does not—who is successful and who makes the decisions, and who does not make the decisions. The membership of boards of directors of companies and organisations, large and small, is immensely important.

A recent report on board diversity published in 2023 by the Governance Institute of Australia and Watermark Search International looked at diversity on boards in terms of gender, cultural background, skills, experience and age. This is the ninth year that Watermark has run the survey. Some facts from the report include a small improvement in Indigenous representation on boards. It doubled—but off a very low base—from two in 2022 to four in 2023. In other words, we have a long way to go with respect to Indigenous representation on company boards. The number of women in board seats has risen from 32 per cent to 35 per cent since 2022. If we look more closely at the statistics, it is clear that there are still lots of issues with gender diversity on boards. Women board members tend to be in the smaller companies. Only nine women directors, as part of that cohort, had long-term board tenure—in other words, exceeding 15 years. And 16 per cent of boards amongst the companies surveyed as part of this research had no women at all, or only one woman member. Some 5 per cent, or 15 boards as part of the cohort, were completely male.

When the Watermark Search report looked at cultural diversity, the situation was much worse and much more alarming. Cultural diversity across boards has stagnated. It continues to be the case that the majority of Australian board members are of Anglo-Celtic or European background. Just 10 per cent of roles filled by directors were of non-Anglo-Celtic backgrounds. The report describes this as "too male, too pale and too stale". On behalf of my electorate of Strathfield, where some 57 per cent of people were born overseas—that is the second highest in New South Wales, and we have a large amount of socio-economic diversity as well—I think we can aspire to a situation where all of our leadership institutions genuinely reflect the magnificent diversity of our multicultural community.

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE ROADS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (17:17): Roads are a key public policy area in the Davidson electorate. We have State roads, such as the Pacific Highway, Ryde Road, Mona Vale Road, the stretch of Boundary Street to Warringah Road, including the Roseville Bridge, and Forest Way. We have a number of regional roads, such as Bobbin Head Road, Burns Road to Archbold Road, including Horace Street, Birdwood Road and the Eastern Arterial Road, Koola Avenue linking Springdale Road, and Lady Game Drive. Of course, all other roads in the Davidson electorate are considered local roads. There are five road-related matters that I place on record that I am advocating for on behalf of the community.

The first matter is the need for Beaches Link. That project will help take traffic off the Pacific Highway, Boundary Road and Warringah Road. It will make it quicker to get to Forest Way and reduce traffic by 25 per cent on the Roseville Bridge. I note Labor went to the 2023 election with a commitment to cancel the project. Chris Minns has clearly shown a complete disregard for the people of northern Sydney, simply channelling the past Labor Government, which cancelled the widening of the Spit Bridge in 2007. The Beaches Link will only ever be delivered under a Liberals-Nationals government. The second matter relates to pedestrian safety on the Forest Way. Children cross the busy Forest Way at Glen Street and Wearden Road to get to Wakehurst Public School.

I thank the 495 people who signed the petition organised by Kylie Westren, a concerned parent who walks her children to school every day. The petition states:

During school hours, the number of pedestrians attempting to cross these busy intersections often exceeds 30. Meanwhile, cars, buses, and trucks zoom past at speeds of up to 70km/h ... it is only a matter of time before a ... tragedy occurs.

I have written to the Minister for Roads seeking advice from Transport for NSW. I also appreciate meeting with the member for Wakehurst. We have agreed to advocate for solutions together. The third matter relates to the intersection of the Pacific Highway, Shirley Road and Clanville Road in Roseville. Currently, risks and accidents are caused by cars running red lights; the lack of a green arrow for northern traffic turning right into Shirley Road; traffic turning right from Shirley Road onto the Pacific Highway that blocks northbound traffic turning onto the Pacific Highway from Clanville Road; and traffic turning right into Clanville Road from the Pacific Highway. Residents are concerned that not all accidents are being reported, which makes the collection of data-driven evidence a challenge. Again, I have written to the Minister for Roads seeking advice from Transport for NSW.

The fourth matter relates to Archbold Road in Lindfield and Roseville. I note that residents are frustrated about accessing Archbold Road. I have asked a question on notice regarding that section of road, and the answer advises that 51 crashes have taken place over six years. That is concerning. Two speed and red-light cameras have been installed, which I hope can reduce crashes and save lives. I trust the cameras are not just for revenue raising or for creating more congestion. I will continue to monitor the situation. The final matter relates to school precincts. Roads surrounding schools should be safe places. Recently, concerning statistics revealed that speeding in school zones over the past six years has generated over \$200 million in fines, with police issuing over 47,000 fines and cameras identifying almost 900,000 fines. The Northern Beaches has the highest number of fines.

I was glad to invite Opposition leader Mark Speakman to Wakehurst Public School on 25 July 2023 with a simple message to drivers: Slow down in school zones. I am looking at seeking advice from the Minister for Roads, Minister for Transport and Transport for NSW about several precincts, in particular St Ives and Killara high schools. I very much thank the local P&Cs for their advocacy. I look forward to updating the community and Parliament on my advocacy around those five matters. I say to those in the Davidson electorate that I am listening and acting on their behalf. I certainly encourage them to contact me about how I can help.

BAYSIDE COUNCIL CAROLS BY THE SEA

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (17:22): My electorate of Rockdale is blessed by the magnificent Lady Robinsons Beach and the adjacent Cook Park, which line the entire western foreshore of Botany Bay from the Cooks River at Kyeemagh to the tip of the Sans Souci peninsular. The miles of white sand and sparkling blue waters are a much-loved playground for my community and have been the location for many celebrations, festivals and gatherings over the years. One of the most deeply loved and heavily attended of all those has always been Bayside Council's annual Carols by the Sea, held on the beautifully wide beach at Brighton Le Sands for as long as anyone can remember.

With the crowd seated looking out over the bay as the sun sets behind them and the light and colour of the sun on the water and headlands opposite changing as the sky darkens and the candles are lit, it has always been one of the most stunning Christmas carol events in New South Wales, if not Australia. Hosted over the years by professionals such as Monica Trapaga of *Play School* fame—my favourite—and backed up by members of our local musical societies, it has always been a dynamite night that puts the spirit of Christmas into everyone who attends. I have been going to the event for years, and I can proudly say that I used to sing and dance along to the band with the best of them, as my grandchildren can confirm.

Sadly, COVID meant that great community gathering had to be cancelled in 2021 and 2022, like so many other events. Huge numbers of my constituents felt the loss and I have been asked many times over the past two years when the carols would be returning. Happily, I can report to the House that, after listening to the community, Bayside Council's mayor Christina Curry, with the emphatic support of the emeritus mayor Bill Saravinovski, has announced that the carols will be making their triumphant return to the beach at Brighton this December. I cannot tell the House how happy this makes me. Some of my finest memories as the member for Rockdale are of joining my constituents and my family at Carols by the Sea.

I remember looking around year after year and seeing families, often spanning multiple generations and of both Christian and non-Christian faiths—or of no faith—gathering to share the Christmas spirit and the company of their friends and neighbours on the beach. As the children ran around making new friends, the adults were simply singing and enjoying the night alongside their fellow citizens. That community spirit shows us at our best in both Rockdale and New South Wales. So I am delighted that Carols by the Sea will rise again this year, bringing that genuine grassroots goodwill and harmony back to my electorate. I congratulate Bayside Council on

committing to the return of Carols by the Sea, and I am pleased to put on record that I have already started practising my dancing to make sure I do the grandchildren proud come December.

BULAHDELAH MEN'S SHED

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (17:25): I am very pleased to recognise the Bulahdelah Men's Shed committee for its outstanding efforts in raising funds for the construction of its new men's shed. The wonderful community-based organisation has been making significant strides in enhancing the wellbeing of our local men and creating a strong sense of unity and skillsharing within the community. Men's sheds like the Bulahdelah Men's Shed play an important role in the community by providing meeting places where men can find social support and camaraderie. The essence of men's sheds lies in their commitment to providing accessible, safe and friendly environments for men to engage in meaningful projects, encouraging friendship and purpose while addressing issues of social isolation and mental health challenges.

A nationwide initiative, there are more than 1,200 men's sheds across Australia and over 400 in New South Wales alone. I am not sure if members are aware but there are more men's sheds than McDonald's restaurants across Australia. Men's sheds have been operating for more than 30 years and more than 50,000 Australian men participate. Last month I had the great privilege of meeting David Flynn, the president of Bulahdelah Men's Shed, and was given a tour of the present facility. Regrettably, the limitations of its small size were evident during the visit, as accommodating more than seven individuals in the shed poses potential hazards. As the current men's shed has reached its capacity, there arises a pressing need for an upgrade to adequately cater to the growing demands of the community.

The Bulahdelah Men's Shed committee has taken a proactive approach to fundraising for its new shed by creating and selling a range of wooden items, including bird boxes, very popular deck chairs, furniture and artist easels—to name a few. Earlier this year it held a fundraising golf day at Bulahdelah Golf Club and it is currently seeking out foundation members to help with funding for the shed. In its quest to expand and enhance its services, the Bulahdelah Men's Shed committee has already raised an impressive \$30,500 towards its goal of \$220,000. While construction has not yet commenced, the development application has been lodged with our local council, bringing its vision one step closer to reality. The planned new location for the Bulahdelah Men's Shed at the golf club will undoubtedly provide the much-needed space for expansion.

The Bulahdelah Men's Shed has proven to be an excellent force for uplifting its members and contributing positively to the broader community. Through diverse activities such as woodworking, metalworking, painting and other community projects, the organisation actively encourages skill development, mentorship and a supportive atmosphere for its members. Its commitment extends far beyond the walls of the shed as it actively engages in community projects like facility repairs, charity assistance and participation in local events, truly embodying the spirit of giving back. I look forward to the success of the Bulahdelah Men's Shed campaign and will do everything in my capacity as the member for Myall Lakes to assist the campaign. I also look forward to seeing the new shed come together and welcome more support for men's mental health in the Myall Lakes area.

SYDNEY METRO SYDENHAM TO BANKSTOWN PROJECT

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (17:29): The Minns Labor Government announced recently that the Sydenham to Bankstown train line conversion will go ahead. It is a decision of the Government, but one that has been practically forced upon it due to the actions of the previous Government. Members opposite decided that they would build a metro line along the Bankstown train line, but also decided that, despite Birrong and Yagoona being part of that train line, the line would stop at Bankstown. Birrong and Yagoona, for some reason, are just magic dots on a train line that do not exist. All of the other train stations in my electorate are on the south-west line; those two sit alone on the Bankstown to Sydenham line. The former Government started construction on a line that effectively stopped at Bankstown and ignored the rest of the existing line, leaving Birrong and Yagoona stations sitting out there like dogs' balls.

In the lead-up to the election I spoke to the current Minister for Transport about how disappointing the situation was for our community, and I queried whether she would consider not ripping up the existing Bankstown to Sydenham line. That would have been the optimal outcome for our community. Unfortunately, construction has gone too far and the line is going ahead. It is a huge problem for the people of Birrong and Yagoona. Yagoona takes passengers from outside areas, in particular from buses that come from Sefton and Condell Park. It is a big station, and there is a large shopping centre. Birrong has our two largest schools. It is a problem. But it is not the only problem that the members on the other side of the Chamber created in my electorate.

Every train line in my electorate was in some way wound down by members opposite. After the removal of all express trains from Lidcombe station on the western line and the removal of stops at Berala and Regents Park stations, which were traditionally stops after Sefton and Chester Hill on the T2 line into the city, two large

communities now have a train only every half hour. The previous Government then swung a line around from Sefton to Birrong, avoiding Regents Park altogether and diverting trains onto a line that will now completely disappear. It stopped at Birrong but not at Yagoona! How do we have a train line that recognises Birrong station and not Yagoona?

Chester Hill station—one of the largest stations for commuters—was the fourth highest priority in the Transport Access Program, but a decade later there is still no lift. Every station on three lines in my electorate was run down by the former Liberal-Nationals Government. We are now reaping the consequences of its decisions, which is Birrong and Yagoona being left by themselves. I have spoken to the Minister about the importance of these changes. It is not as simple as just catching a bus at Bankstown and going to Sydenham. We need a better method for Birrong and Yagoona. We cannot have people catching a bus to Yagoona, then a shuttle train to Bankstown, then a bus to Sydenham and then getting on another metro system. We need to consider the issue as a whole. The Minister has undertaken to look at it and I will talk to the department about it.

It is extraordinarily disappointing that past decisions are having such a terrible impact. Hopefully, we will not see heavy rail lines ripped up to put metro rail in going forward. It did not happen in North Sydney; on the North Shore they kept their heavy line and got a metro that ran parallel. It was only in south-western and Western Sydney that lines got ripped up. It is an important project that we have to look at. In question time the other day I was asked about holding inquiries. I do not know why the Liberal Party thinks that is a good idea, but I am happy to have an inquiry. I will start with the Metro West project to look at the budget blowouts. We have the same budget blowouts on the Sydenham to Bankstown line. Instead of \$12 billion, it went to \$20 billion. It is now \$21 billion, and I think it is \$25 billion on Metro West. That is what prohibits us from doing what is necessary to fix the mistakes the former Government made.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (17:34): With a free screening of the new season of the ABC's excellent series *War on Waste* at Leichhardt Town Hall this weekend, it seems like a great time to talk about plastics. The waste crisis in New South Wales is out of control, with huge increases in the amount of waste we are producing each year. Sydney has almost run out of landfill space and is looking to regional communities to take its waste. It is clear that we need to rapidly transition to a sustainable circular economy that reduces, reuses and recycles materials. We need to tackle this waste crisis in our homes, our businesses and in construction. We need to end all single-use plastics and plastic waste, and massively increase the use of recycled materials in manufacturing, roads and infrastructure.

When it comes to soft plastics in particular there is no time to waste. The collapse of the REDCycle program and the discovery of millions of tonnes of stockpiled soft plastics has revealed a deeply broken plastics recycling system. After diligently separating their soft plastics for recycling, the community is absolutely furious to learn that they are sitting in a warehouse somewhere, and still no solutions are on the table. We need a sustainable domestic soft plastics recycling scheme that will not disappear overnight. A recent report from the ABC tells us that now Australia's major supermarkets have started sending samples of soft plastics overseas to be recycled, as they deal with the legacy of some 11,000 tonnes of stockpiled plastics from the collapsed REDCycle scheme. That is 11,000 tonnes, carefully separated and collected by diligent people across the country who were trying to do the right thing. Our community expects it to be recycled, and the last thing we need is for people to lose hope and start putting their soft plastics back into landfill.

Domestic companies have been able to process only about 120 tonnes, and they say 4 per cent of the stockpiled soft plastics can no longer be recycled because they have degraded so much while in storage. That means there is more than three times as much soft plastic that can no longer be recycled than is currently being processed by our domestic companies. No wonder the supermarkets are looking offshore. But this is not good enough. We know how it worked out when Australia relied on sending other plastics offshore for other countries to deal with. We ended up with the introduction of the Operation National Sword policy five years ago, with strong restrictions on the importation of recycled materials into China. China, which in 2016-17 accepted 1.25 million tonnes of Australian waste, stopped accepting our waste overnight. Australia then turned to Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand to offload its waste.

The waste problem is created in Australia and needs to be dealt with in Australia. We should not be outsourcing our recycling problems to other countries. We should not be treating other countries as an international dumping ground for our waste. It is not enough to expect households to do the heavy lifting. Plastics have become prolific in our daily lives, and we need governments to take decisive action to tackle this systemic problem. The Greens are here to help the new Labor Government tackle this crisis. We need to phase out single-use plastics and even ban some plastic products in line with some of the legislation currently operating in the European Union. We need to mandate procurement targets for recycled plastic content in single-use plastics as well as products like roads and pathways, bollards and street furniture. We need to support and invest in small businesses with existing

soft plastics recycling schemes to allow them to scale up, and we need to introduce mandatory industry packaging targets.

Only 13 per cent of the \$800 million waste levy actually goes towards reducing waste. The rest goes into government coffers. The Greens want to see that money going towards solving the waste crisis. The previous Government's failure to mandate procurement targets for recycled plastic content has left New South Wales effectively without a market for recycled plastics, which caused the collapse of Australia's largest soft plastic recycling scheme. The community is crying out for options to recycle their waste. So many people have been doing the right thing and diligently separating their soft plastics for recycling. They want to see urgent action and want the New South Wales Government to take this issue seriously.

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (17:38): I speak tonight about disaster resilience, with specific reference to the bushfire experience of the Bega electorate. Natural disasters such as these are increasing in frequency and intensity. The recent heatwaves and wildfires in North America and Europe demonstrate the consequence of man-made climate change. The Black Summer bushfires followed 10 years of El Niño, with drought and rising average temperatures. There has been a La Niña event over the past few years, with wetter and cooler conditions causing significant regrowth. The threat of drier, hotter conditions returns, as it will cyclically on our continent. Our State and my electorate need to look at resilience, preparation, response and recovery.

Resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organisations and States to adapt and recover without compromising long-term prospects for development. It requires adaptability and planning. But natural disasters are not always totally natural events. There are human factors that influence whether a natural event becomes a disaster or a catastrophe. Disasters can be caused by poor local planning, a lack of early warning systems and inadequate emergency response strategies. Preparation for natural disasters is a collective responsibility. Local, State and Federal governments must cooperate to implement resilient infrastructure and effective emergency response systems. At a local level, community information and education is necessary to allow knowledge and preparation for the events. The community must know evacuation routes and prepare disaster kits and an action plan.

Our emergency services need to understand risks, assess vulnerability and implement mitigation measures. Sustainable land-use policies will assist in prevention, and early warning systems will allow preparation for action. Plans need to prioritise the most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the disabled, and infants and children. In fact, disaster preparation and the development of resilience is an issue of social equity and justice. Those with the least resources need the greatest help, which leads to a more equitable and fair society. My experience of the Black Summer bushfires was at the Moruya Showground evacuation centre. The indoor basketball court was full of unsegregated people, and the football oval and showground arena were occupied by vehicles of all kinds. Domestic and farm animals filled other areas. There were limited sanitary facilities and food preparation areas. The greatest concern for the local hospital was an outbreak of gastroenteritis, which would have overwhelmed the service.

That stimulated my examination of the need for safe and secure evacuation centres and safe havens. Power is everything. Without it, there is no communication, no running water, no fuel pumps and no sanitation or food preparation. We need to see safe havens with sustainable energy from solar panels, battery storage and diesel or gas backup. Our communities can be self-sufficient, with solar microgrids and the security of underground powerlines or fire-resistant power poles. Already, with the assistance of the Federal member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips, MP, the Eurobodalla has the security of the Mount Wandera telecommunications site, the Telstra site and fire-resistant poles at South Durras.

With power, the evacuation centres will require quarantined supply and storage of both drinking and non-potable water. That will support sanitation, including washing and sewerage as well as cooking. The structure itself must be fire resistant and equipped with a sprinkler system. Air quality and cooling for evacuees will require adequate air-conditioning systems. Internally, organised spaces to segregate the elderly, the disabled and women with infants and children are necessary. We are dangerously vulnerable medically, with our medication reserves being less than our baseline fuel reserves. We depend on overseas supply of medicines and medical equipment.

Local, State and Federal governments need a coordinated natural disaster public health policy, with local officials prepared to implement a local public health response. The role will be to provide immediate health and sanitation responses, with secondary responses providing medication, medical supplies and treatment synchronised with local hospital services. Finally, in terms of emergency services coordination and response capability, I look forward to the construction of the Eurobodalla emergency operations precinct, for which the previous State Government committed \$15 million, increased by a further \$10 million by the Federal Labor Government and the New South Wales Labor Government.

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (17:43): I speak tonight about key infrastructure projects put forward by the former Coalition State and Federal governments that are now at risk due to Labor's cuts and cancellations. The former State Government had a proud track record of delivering infrastructure needed by the community. A \$116.6 billion infrastructure pipeline was left for the current Government. With a well-formulated plan, there was certainty that vital roads, rail, metro, schools and hospitals would be built or upgraded. However, it is distressing that in the early days of this Government the theme seems to be cuts, cancellations and setting the bar as low as possible.

It all started during the State election campaign, when Labor announced that it would scrap two Sydney Metro lines—one from Parramatta to Western Sydney International Airport and one from Bankstown to Glenfield via Liverpool. The latter directly pertains to my electorate of Holsworthy, where the line would have run straight across the northern suburbs of the Liverpool local government area. I have said multiple times in this place that the people of south-west Sydney, including my electorate of Holsworthy, will be condemned to a generation of more traffic unless the metro is built in this area. The State Labor Government announced last week that it is considering scrapping the Sydney Metro West line connecting the Sydney CBD with Parramatta. However, it is more disturbing that both the State and Federal Labor governments are eyeing off even more infrastructure cuts in south-west Sydney.

The Federal Government's 90-day infrastructure review identified multiple projects in the Holsworthy electorate as being "at risk". The largest infrastructure commitment in the Holsworthy electorate is the M5 Motorway upgrade between Moorebank Avenue and the Hume Highway. It was a commitment made by the former State and Federal Coalition governments. It is a \$305 million upgrade split 50-50 between the State and the Commonwealth. The project includes a new two-lane bridge over the Georges River and the rail line, as well as a new underpass at Moorebank Avenue that will connect M5 westbound traffic with the Hume Highway without the need to cross two lanes of traffic. The project will also widen three of the four interchange ramps for a smoother exit.

During afternoon peak hour, most of the traffic westbound on the M5 clears up after you pass the Hume Highway intersection. Currently, cars in the left two lanes accelerate when getting on at Moorebank Avenue, whilst cars in the right two lanes decelerate when trying to exit the motorway—both of which are trying to cross into each other's lane. Locals call it "the weave". The current set-up slows traffic significantly, but it also poses a significant safety risk, with multiple collisions occurring along that stretch of road. Whilst the Federal Government identified this project as "at risk", it is up to the State Labor Government to step up to the plate and make it a reality. A project like this should not be in doubt. However, the Commonwealth has flagged it as such, and the State Government is reviewing this specific project under the Strategic Infrastructure Review, with its findings to support the 2023-24 State budget in September.

The terms of reference set out by Infrastructure NSW for the Strategic Infrastructure Review do not once mention community safety as part of the criteria. I am concerned that the project will fall through the cracks. First and foremost, it is a matter of safety, but this seemingly will not be assessed as a potential merit of the project. Perhaps it is an oversight. I look forward to the 2023-24 State budget as the Government will have the opportunity to definitively rule the project in or out. The cuts and cancellations that the new budget alludes to will condemn those in south-west Sydney to a generation of traffic. In combination with a scrapped metro line, that will be a recipe for disaster in my electorate of Holsworthy. Over 6,000 new cars drive on south-west Sydney roads every year. Put simply, the M5 will not be able to keep up with the demand and, without a metro, the issue will be exacerbated. It is a double-whammy slap in the face for south-west Sydney residents, and Labor ought to be ashamed. Instead of spending more time at home with our children, we will be spending more time in traffic. Labor's cuts to key infrastructure projects will reduce our most limited asset of time more than it has to.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:48): Last week was DonateLife Week. Today I acknowledge and thank all of the donors and the families of donors who have made the generous decision to donate tissue and organs, selflessly giving another person the gift of a better and, hopefully, healthy life. I also acknowledge the dedicated and skilled clinicians and specialist staff working in the field of organ donation and transplantation. Discussions with families about organ donation often happen at a time when families are coming to terms with the unexpected and sudden loss of a loved one. During these times, grieving families may be forced to make many difficult end-of-life decisions. Conversations with families about organ donation at these times are no doubt extremely hard. It takes a special kind person to approach these discussions with the compassion and professionalism needed during such times.

Right now there are approximately 1,800 Australians waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant and thousands more whose lives could be transformed through organ or tissue donation. During the first 10 years of the implementation of the national organ donation program in Australia there was a 122 per cent increase in deceased organ donation rates. Unfortunately, since the emergence of COVID, the number of organ donors and people who have received a transplant has decreased by 15 per cent. There are many reasons for this. In 2022 the lives of 1,224 Australians were changed when they received an organ transplant thanks to the generosity of 454 deceased donors and their families. I am proud to say that currently Lake Macquarie sits in the top five local government areas for registered organ donors. In Lake Macquarie 57 per cent of residents are registered. Across New South Wales, the figure is 42 per cent. We know, though, that 80 per cent of Australians aged 16 and over support organ and tissue donations. It is clear we have work to do to encourage supporters of organ donation to become registered donors.

But registration alone is not enough because a next of kin can override a donor's registration when the time comes for donation decisions to be made. Conversely, when a person is not registered, families can consent to organ donation on behalf of their loved ones—but that is rarer. According to the *Australian Donation and Transplantation Activity Report 2022*, in that year 1,300 requests were made to families for donations, with 701, or 54 per cent, saying yes. This consent rate was higher when families knew their family member was a registered donor. We need to normalise and encourage conversations about organ donation so that our families understand our wishes should the time come for difficult decisions to be made.

Parliament may also need to consider whether a registered donor's family should have the right to override a donor's decision made during their life. This is a complex and difficult issue. Increasing donation registrations and consent rates is vitally important because organ donation is a bit of a numbers game. While many Australians register to be donors, the vast majority will not have the opportunity. Organ donation and transplantation is a complex process. Many factors need to align to make donation a success. While 80,000 people die in Australia each year, around only 2 per cent can be considered for organ donation. In 2022 this was only 1,400 people. Every opportunity for organ donation is a precious opportunity to save a life and often multiple lives. When a family consents to organ donation, it is important that we ensure those precious organs are successfully transplanted into their recipients where possible.

In New South Wales practices and laws could be improved to maximise the viability of tissue and organs for transplantation. One issue that needs to be addressed is the current restrictions around the use of ante-mortem interventions in New South Wales. Ante-mortem interventions are procedures carried out before a patient dies that do not have a medical benefit to a patient but can determine, maintain or improve the viability of tissue to be donated. Ante-mortem interventions can include the administering of medications, the undertaking of blood tests and medical imaging or the maintaining of life support.

Certain medications have shown to improve the function of donated organs when transplanted into a recipient. Despite causing no harm to a patient, the use of ante-mortem interventions is limited in New South Wales because of certain restrictions around medical consent. This needs to be addressed. In 2020 Victoria brought in legislative reform to address this issue; New South Wales needs to do the same. We must treat organ and tissue donations like the precious gifts they are. Yes, we most certainly need more people registering as organ donors, but ensuring that the organs of registered donors are in the best possible condition for transplantation honours a person's generous decision to donate and will no doubt help to save more lives in New South Wales.

GREEN MAGIC HOMES PTY LTD

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (17:53): I talk about a local woman who lost \$500,000—or "fleeced out of it" as she says—after paying a substantial deposit for a home in Goonellabah in Lismore to be the forever home of herself and her daughter. I gather from everything I have been able to read that what followed was nothing short of scandalous. The woman's name is Tatjana Zuchart. She said that I could use her name. Tatjana is left with nothing and has no recourse to get her money back. That is often the case in "dodgy developments", as I call them. I will name the company in a minute.

I recall meeting some people associated with this planned housing project in the Lismore area, and it seemed to me too good to be true—like a lot of them. But I hear many grand plans, so maybe I treat all of them with more apprehension than regular people, who can end up being caught, and I can understand why. Also, Tatjana did all her due diligence and everything stacked up, so that makes things even worse. The company is called Green Magic Homes Pty Ltd. I will recount some of Tatjana's sad story, as told to me in an email and in talking with my senior electorate officer. I will meet her when I am back home. The ABC also ran a story on this on 27 June, which I might talk about later. In her email to me Tatjana, who is an Army veteran, said:

I engaged Green Magic Homes Pty Ltd after conducting my own personal due diligence into the company. The global parent company of Green Magic Homes located in America had been operational for over 20+ years. The Australian arm of Green Magic Homes was managed by its director, Glenn Stevenson, with Tim Gersteling being the Chief Financial Officer and Naomi Freeman (Glenn's wife) as office/company administration. Green Magic Homes Pty Ltd at the time was current and ASIC registered with the company's building license details provided to me by Naomi Freeman also valid, registered and current. The company's involvement in the 95 house-and-land eco development in Lismore provided me with further confidence I was dealing with a reputable company. This was to be my first experience of building my own home for my daughter and myself. As mentioned in my email below to the ABC, the \$500,000 was fleeced off me by Green Magic Homes was not only my life savings but the combined inheritance from my father and partner who passed away in 2015 and 2016 respectively. For my investment,—

the \$500,000—

Glenn Stevenson emailed building contracts and tenders documents—

and Tatjana says—

with forged signature and the details of registered builders not associated to the company, Green Magic Home Pty Ltd. Being a single mum on a Defence pension I am not in a position to outlay money for expensive legal fees however, I am desperately needing to recoup my life savings. As stated in my email below to the Alasdair McDonald of the ABC, I have exhausted all avenues in an attempt to do so. Hence, why I am writing to you this day.

The same day, 27 June 2022, I demanded my deposit back and the ABC disclose their investigation into the activities of Green Magic Homes Pty Ltd managing director, Glenn Stevenson, the company: Organic Securities Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 82 660 461 110) was ASIC registered listing its directors...

There is so much more to this story that I cannot get onto the record, but I say a couple of things. Tatjana says she has exhausted all avenues to grasp an understanding of how this potential fraud—she called it a Ponzi scheme—was able to impact so many innocent victims. She is begging for help. Where can she go to get her \$500,000? She has asked if she can get an ex gratia payment. I would love to be able to tell her that I could deliver that but there is no way I can do that. Through no fault of her own she has ended up in this situation. She did all her due diligence. It is a travesty.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (17:59): Much is always said about politicians who represent our communities, but I tell the House that there is no better representative for Lismore than the member for Lismore. Look at what that community has been through over the past few years. She is standing up and fighting for something that is so important. There has been no better bastion, no better fighter. This is just another example. I rarely comment after a private member's statement, but it is so important that the people of Lismore know how much she loves her community and what she will do for it. I commend the member for Lismore and thank her for bringing this to the House.

HORNSBY GANG SHOW

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (18:00): Hornsby Gang Show started out in 1973, when local Scouting legend Bob MacDonald, OAM, organised a small concert by 1st Hornsby Scout Group to raise funds to take the troop to Adelaide to attend a jamboree. The concert was such a success that a second show was needed to accommodate the audience. This year the show is celebrating its golden jubilee, and many events to mark the occasion are organised. Recently the 85-strong cast was treated to an American barbecue and a celebration cake funded by the Hornsby Scout Fellowship and enabled by a lot of hard work by organiser Tracey Boyle. Long-time gang members Donna Quirke, Betina Campbell and Karen Finch are organising a 50-year dinner at Hornsby RSL Club, and many people are anticipated to attend.

Under the watchful eye of show director Lauren Webb and her fellow producers—Steph Vorreiter, Nikki Pearsall, Taylor Herbertson and musical director Yvonne Barton—the cast gave eight performances of its 2023 show *Coming Home*, hosted at Abbotsleigh School in Wahroonga, in early July. Over the years it has been my pleasure to attend Hornsby Gang Show performances, and it is pleasing to see record attendances in 2023. My long-time friend Penny Becchio has been involved with the gang show in various capacities over the past four decades, including as general manager for 10 seasons. Recently Penny compiled and published an impressive book about the 50 years of the Hornsby Gang Show. It took nearly 250 pages to cover the various areas and the 3,000-plus people who have been involved in the show. She has included over 500 photos in the impressive record of the Hornsby Gang Show.

As I flick through the book, I cannot help but smile at the joy reflected on each page. Penny's book showcases everything that has happened over the past 50 years and is full of funny stories and interesting history. It also covers details of the gang show's great contributors, such as the late Jack Goyen, Arthur Ball, David Smith, John Lincoln, Tom "Fozzie" Sweeney, Ken Tulk, Doug Menzies, Barry Greenland, Andy Davis, Kerry Dominish, Ray Becchio, Peter "Noddy" Quirke, Gavin Moehead, and Doug and Jodie Chilvers. I am pleased to say I managed to secure my copy of Penny's book celebrating 50 years of the Hornsby Gang Show. Everyone involved in the Hornsby Gang Show should be rightly proud of five decades of providing high-quality training for Scouts and

Girl Guides in the art of staging a live musical performance and for providing family entertainment for the people of the Hornsby shire.

Like all performing arts, our gang show was hit hard by the pandemic. But the New South Wales Government Arts and Cultural Funding Program kept it alive, and last year all eight performances were completed. The well-attended shows were high-quality entertainment involving 75 local Scouts and Girl Guides, supported by a crew of 200. I recognize the work of Bec Canty as production director. Bec handed over to Lauren Webb to take on the responsibility of production director this year. Despite the big shoes to fill, Lauren has done a fabulous job, with a professional performance that was as polished as ever. Long-time Scout leader and gang show stage manager Peter "Noddy" Quirke is still involved, supporting the current stage crew. Noddy is a local Hornsby legend. I thank him for all he does for Scouting in the Hornsby and Upper North Shore district.

The Hornsby Gang Show is fortunate to have Patsy Marshall. Many years ago, Patsy was a performer and met a fellow cast member, my very good friend Peter, who went on to become her husband. Today Peter Marshall is the general manager of the Hornsby Gang Show, and their children are on the stage. Peter and Pats are both great examples of the many wonderful leaders who have been shaped by their involvement in the Hornsby Gang Show and have emerged through the Scout and Girl Guide system in our local area. They are also just one of the numerous examples of the multigenerational involvement in the Hornsby Gang Show. I congratulate Hornsby Gang Show on its very special year achieving 50 years of high-quality entertainment for our community. I have always been a big fan of the performances, and the exceptional talent that is unearthed year after year always impresses me. Attending a gang show performance is always the highlight of my year, and as patron I am so proud of everyone involved.

I acknowledge all the cast and crew members, who made this year's gang show so exceptional. It is a great night out and one of the best events to go to anywhere across New South Wales. Every year young talent from our community excels in the performing arts and puts on a great show, showcasing singing, dancing, drama and entertainment, and they write the script themselves. It is funny, engaging and a great event for everyone to attend. I encourage everyone to support the Hornsby Gang Show and the many other gang shows across New South Wales, which do so much to showcase young performing talent and build community in the State.

REGIONAL AND RURAL AGED-CARE FACILITIES

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro) (18:05): Everyone who represents regional New South Wales would know that aged care in regional communities particularly is under a lot of pressure. Many aged-care residents find that facilities that are several decades old do not meet current expectations. Since the royal commission, we have seen some well-intentioned reforms that have meant that the viability of some centres is now under threat, which is causing a lot of concern in regional communities and requires some significant thought about how we can provide viable facilities in regional communities and meet the essential standards put in place by the Federal Government. The State is not directly involved in aged care, but tonight I talk about a number of facilities in southern Monaro.

Currawarna was a nursing home in Bombala for many years. The provider closed it down a couple of years ago, meaning all the residents had to go, some as far as 300 kilometres away from their families, to get care, which the community was not willing to accept. It formed a committee to try to reopen Currawarna as an assisted living facility, not as a high-care facility but one that would have used the Federal Government's home grants to fund the place and keep it operating. The committee is looking to open a 33-bed assisted living facility, and in the last election I was able to commit this Government to providing \$840,000 towards the \$1 million the community was trying to raise.

I am pleased to say that the community raised more than its target. I assure the community that the \$840,000 the Government promised will be coming. I have promised it for this financial year, and I hope that it will arrive in this calendar year. It is important because it will provide a bridge between people who can no longer live at home but who do not need that high-care facility. It will go hand in hand with another commitment the Government made in Bombala: \$15 million towards the expansion of the Bombala hospital's aged-care high-dependency facilities for about 30 beds, which will mean the community is quite well served for aged care in the longer term.

In other parts of the area, there is the challenge of council-managed facilities. Snowy Monaro Regional Council runs two facilities: Yallambee Lodge and Snowy River Hostel. They have faced a very difficult decision about whether they should continue to be involved in something they certainly do not see as their core business. They have made some difficult decisions. In the longer term, both those facilities will close or at least pass out of council ownership. One will combine with the Sir William Hudson nursing home, which is being run by a group called Respect. Hopefully, that will get an upgrade to meet the modern standards. For instance, at the moment, most of the rooms have shared bathrooms and those sorts of things. It needs a much more modern facility for

dementia patients, which will be a difficult task. I understand they are called memory support facilities now. That is a big project. Some funding was provided to Yallambee, which will be rolled over.

A number of constituents have contacted me with concerns about the council's decision. I sympathise particularly with those who are worried about the Snowy River Hostel in Berridale being closed. There is obviously a limit to what the State Government can do about that, so I am trying to work positively with the council. I support the council's decision in that process because it is important to make sure we have a viable facility that is capable of providing the modern care and standards that we want to see—the number of minutes of nursing contact per day that patients require. That seems to be the only way to guarantee the viability of that facility in Cooma.

There are ongoing meetings about the Snowy River Hostel, and I encourage those constituents to talk to the people at Currawarna in Bombala about the actions that they took, to see whether that is a viable option for Berridale as well. But the situation in aged care in regional New South Wales is very challenging. People need to keep an open mind and, unfortunately, to be willing to see change at times, but hopefully change that leads to better quality facilities and care.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:10): I thank the member for Monaro, who is a true fighter for Monaro. That was another display of how he is fighting for services in his community. He has been up-front and honest about the aged-care services that his people need and has made all the representations that are required. That is what good local members do, and that is what members on this side of the House do. What he is doing is sincere, genuine and community based. The people of Monaro appreciate that, and I commend him for it. It is truly unique. When we hear what he has to say, we know we will see the preferred outcome.

MARONITE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF SYDNEY

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:11): I acknowledge the significance of the Maronite Eparchy of Australia as an important contributor within the multicultural community. On 27 July 2023 I had the honour of attending a special breakfast event with my colleagues from the New South Wales Liberal Party leadership team where we were graced with the presence of Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. The Maronite Church, led by Bishop Tarabay, is devoted to the community and provides education, support for families, support for the youth and care for the aged and vulnerable. The congregation is guided by its Christian values and the faith-based beliefs that are the foundation for the church's practices and principles.

To fully illustrate the Maronite Church's mission to the multicultural community of Australia, I recognise the path that Bishop Tarabay has walked. After joining the Lebanese Maronite Order in 1983, Bishop Tarabay professed his first vows in 1985. In 1993 he was ordained to the priesthood. Bishop Tarabay completed an undergraduate degree majoring in theology, a Master of Moral Theology with honours, a Master of Bioethics with honours, a Diploma in Human Rights Studies and a Doctorate of Moral Theology (Bioethics). His passion and advocacy for education led him to expand his skills by working as a lecturer in theology and bioethics, a principal of a primary and secondary school and a director of student affairs.

In 2007 Bishop Tarabay was assigned rector of Saint Charbel's College, Monastery and Church, before being appointed as Maronite Bishop of Australia by Pope Francis on 17 April 2013. He was then ordained to the episcopate on 25 May 2013. Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay officially became the fourth bishop of the Maronite Diocese of Australia at Saint Maroun's Cathedral, Redfern, on 3 June 2013. The community members of the Maronite Diocese of Australia have worked relentlessly for their families to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Saint Maron was the first patriarch of the Maronite Church, and his plan was to provide a place where Maronites could live safely and peacefully. Bishop Tarabay's extensive knowledge of moral theology, bioethics and human rights helps succeed Saint Maron's plan for a safe haven. The Maronite Church offers several committees and groups that also support people with different abilities, as well as families, carers and friends of the parish community. Those volunteer groups meet on a regular basis to share, pray and discuss the challenges of Christian life.

Bishop Tarabay and the Maronite Church recognise everyone as having their own unique gifts and talents to offer. The aim of the church's committees is to plan, organise and promote the spiritual, social and humanitarian aspects of those within Australia's Maronite community. Initiatives being undertaken currently include weekly food van outreach programs; home visit programs offering companionship, food packs and support to struggling families; and overseas missions in collaboration with the Missionaries of the Poor. I applaud Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay and the Maronite Church for providing relief and companionship to those within the Maronite community. The eparchy will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in September with a golden jubilee event.

MIRANDA ELECTORATE BUS SERVICES

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:15): Transport plays an integral part in our lives, particularly when it comes to commuting to and from work and school. Since U-Go Mobility set up shop in the Sutherland shire just over a month ago, the bus network has fallen apart and the transition has been nothing short of a disaster. On 1 July U-Go Mobility took over region 10 from Transdev. It was awarded to the organisation on the advice from Transport for NSW. Since that date my office has been inundated with complaints from frustrated commuters and concerned parents and carers. It seems to be luck of the draw whether the bus turns up or gets lost in transit.

Public transport should run to schedule and not to Minister Haylen's version of what "on time" means. Children have been left to wait over 30 minutes for school bus services to arrive, as in the case of Amy from Bangor. She wrote to my office about her seven-year-old son, who was forced to wait over 30 minutes for the local school bus on his first day of school. Amy wrote to me:

I was simply told that bus didn't show up this morning, no sorry or anything. I then asked if the bus would be picking the kids up from school and he said, "It should be, but if it doesn't, call and let me know".

That appalling and callous response provided her with no certainty that her son would get home safely. Bus routes 962 and 963, which students from Menai High School catch, have also been affected. Last week concerned parent Katharine, whose child relies on that bus service, informed my office about the inaccuracy of the timetables and U-Go Mobility not delivering on its commitment to prioritise school services and routes servicing schools. In her email to me, she wrote:

My daughter was previously catching the 962 home from Menai High School. The NSW Opal still advertises a 3.20, 3.29 and 3.51 service from Menai High School. There is no 3.20 or 3.29 service. All the students are now required to catch the overburdened M92 which they don't always fit on the first one, and then walk even further home.

That is not good enough. Forcing students onto already-crowded buses not running to timetable is not the answer. Sadly, those are just some of the matters that have been raised with me. As of 31 July U-Go Mobility reported that it is still 75 drivers short, which is 62 more than region 13 or south-west Sydney. Yet region 13 is considered a priority area for recruitment, according to Minister Haylen's 15 July media release, as it has been "hardest hit by the driver shortage". Meanwhile, our driver shortage has resulted in 314 trips each week being suspended under the current temporary timetable.

Then there is the human cost and the local workforce implications of the transition. Joshua, who is partially blind, was a valuable member of the Transdev team and was hired as a customer experience ambassador. He was sadly let go as U-Go Mobility no longer saw his role as valuable. His former manager at Transdev said:

He has become an exceptional resource on our networks and services. Known for his infectious smile, Joshua leaves a lasting impression on all those he interacts with.

I call on the Minister and U-Go Mobility to urgently review their decision. In the Chamber yesterday the Minister was more interested in political pointscore on the issue, when her focus should be on addressing the bus failures that have occurred on her watch. My community is not interested in the political pointscore. Commuters want to know that existing buses will turn up when expected, travel on the advertised route and take them where they need to go. When Transport for NSW was asked at a briefing on 1 August when commuters can expect buses to return to the same service level as under Transdev, they could not provide an answer. This is unacceptable and I call on the U-Go Mobility team and the Minister to provide a time frame. Under an inexperienced Labor Government, it really is no wonder that we are hearing countless stories regarding this failed changeover and negative experiences that many commuters are encountering with U-Go Mobility.

This issue is affecting everyone from schoolchildren to commuters trying to get to work. It has taken just over a month under this new bus contract for our local bus network to unravel. The buses do not turn up. Schoolkids are left stranded on the side of the road. Parents need to change their day to ensure their children get to school safely. Hardworking local employees have been laid off. This has all happened under Labor and on Premier Minns and Minister Haylen's watch. Our community is feeling the effects of Labor's inexperience and incompetence. I call on the Labor Government to work with U-Go Mobility to rectify this situation urgently and more effectively for impacted commuters in the Sutherland shire. We have simply had enough.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:20): That was an absolutely ridiculous contribution from the member for Miranda, who is a former Minister and member of the Government that signed off on the contract that has caused terrible suffering to the community members to whom she referred. I draw attention to those who are suffering as a result of the previous Government's poor decision to sign the contract. I will correct the member for Miranda: Minister Haylen has been on the front foot in relation to this issue and has made every representation to resolve it. We will try again and again to clean up the mess left by the former Government. Communities throughout the Sutherland shire are paying the price, and we will continue to do everything we can to help them.

WESTERN SYDNEY ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (18:21): This evening I bring to light grave concerns regarding a secret strategic infrastructure review that has surfaced in recent media reports. According to these reports, critical road infrastructure projects for Western Sydney, including the Mamre Road upgrade stage one, the Elizabeth Drive upgrade and Mulgoa Road upgrade stage two, are potentially on the chopping block. These are not just road upgrades; they represent safety improvements, connectivity and prosperity for Western Sydney. The Mamre Road upgrade is intended to significantly improve the stretch of road between the M4 Motorway and Erskine Park Road. The Elizabeth Drive upgrade is projected to deliver \$220 million worth of safety improvements—a much-needed and absolutely urgent upgrade for the section in Kemps Creek. The Mulgoa Road upgrade is crucial for better connecting Glenmore Park residents with Penrith and the M4 and alleviating extreme traffic delays of a morning. To cancel these projects is to cancel Western Sydney's future growth and prosperity.

This secret review is emblematic of a greater issue at hand, and that is a Labor government that continually takes Western Sydney for granted. Labor talks a big game only to deliver disappointment. When it really counts, Labor falls short. This is not governance. This is an abject failure to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Western Sydney. Labor promised a "fresh start", but if projects that I have named are cancelled it demonstrates that Premier Minns and the New South Wales Labor Government will only stall and send Western Sydney backwards. As the construction of the Western Sydney International Airport continues and as more people, businesses and families choose Western Sydney as their home, we must meet their needs and expectations with essential infrastructure. These three road upgrades are essential infrastructure for the communities across Western Sydney. The Government must not cancel these necessary developments and improvements.

I call on the Government to be honest about this secret infrastructure hit list. If the rumours of cancellation are true, it would reveal a severe neglect of Western Sydney—a region that deserves investment and support. We need to continually build and invest in Western Sydney because we are the region that is undergoing the biggest transformation and the biggest growth in people and in businesses that has ever been seen in our nation. The people of Western Sydney need more than mere rhetoric and promises. They need concrete action. A government's performance is measured by its actions, not just by its words. So far, the performance of the New South Wales Labor Government has been disappointing. The prospect of cancelling these critical infrastructure projects only adds to the disappointment the people of Western Sydney have come to expect from this Labor Government. Whether it is pulling back from its promises to continue the Active Kids voucher program or threatening not to proceed with various metro projects and then coming out and saving its own from the potential cancellation of projects, it is just disappointment after disappointment.

Western Sydney is a vibrant, growing region that demands attention and requires infrastructure commensurate with its growth. It is an economy that is as big as that of Brisbane. It is the engine room of New South Wales and it deserves better than to be taken for granted. If these projects are indeed at risk of cancellation, it is a slap in the face for the residents and businesses of Western Sydney who depend upon these upgrades. I call upon the new Labor Government to demonstrate its commitment to Western Sydney. I acknowledge that the member for Campbelltown is in the Chamber. I urge him to speak up on behalf of his residents, who also are part of Western Sydney, to ensure that these projects are delivered for Western Sydney. I plead with the Minns Government: Do not cancel these essential projects. Do not neglect Western Sydney. Deliver the critical infrastructure that this region so deserves. Prove that this Government can walk the talk and stand up for Western Sydney.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:26): The member for Badgerys Creek is exactly right: A government will be measured by the legacy it leaves, and we have been left with a \$187 billion debt. The interest repayments alone are \$7 billion. There is an \$11 billion deficit in New South Wales. The former Government had 12 years to do all the things that the member for Badgerys Creek spoke about, but ultimately it did nothing. It did not fund them. It did not negotiate. It did not engage with local stakeholders. It delivered absolutely nothing. We are cleaning up the failures of the former Liberal Government that did absolutely nothing for Western Sydney and south-west Sydney. But we are back, and we will deliver for the people of Western Sydney and south-west Sydney, while mopping up the mess left by the former Government.

SURF LIFE SAVING MID NORTH COAST AWARDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (18:27): I acknowledge the amazing volunteers from Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast who were recently recognised for their dedication and commitment during the 2022-23 season. The Mid North Coast Surf Life Saving night of nights was celebrated on 1 July 2023 to recognise our extraordinary volunteers who go above and beyond to maintain safety at our local beaches. Held at Macksville-Scotts Head Surf Life Saving Club, the awards of excellence recognised the accomplishment of members from eight clubs covering an area from Macksville in the north to Camden Haven in the south.

I thank the executive committee, President Rod McDonagh, Vice President Mick Lang, Director of Administration Douglas Menzies, Director of Finance Jenny Cooper, Director of Lifesaving Paul Rayner, Director of Education Kim Rayner, Director of Surf Sports Sandra Slattery, Director of Member Services Gary Hawkins, and Director of Marketing and Communications Brienna Elford. I have no doubt that their leadership and experience are a crucial component to the development and growth of surf lifesaving on the mid North Coast.

Today I congratulate all of the award recipients for their distinguished service displayed over various operations and roles in surf lifesaving. Awarded the Surf Lifesaver of the Year was Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club member Andrew Stevens. Andrew has completed 60 patrol hours and trained two bronze medal squads. He is part of the club's engagement task force and continues to uphold the values of surf lifesaving. Volunteer of the Year was presented to Bruce Caldwell from South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club for his role as a director of competition, which has overseen the reinstatement of Sunday Morning Point Score and reinvigorated the competition arena.

Youth Lifesaver of the Year went to Erin Cook from South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club for commitment in attending a majority of all callouts and her leadership as an inflatable rescue boat, or IRB, captain and patrol captain. Bronte McAllister was named the Youth Volunteer of the Year for her participation in the Surf Life Saving NSW Youth Opportunity Makers Program and sharing what she has learned with the young members. Bronte also mentors the nippers in her role as assistant age manager. The Rookie of the Year was awarded to Aden Mills for receiving a bronze medal and his IRB crewperson accreditation. Aden has also won a number of medals in branch championships and completed training in Dee Why Youth Development Camp.

Support Operations Member of the Year went to Tony Silvia from Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast in recognition of 12 years as duty officer and rescue water craft operator. Dave Moore was awarded Patrol Captain of the Year for his meticulous organisation skills, professionalism and experience in standard operational procedures. Sandra Slattery from Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club was named the Administrator of the Year for holding multiple committee roles pertinent to the club's operation and function. Trainer of the Year was Dylan Sainsbury for forming a partnership with Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club and St Joseph's Regional College to deliver student opportunities in community involvement and training qualifications.

Assessor of the Year saw Paul Stiff awarded for his acknowledgement as lead assessor in 24 assessments and skills maintenance sessions. The award also recognised Paul's time in mentoring probationary trainers and assessors. Facilitator of the Year was awarded to Kim Rayner from Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club for her inspirational efforts in completing more than 50 facilitations this season. Kim's commitment has contributed to Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast being the only branch to complete all advanced resuscitation technique updates for all trainer assessor facilitators.

The Surf Sports Team and Surf Boat Crew of the Year Award was presented to The Orcas, comprising of members Wayne Dickson, Tim Kobelke, Harry Freudenstein, Ted Strong and Sam Kobelke. Claiming the Masters Athlete of the Year was Larry Brook. Mr Brook achieved first in the 60-plus surf race in the country championships, first in the 70-plus surf race, and second in the 70-74 tube race. Coach of the Year was Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club's Mick Lang for creating a five-year plan for ongoing development for competitors and Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast interbranch management team. The Outstanding Competitive Performance Award was presented to Luke Morris for winning a cluster of first medals and placings from branch, country and State championship levels. Rod McDonagh was announced the Official of the Year after racking up three decades across all surf sports arenas while officiating at all carnival levels from local through to world championships.

Male Senior Age Champions were Flynn Charge, Tobias Hall, Ben Mockridge, Lyndsay Mollar, Richard Hewens, Andrew Packwood and Rex O'Rourke. Female Senior Age Champions were Hannah Thompson, Raina Anderson, Camryn Dal Broi, Erin Cook, Natasha Jones, Debra Bartlett and Dale Mowbray. Male Junior Age Champions were Riley Prior, Corbin Jones, Robbie Bowman, Cooper Dawson, Cruz Schubert, Ashton Frazor, Jack McGrath and Hudson McNeil. Female Junior Age Champions were Abigail Thomas, Stella Moore, Amaya Colthorpe, Momiji Ryan, Charli Robinson, Charlotte McIntyre and Sophie Soeyland.

On the night, the annual Distinguished Service awards were presented to members David Brunsdon, Sue Croad, Peter Daniels, Ian Everingham, Rob McCue, Kim Rayner, Tony Silvia and Tony Wright. Once again, I sincerely thank all the volunteers for donating their time and energy to surf lifesaving. Their instrumental efforts have saved countless lives, and families from heartache, and for that we are forever grateful.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:32): I commend the member for Port Macquarie for acknowledging so many wonderful volunteers in her community. Obviously, she lives on the coast and is passionate about supporting. I have listened to many things in this place, but, importantly, I listen to great members, no matter what side of the House they sit on. This member is acknowledging the great work of volunteers of the community, particularly volunteers in her community on the coast. On behalf of the Government,

I congratulate all of the recipients of awards, but, most importantly, I thank them for all that they do, the selfless work and time that they give in volunteering, particularly along the coast, to ensure that people are safe in our waters and on our beaches. I again acknowledge the member for Port Macquarie and congratulate her on a wonderful private member's statement.

Bills

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION) BILL 2023

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:34 until
Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 12:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

HILLS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB – 50 MATCH MEDALLIONS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—Hills United Football Club (Hills United) provides an important pathway for youth and adults within the Hills region to play at elite football level. Hills United was formed in the mid-1990s through a partnership between Castle Hill United and Baulkham Hills Soccer Club to create a pathway for elite and representative footballers in the Hills District. Hills United field teams in men's competitions and more recently teams playing in the Football NSW League One Women's competition and the Australian Powerchair Football Club Championships. On 31 July 2023 I met the incredible women players from Hills United who have played fifty matches. Medallions were presented to Sarah Easthope, Aisling Davidson, Bianca Galayini, Ellen Berios, Leah Tallon, Imogen Lane, Isabella Sciberras, Emma Jackson, and Brooke Hastie for fifty matches. The women who received the awards were the first women from Hills United playing in the Football NSW League One Women's competition to reach the fifty-game milestone. Hills United continues to strive to provide opportunities for women to play elite football in the Hills region. I was very pleased to be able to recognise and congratulate each player on reaching the fifty-game milestone.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMADERRY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Rotary Club of Bomaderry who held its annual changeover on Monday 26th June 2023 at Bomaderry Bowling Club. I was extremely pleased to attend this event and acknowledge the office bearers including President Paul McLean-Williams, Secretary Verne Mutton, Treasurer John Merritt, Bulletin/Executive Secretary John Drinkwater, Program – Barry Faulks, International – Allan Chidziva, Public Officer – Club Administration – Simon Apperley, Club Protection Officer – Bina Adhikary. The Rotary Club of Bomaderry was involved in various initiatives such as the John Ryan Memorial Scholarship, the roster for the Nowra Show gates for which I have volunteered for many years, and Nowra Show Young Woman. I acknowledge Lisa Horner who represented the Nowra Show Society at the 2023 Royal Easter Show with distinction. I acknowledge Rotarian Bert Hawke and John Greenaway who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from President Paul McLean-Williams and Rotarians Barry Faulks and John Merritt. Unfortunately, this was the Rotary Club of Bomaderry's final meeting following the difficult decision made at the AGM to hand back the Club's charter. The Members have a combined membership of over 320 years of putting service above self and serving our community.

LYLE DAVIS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I would like to bring attention to the efforts of Orange gym owners, Lyle Davis. While Orange was spared the devastation of last November's major flooding event in the Central West, the residents have been lending a hand to help their smaller 'sister' communities recover. An example is Lyle who picked up the tools last week to help out a fellow fitness industry member in flood-ravaged Molong. Downtown Fitness gym owner Heba Elkurdi has worked hard to get her gym back up after Bank Street was inundated over eight months ago and has set an optimistic August 11 reopening date. Hearing through a mutual friend she was battling a tough timeline, Lyle arrived on her doorstep last week, tool kit in hand, to help her assemble her new equipment. There is no link between the businesses and Lyle is in the middle of his own renovations at One-Strength Gym, but he believes the fitness industry is 'better when we all work together'. It's a

sentiment that has been repeated across the Central West since November and I thank Lyle for this willingness to help a fellow business owner get back on her feet.

ANNIE HAILES

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to congratulate Orange's Annie Hailes on an amazing career at Orange's local newspaper, the Central Western Daily. Ms Hailes, or Annie as she is affectionately known by her colleagues and the wider Orange community, has manned the front desk of the CWD for 33 years. During that time, she has built up life-long relationships with CWD readers and advertisers through her role as a Classified Sales Representative, a role she refers to as 'hatch, match and dispatch'. From celebrating with people submitting a birth notice, to crying with others as they place a loved-one's death notice or a first In-Memorial, Annie has always provided a warm and friendly face at the CWD's front desk or over the phone. Ms Hailes first joined the CWD team in 1990 in a part-time role but was quickly offered a fulltime roll when one became available. Since then she has become a walking encyclopedia on classified advertising while also witnessing the changes that have hit the embattled country newspaper industry. A reliable, extremely loyal and friendly face, Ms Hailes will be missed by her colleagues and customers when she pulls up stumps on August 11.

TOM AND SAM DRANE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise rising motorsport stars, Tom and Sam Drane. From Forbes, the brothers are making a mark on the competitive flat-track motorcycle scene in the USA, with Tom, 17, racing professionally while Sam, 13, opened doors in the US by securing an Australian junior title on the Gold Coast. After winning numerous Australian and Asian racing titles, Tom gained attention in the US in May by winning a round of the American Motorcyclists Association's flat track championships. He was riding for the Yamaha-backed Estenson Racing Team where he has secured one of four riding positions for the 2023 US season. Sam has just returned to Forbes from a three-month stint in the US where his own skills earned him an invitation to race with Estenson as an amateur. Proud parents Matt and Lisa were on hand to cheer to boys on. Sam's US success included a national title from his first campaign on a 250cc bike, a class he had to get special dispensation to ride in at the time as he was only 12. In 2022, Sam was also named America's Youth rider of the Year after winning three titles in the 85cc class.

AREK DESAK

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Ms Arek Desak, for her work with the South Sudanese and CALD Communities Volunteering, Diversity, and Inclusion Project, which launched on 9th July 2023. Ms Desak, has committed herself to developing a project which aims to support the Sudanese community. This project aims to enhance cultural awareness and competency by promoting available volunteer opportunities through targeted recruitment processes. This project will provide volunteers with invaluable support through training and engagement with a focus on building strong volunteer relationships which will support our communities to deliver much needed cultural appropriate community programs and activities. I commend Ms Desak for her hard work and dedication to the Sudanese community and look forward to her future achievements.

PETER DE VRIES

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—Horse racing in the Illawarra and the Kembla Grange Racecourse in particular would not be what it is today without the 25 year contribution of Peter De Vries. Peter caught the racing bug when he snuck into Warwick Farm in 1959 but it took until 1998 to join the board of the Illawarra Turf Club, becoming chairman in 1999 and CEO and Executive Chairman in 2000 a position he held until 2012 when he continued as CEO – a massive commitment by any measure. Over this time he has faced some challenges, successfully steering the Illawarra Turf Club through equine influence – for a time Kembla Grange being the only track able to host racing – along with the COVID-19 outbreak. He also oversaw the physical transformation of the Kembla Grange track, including the poly track which has been a great benefit to trainers and more improvements are underway. He oversaw the introduction of the \$1 million "The Gong" which has been a huge success. I wish Peter and Elaine health and happiness in their retirement but I expect that, as a Life Member of the club he is bound to be at the track on future race days.

MAORI WARDENS OF AUSTRALIA

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Maori Wardens Australia is a voluntary service working within the Maori community to promote the teachings of the Tupuna (ancestors) to help with kaupapa for Maori people living in locally. Maori Wardens have been active since 1860 and have a proud tradition. Maori Wardens Australia have branches in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia with a branch in my electorate at The Ponds. Recently Maori Wardens Australia celebrated their annual Matariki Day festival at Nurragingy Reserve in conjunction with BCC. I was fortunate to attend along with NZ Consul General Bill Dobbie and Mayor Tony Bleasdale. Matariki Day holds immense significance to the Maori community, symbolising the start of the

Maori New Year. It honours the past, celebrates new beginnings, and encourages unity within the community. A huge crowd attended his year's festival enjoying stallholders, food vendors and performances showcasing the heritage and traditions from Maori culture. I extend my gratitude to Rawiri Ti and the Maori Wardens Australia, for an exceptionally well organised event. Their endeavours have brought immense joy and fostered unity within our community. I look forward to celebrating the diverse cultural tapestry of our society together in the future.

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—I rise to commend a wonderful community interaction that has recently taken place in the Riverstone Electorate between senior citizens and school students. In Riverstone, the Men's Shed, run by the Northwest Services Centre, offers an open and inclusive space for older aged men to gather and undertake in tasks such as gardening and metal work. Just a few kilometres away, The Ponds School, for students with special needs and lead by Principal Mrs. Leonie Donaldson, is always seeking to collaborate with the local community to provide students with unique and real-life learning experiences. Recently, the Men's Shed were asked by The Ponds School to work with the students on a program designed to enhance student outcomes. The men utilised their workshops to create the penholders for the students and presented them during an assembly. This interaction highlights the fruitful nature of engagements seen within the Riverstone community. Collaboration between schools and community organisations is just one way our electorate continues to strengthen social connections and flourish. This interaction highlights the very best elements of our local community and I am proud to see it happening in the Riverstone electorate.

XAVIER

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to Xavier from Barnier Public School on his qualifying for the National Cross-Country Championships. Last year, Xavier set foot on the Cross-Country Championships with determination, finishing in a respectable 16th position. With the ambition of entering the Nationals, he set the goal of securing a place in the top 6 this year. Through sheer hard work and unwavering commitment, he has achieved this goal. Xavier not only achieved his goal, but soared even higher and placed an outstanding 5th at the State Cross Country Championships. This triumphant feat has earned him a well-deserved ticket to the National Cross Country Championships. In an area with so many youth and such a diverse range of talents among them, it makes sense that one of this generations next athletes is also a constituent. Xavier's accomplishments reflect his personal triumph and highlight the excellence and potential that resides within our local youth. I wish Xavier the best as he represents our state in the upcoming National Cross-Country Championships. May his determination and hard work continue to push him forward.

LEIGH JOEL SCOTT

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate Leigh Joel Scott, from Oak Flats, who is living it up in Los Angeles and has gone from finding success on the screen to rubbing shoulders with big names in the voice booth and writing worldwide hit podcasts. Leigh voices cartoons and writes comedy movies. Growing up in the Illawarra, Leigh grabbed every opportunity he could to improve and pursue his acting dream. Leigh attended dozens of acting classes in Australia starting at the Roo Theatre, studying at Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts, going to Sydney conservatories for classes, and eventually to LA on intensive courses to work with casting directors. He is now a creator, writer and star of the kids' adventure podcast Zoey's Mythical Menagerie, which cracked Australia's top 100 Spotify podcasts in just a few weeks. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour community, I would like to express our warmest congratulations to Leigh and wish him well in his international creative performing and writing endeavours.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate Corpus Christi Catholic High School students who recently presented hundreds of handmade soaps, hygiene packs (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, tissues, deodorant) and dozens of bags of winter appeal items (blankets, beanies, socks, cans) to their local Vinnies Van representative, Kelly McCrohon. The students also raised \$6,967.54 for St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal through social justice BBQs at their Athletics Carnival and Corpus Christi Day. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour community, I would like to forward a big thank you to the Corpus Christi Catholic High School community who are helping to support local people experiencing disadvantage and hardship, and those affected or at risk of homelessness.

OAK FLATS PUBLIC SCHOOL – SOLAR ENERGY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate Oak Flats Public School as they have help cut their carbon footprint and are also saving money by switching to solar energy. The school is the first in the Shellharbour electorate to join Shellharbour City Council's pilot of the Solar my School program, which helps schools to install solar power. The installation of a 29 kW system at the school will reduce its energy bills by

24 per cent and reduce carbon emissions by 37 tonnes per year. That's enough to power the equivalent of 208 school computers or seven Australian homes. It's also the equivalent of taking 13 cars off the road each year. Shellharbour City Council was the second regional council in Australia to join the Solar My School program. Funding for the pilot program was provided as part of the Council's Small Environmental Projects Fund. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour community, I would like to express our congratulations Oak Flats Public School for adopting this initiative and their commitment to protecting the environment.

LINDA PRINCE AND LYNN KRISTENSEN

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I wish to recognise and acknowledge the wonderful work of volunteers Ms Linda Prince and Ms Lynn Kristensen, who founded the Fix it Sisters Shed in 2015. The Fix it Sisters Shed is a not-for-profit organisation that empowers women of all ages in the St George community with practical and creative skills, through a series of educational workshops. Ms Prince and Ms Kristensen lead the organisation with the aim to improve social connection and the wellbeing of women in the community. The organisation focuses on supporting new migrants, refugees, widows and domestic violence victims to become independent, skilled and confident members of their community. Both Linda and Lynn have been working tirelessly to change social norms and enable women to reach their potential and find new passions in a creative, safe and supportive environment. I would like to thank Ms Prince and Ms Kristensen and express my deepest appreciation for the amazing work they do in ensuring our community of women and mothers feel supported and included.

RAYMOND KWOK

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I wish to acknowledge and celebrate Kogarah resident and lifelong volunteer, Mr Raymond Kwok for his dedication and commitment to Blakehurst High School. Mr Kwok has acted as secretary of the school's P&C for the past six years. In this role, Raymond made numerous representations on behalf of the school to Georges River Council and different Ministerial offices to express parent and staff concerns about student safety and the quality of school amenities. Mr Kwok was greatly responsible for getting a pedestrian crossing built in front of the school which has significantly improved safety for students getting to and from school. In addition to this, Mr Kwok has supported major movements in the school such as the relevant value system, the increase of technology and a new school uniform. Raymond regularly presents new initiatives to the P&C committee that aims to improve student outcomes and foster a thriving and flourishing school community. I want to thank Mr Kwok for being a strong advocate for Blakehurst High School and most importantly his local community.

MANISHA SHIRODKAR

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful work of volunteer, Ms Manisha Shirodkar, who continuously dedicates her time and effort to helping her local community. Ms Shirodkar's volunteering journey started more than 10 years ago as Manager of her son's cricket team, when no one else was willing to put their hand up. Hesitant at first, Manisha quickly discovered that she was a natural in the administrative side of cricket which many people dislike and avoid. Since then, as Secretary of Kingsgrove Cricket Club, Manisha has scored countless cricket games and helped enrol kids that are often disadvantaged and lack English literacy into various programs. Manisha also volunteers at the Hindi Community School in Kogarah. She started out teaching intermediate classes, but now teaches HSC students and has even had one of her students top the HSC board. On top of all this, Ms Shirodkar actively supports her local community with any issues they have – whether it is finding a doctor, cleaner, handyman, providing mental support or even delivering food. I would like to express my deepest appreciation towards Ms Shirodkar for her dedication and commitment to helping the St George community.

ALBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES 173 YEAR-HISTORY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I extend my congratulations to Albury Public School as it celebrates a remarkable 173-year-history during NSW Education Week this August. From humble beginnings the school has built an outstanding reputation while standing witness to the evolution of changes throughout the years and especially in public education, in curriculum and inclusiveness. The school was the 25th NSW government school when it opened its doors in July 1850 as a National School with 100 students per teacher. With gratitude, I acknowledge the legacy of Albury Public School - Principal Lianne Singleton, its dedicated educators, parents, and students past and present.

KELLYVILLE KOLTS, PRATTEN CUP & HARWOOD SHIELD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—The Kellyville Kolts and Winston Hills Bears recently faced off in the annual Pratten Cup & Harwood Shield football match. The match was played on 24 June 2024. Kolts were successful, 5 goals to 1 goal. The day was a festival of football but more importantly it was about raising funds

and awareness for Leaping Livers and the Liver Transplant Unit. Leaping Livers raises awareness of childhood liver disease and organ donation. Funds raised for Leaping Livers amounted to \$15K. Funds were also raised to assist Brooke Nestorovic who is 16-year-old Kolts player. Brooke was diagnosed with biliary atresia and will need a liver transplant. We wish you well Brooke. The day could not have been possible without the commitment of the clubs, administrators, players, and fans. I congratulate the Kolts President Mr Bob Harrold. Bob has been the President since 2016. Bob's commitment to the club and to the community has meant the club is successful and able to give back to the community. I congratulate, recognise, and thank the Kolts, the Bears and to everyone involved for raising funds which will assist Leaping Livers and the Liver Transplant Unit.

CHARLESTOWN NETBALL ASSOCIATION INDIGENOUS ROUND

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—The Charlestown Netball Association is a fixture of the Charlestown Electorate sporting community, and this year one of the highlights of our local sporting calendar was the Association's Indigenous Round. This year, the round was held on Saturday 15 July. It's always a good day to celebrate our connections with the First Nations of this country, but that Saturday was particularly beautiful—very fitting for such an important event. It was my absolute pleasure to go along and help to hand out the themed balls, taste some of the incredible food made with native ingredients, and enjoying the very talented young dancers of Midnight Dreaming. It was great to catch up with some of our dedicated local volunteer organisers, including stalwarts Di Pascoe and Jodie Hadden—and if you've ever wondered what a wattleseed cream scone tastes like, I can tell you it's delicious! I am really looking forward to the Association's Koori Tournament weekend in October. It's always a fantastic event and this year I am sure it's going to be huge! Thank you to the organisers, players, dancers and supporters who made me feel so welcome and made the day such a success.

DOMINIC MURPHY

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I am a long-standing and avid supporter of the Central Newcastle Rugby League Club—better known as the mighty Butcher Boys!—and I am pleased to acknowledge Dom Murphy, who recently played his hundredth First Grade game with the Club. The weather was perfect on Sunday 2 July as Dom ran onto the field with the Club he's been playing for since he was five years old. A one-time Gateshead boy, Dom is a plumber by trade and an absolute force of nature when in play. Dom is a great all-rounder, having played a range of positions on the side over the last few years: one match in lock, the next round in second-row, one weekend he's a hooker and the next he's in the centres. He's seen it all with Central. From a high of scoring an under 19s premiership in 2015, to the low of nearly ending up with the wooden spoon in 2016, he and the team reached the mountaintop in 2018 with a historic club championship in 2018. A huge congratulations to Dom on his achievement, and I wish him and the team all the best. Go Butcher Boys!

LYNDELL ROBERTSON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Music is one of life's great joys, and Charlestown Electorate local Mrs Lyndell Robertson has helped bring that joy to tens of thousands of students over thirty-three years at Elernmore Vale Public School. In fact, she told NBN News that "One of the greatest joys I have is when I watch the students I've taught play an instrument, and the joy on their face." Mrs Robertson came to Elernmore Vale Public after finishing her studies at the University of Newcastle's Conservatorium of Music in 1990, and became a fixture of the school. In that time, she established the School Band, the percussion-based Bucket Band, Junior and Senior Choirs, the Year 6 Voca Ensemble and an ensemble based around her most beloved instrument—the ukulele. She also produced Creative and Performing Arts evenings, school concerts and musicals, and Carols by Candlelight. At her farewell, Mrs Robertson was presented with a bouquet of flowers by parents from the school—parents Mrs Robertson had once taught! Mrs Robertson, I add my heartfelt congratulations and thanks for your years of teaching to those offered by the Elernmore Vale Public School community. Thank you for sharing all that joy.

SYDNEY COMMUNITY GROUP, SPACEWALK FASHION EVENT

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I record the commendable service to our community of the Sydney Community Group [SCG]. On Saturday, July 8th, SCG hosted the Space Walk Fashion Show at the Castle Hill RSL Club. The event showcased a fusion of outer space fascination and India's vibrant cultural heritage, representing the diverse spirit of our city. The Fashion Show, curated by events director Manjula Vishwanath, was an awe-inspiring spectacle that captivated all in attendance. The collection of sarees by Poornima Menon, each representing different states, beautifully portrayed the rich tapestry of India's cultural diversity. This event was not merely about fashion it was about using art to support philanthropic causes. SCG's commitment to social

welfare was evident throughout the day. The funds raised from the Fashion Show were generously donated to the Country Women's Association [CWA], a commendable organization known for its tireless efforts to empower women in rural areas. SCG's contribution will undoubtedly have a transformative impact on the lives of those in need, exemplifying the power of collective action. I thank the President of SCG Indu Hari Krishna and to all those involved for promoting the benefits of harmony through multiculturalism within our community.

JANETTE DORN – BOOMI ANZAC BOOK

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the great achievement of Janette Dorn for her book, *Boomi's WWI Diggers – Men Behind the Name*, launched at Boomi recently. The book gives a historical timeline of WWI, from recruitment through to major battles, the first ANZAC Day in 1916, profiles of each of the 71 men listed on the honour roll from the Boomi area, as well as a Trooper Diaries. I congratulate Ms Dorn on this historical record the book provides, for honouring those Servicemen from the Boomi district and for providing a valuable insight into what was endured, as told through the eyes of Trooper James Bennett of the 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment and Clifford Wallis of the 33rd Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces. I commend Ms Dorn on the years committed to the preparation and publishing of this book. The details within the book rely on researching and collecting countless historical records and photographs, discussions with families, community members and organisations, to create this impressive historical account of the connection and importance of Boomi Servicemen to the Great War.

LEBANESE MUSLIM ASSOCIATION – PROPHETIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—The Lebanese Muslim Association [LMA] consistently engages with various programs and talks on different topics that are specifically catered to various ages and audiences. Just last month, Dr Moodi Dennaoui delivered an insightful talk and launched the Prophetic Health Program at Lakemba Mosque, reinforcing the connection between health and prophetic medicines. The internationally recognised nutrition expert effectively engaged with the large audience about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet in the modern era and made connections between the Prophetic lifestyle and diet from Islamic history. Those in attendance shared that the talks were practical and intriguing, as they admitted they had overlooked the connection between physical health and how our well-being plays a crucial role within the Islamic faith. The industry-known 'Diet Doctor' is respected and known for his unconventional approach to nutrition, as this was reflected by the feedback shared by many of the attendees. I would like to acknowledge the Lebanese Muslim Association and the City of Canterbury-Bankstown for making this event happen, and a particular congratulations to Dr Moodi Dennaoui for further promoting the significance of well-being and health to people of all ages and faiths.

ROLY POLY EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—It's important to continually recognise young businesses in our electorate for their achievements, particularly those who serve the community both young and elder. In saying this, I would like to extend my congratulations to Roly Poly Educational Childcare for achieving the first Zero Barriers Excellence Award, earlier this year, for their inclusive services towards neurodivergent and people with disabilities. Roly Poly Educational Childcare is family-run and has over 20 years of experience in preschool education. They continue to provide services and programs to further promote independence, critical thinking, and confidence in young children. This highly compassionate and committed team has consistently implemented opportunities to ensure the next generation of free thinkers are educated using state-of-the-art facilities and educational resources provided to them. Further, their inclusive and accepting approach towards neurodivergent and students with disabilities has successfully been recognised in our community as the Centre continues to shine with impactful conduct. I am pleased to know that we have effective and inclusive educational services in our electorate, and will continue to ensure that services, such as Roly Poly Educational Childcare, are celebrated. I congratulate the team for their efforts and outstanding achievements.

AMUST 10TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—It's so refreshing to read articles and published pieces from local multicultural voices, and that's exactly what AMUST has been able to portray over the past 10 years. As a reputable and noble element in our community, AMUST, a non-profit organisation has been a successful platform in ensuring positive and impactful news is shared from a multicultural lens within the Muslim community. In 1991, the Australian Muslim Times [AMT] was established as a multilingual community paper, reinforcing the multiple voices of the Australian Muslim community. Over time, the stories that were shared from various cultures encouraged the AMT to re-establish their identity to become more inclusive of their neighbouring

countries. In 2014, they were reintroduced as Australasian Muslim Times [AMUST]. The highly reputable publication has successfully constructed an extensive Australasian audience, by establishing a powerful multimedia resource to further promote inclusive and diverse voices to be seen and heard on various topics, on a national and international scale. I would like to congratulate the AMUST team on their outstanding community work in the past 10 years and for continuing to shape narratives to create a positive change within our society.

SEAN CAMPBELL TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I would like to recognise the achievements of Sean Campbell of the Inverell Rifle Club, for being selected to represent Australia in the New Zealand for the trans-Tasman Test in January 2024. I congratulate Sean on his representative selection following his nomination, successful competitive ranking assessments and his winning performance in the Victorian King's Shoot. I commend Sean on the work he has put into his preparation for selection and commitment to the sport. The final step for Sean will be in October, when he completes the pressure testing trials held in Brisbane, before heading off to New Zealand for the trans-Tasman Test and donning the green and gold for Australia!

GRANT HILL

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Bathurst is fortunate to have one of the best golf courses in country New South Wales. The championship layout is a test but tell that to local member Grant Hill who has achieved a remarkable feat in a recent competition round. While there have been many hole-in-one efforts on par three holes over the years, Grant bucked that trend with a stunning albatross effort on the par four, 298 metre fourth hole. This feat has left local golfers scrambling for the record books to find any other occasion that someone has landed an albatross hole-in-one at the Bathurst course. However, at this stage it's believed to be the only one recorded. Grant, a talented player with a plus two handicap, hit the perfect drive on the straight and narrow hole and lost sight of it when it rolled up onto the green. However, Grant didn't spot the ball on the green and presumed it might have found its way into the rough. When the search didn't yield any results, he decided to look in the cup and the rest is history. Congratulations on the ace Grant, you are no doubt the envy of Bathurst golf.

BELL CONVEYANCING

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Each year Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is the major fundraiser for the Cancer Council. The important event was held at venues across Australia on May 25th and Bathurst was no exception in its support. One local business that host a Biggest Morning Tea was Bell Conveyancing. With one in two Australians diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85, funds raised as a result of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea go towards vital cancer research, support services, prevention programs and advocacy. About 50 people attended the event which was organised by licensed conveyancer Amy Vickers and her team at Bell Conveyancing with more than \$2200 being raised on the day. It was the second year in a row they have participated in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. However, this year they also included a special presentation by two guest speakers from the Cancer Council. They provided attendees with the knowledge of where the money from donations go, as well as information regarding funding success rates and current cancer statistics and forecasting. The session focussed on bowel and cervical cancer with The Cancer Council hoping that by 2035, cervical cancer will be eliminated as a public health issue.

TRISTIAN CONN

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—A big shout out to Tristian Conn who performs the head of dispatch role at Meals on Wheels in Bathurst. The 21-year-old has had his share of battles due to chronic health conditions, but that isn't stopping him from becoming a capable member of the local Meals on Wheels team. After leaving school in Year 11 due to health issues and not working for another two years after that, Tristian was introduced to VERTO who helped him realise there were options for finding meaningful work while managing his illness. VERTO, a not-for-profit employment and training provider, introduced Tristian to Meals on Wheels earlier this year and he took to the job immediately. After starting as a plating attendant, Tristian quickly showed that he could take on more responsibility, resulting in a promotion to head of dispatch where he is doing a wonderful job. Tristian's journey is proof that with the right advice and support, life changing opportunities are out there. With Meals on Wheels Bathurst producing about 40,000 meals annually from its local headquarters, the work Tristian is doing is making a big difference in the community and he is to be applauded for this.

WALCHA JUNIORS JOIN STATE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I would like to recognise the achievements of the Walcha Rugby Juniors selected to play in the Central North and New England representative sides at the 2023 NSW State Championships. I congratulate locals Koby Brennan and Toby Ireland selected in the 14s for Central North side and Jack Bullen, Will Hall and Charlie Crawford who were selected in the 15s New England team. They lined up to play six games over three days, coming up against some tough competition, with the highlight

being the under 14s win against their city counterparts, Randwick. I thank Toby Crawford the Team Assistant, Bella Crawford the Assistant Referee, Ian Crawford the Coach and Nick Hall the Team Manager for their support to the players throughout the Championships. I commend each of the players on their hard work in their preparation leading up to the Championships and your commitment to the sport. Each of you are great ambassadors for Rugby.

NORTHBRIDGE SAILING CLUB PRIZEGIVING – NORTHBRIDGE SAILING CLUB

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—On a perfect Sunday winter's day on Sunday 23 July, I was honoured to be present for the Northbridge Sailing Club's annual prize giving day. Located in one of the most beautiful spots in Sydney on the waters of Middle Harbour, Northbridge Sailing Club is a very special community-based club that produces some of our best sailors! Children learn to sail in calm waters in the Club's Learn to Sail programs and dinghy sailors of all ages enjoy the competition of regular club sailing. Through these activities, members have opportunities to form lifelong friendships. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Commodore Rob and welcome the incoming Commodore Tony. I thank the Club leaders, parents, volunteers and everyone who makes this club incredible. I warmly congratulate all the prize winners on the day in all categories. I thank the Northbridge Sailing Club for hosting me today and I'm looking forward to checking out the Club's new awning soon.

ROTARY CLUB OF CHATSWOOD ROSEVILLE CHANGEOVER

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—On Tuesday night 11 July, I had the honour of attending the Changeover night for the Rotary Club of Chatswood Roseville held at Roseville Golf Club. The Changeover night marked the annual transition of the Club's leadership team for 2023-24. I warmly congratulate the incoming President Andre Hariman and wish him well as he leads Chatswood Roseville Rotary for the next twelve months. I would also like to commend the outgoing President Norm Gibson for his past year of leadership. Chatswood Roseville Rotary is a fantastic club that gives greatly at both a local and global level. From its regular sausage sizzles at Bunnings Chatswood to its graffiti removal program, tree of joy, hampers for lifeline clients and many more initiatives, the Club enriches the local community. At the same time, the Club thinks globally with its sponsorship of humanitarian aid projects around the world and its contribution to relief efforts in Turkey, Northern Syria, India, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Vietnam and Ukraine. I wish Chatswood Roseville Rotary and its new leadership team another great year ahead of doing good.

MOLLIE ANSTEE'S 105TH BIRTHDAY AND OTHER CENTENARIANS AT ESTIA HEALTH WILLOUGHBY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—It was my pleasure and joy to celebrate five of our local centenarians at Estia Health Willoughby. Our eldest centenarian, Mollie Anstee, turned 105 and we celebrated her birthday in style as we sang Happy Birthday and many of her favourite songs. With a lifetime dating back to the First World War, it was wonderful to hear the stories and highlights of Mollie's long life. Mollie was joined by Max Quirk who is 102, Rose Maniscalco and Violet Dwight who are 101, and Peggy Burns who is 100. I thanked each of these remarkable seniors for their long contribution to our country as members of our 'greatest generation' who had lived through depression, war and post-war reconstruction to help make our country what it is today. I thank Kaye Teakle and her team of dedicated staff at Estia for their care of our seniors. This memorable occasion was a powerful reminder that every year of every life is a precious gift worth cherishing.

TEDX KATOOMBA

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains)—On Friday 30 June the global TEDx initiative came to Katoomba for the first time. Congratulations to TEDx organisers, Niall and Wei Clerkin for putting on such an incredible event and bringing a collection of diverse voices to the Blue Mountains. The TEDx platform is one that is already very much admired and revered and the Katoomba event was no exception, showcasing the expertise of a range of speakers who generously shared their thoughts and ideas. This bringing together of people whose sole agenda is to spark conversation and awareness and to invite us all to think deeply and perhaps differently, is inspiring and worthy of recognition. TEDx is a trusted platform and for good reason. It fills me with pride that the Blue Mountains was chosen as a location capable of flying the flag of this grassroots initiative. To Niall and Wei, on behalf of our community, thank you – for the immeasurable hard work and passion that you've dedicated to bringing this event to our doorstep, showcasing the creativity and innovation of the Blue Mountains and welcoming others from further afield to share their knowledge and perspectives. I look forward to attending the next event!

LLANDILO RFS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the Llandilo RFS Annual

General Meeting. The Llandilo RFS Brigade is a vital part of the community, keeping locals safe from natural disasters and other local emergencies. These individuals do this all on a voluntary basis, while maintaining personal and work commitments. It was great to catch up with Councillor Kevin Crameri and Captain Josh Gow, who was re-elected to his position as Captain. Our local community are incredibly lucky to have the support and assistance of the Brigade. I look forward to continuing working with them to ensure our community's safety in the future.

CODIE DAVIDSON

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—It overjoys me to recognise Codie Davidson, a Year 11 student from Xavier College, who has travelled to Poland to represent Australia at the 2023 ICF Junior Canoe Slalom World Championships. What a huge achievement for Codie, who was selected to be a part of the Junior Australian Team in February to represent Australia at the World Championships. I congratulate Codie for this achievement, and commend her dedication to kayaking/canoeing, while undertaking her secondary studies. Codie is an inspiring athlete that has a bright future ahead of her. I cannot wait to hear about Codie's achievements in Poland and know that she has made her community proud. Well done, Codie.

LE TOUR DE TAREE CLUB FORSTER

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to commend CEO Paul Allan, the Community Team and staff at Club Taree for the incredible success of le Tour de Taree fundraiser. This annual event raised \$60,242 for Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern NSW. Over the last 9 years, le Tour de Taree has raised just over an incredible \$366,000 for RMHCNSW. The event mirrors le Tour de France in both distance and dates. The key point of difference is that Club Taree's staff ride collectively on spin bikes in the Clubs Members Lounge. The challenge this year was to ride 3404km in 23 days, and the participants surpassed all expectations by riding a total of 6808.89 km. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Club Taree's le Tour de Taree is a remarkable example of a community-driven initiative creating positive change.

MARGARET'S UNDERFASHIONS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to celebrate a milestone and recognise an exceptional individual in my community. Margaret George, the owner of Margaret's Underfashions in Taree, has now been operating for 30 years. Margaret's Underfashions offers a unique range of services that cannot be found elsewhere in the Myall Lakes. Margaret takes pride in providing customers with expertly fitted bras and offering an outlet for breast prostheses, a vital resource for breast cancer patients and survivors. While there have been challenges along the way, including the devastating floods of March 2021 that required extensive refurbishment, Margaret and her dedicated staff have demonstrated resilience and a commitment to their customers' well-being. Margaret's dedication to her community and her commitment to providing exceptional service at Margaret's Underfashions are truly commendable. I extend my deepest appreciation for her invaluable contributions over the past 30 years.

MR STUART JOHNSON LANSLOWNE RFS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise Mr Stuart Johnson. Stuart is a volunteer of the Lansdowne Rural Fire Service and is part of a contingent of Australians flying to Canada to battle more than 460 fires across the country, 240 of which are burning out of control. The overseas mission will see him gone for more than a month, involving two 14 day stints assisting local firefighters, with two days rest and recovery in between. Stuart is a 13 year veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force, and as such has been involved in numerous international exercises throughout his service. As a member of the RFS he's taken part in two cleanup missions in Lismore following the catastrophic floods that struck the region in 2022. Stuart Johnson shows the true spirit of a community hero, and his selfless service deserves utmost appreciation. I commend his bravery, dedication, and willingness to go above and beyond for the greater good. I thank Stuart for his extraordinary efforts he is a shining example of the compassion and strength within our community.

NORTH RYDE ROTARY EXECUTIVE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I congratulate the 2023-24 North Ryde Rotary executive team on their election, and wish incoming president, Bernie Mason, all the very best for what will no doubt be a successful term. Bernie brings with her a wealth of experience and a commitment to service as a Centurion Donor, and will be joined on her executive by Garry Maloney, President Elect and a Paul Harris Fellow. Bob Selinger joins as Secretary, ensuring effective communication and organisation within the club. Binoe Verghese takes charge of the club's finances as the Treasurer, ensuring responsible management of funds. Sandeep Rathi, the Immediate Past President and a Paul Harris Fellow, offers invaluable insights and will continue on the executive team taking charge of membership. Garry Maloney and Rob Wilkinson share the responsibility for Club Administration and

Service, bringing their experience and dedication to the role. I also acknowledge the following Directors on their election: Mandy Van, Public Image and Youth; Pamela Wood, Community Service and Web Manager; and Peter Mason, Vocational Service. With this diverse and dedicated team, the North Ryde Rotary Club is well-positioned to make a positive impact on the Ryde community during the 2023-24 term. Congratulations!

TEMPLE SOCIETY

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I recently visited the Temple Society Australia [TSA] at their beautiful Meadowbank location. As a faith-based community organization with German origins, TSA operates as an independent and inclusive community, emphasizing compassion, cooperation, and diversity built on trust and respect. During my visit, I had the pleasure of attending a barbecue launch and officially unveiled their new street library, built in collaboration with the Hunters Hill Men's Shed. This new addition will serve as a valuable resource for neighbors and passersby, especially those attending TAFE or school in the nearby education precinct. TSA's launch event on Sunday, 30 July was an engaging affair, and I pay particular tribute to Jan Johnson and Ingrid Turner for making everything happen. Their dedication to our local community is an inspiration to many, with even more to come. I bring to the attention of the Parliament a number of events happening in September, including their social lunch, pizza games night and spring song concert. The Temple Society Australia has made a positive impact on the Ryde community over many decades, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn more about their wonderful work during my visit.

NORTH RYDE ROTARY PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Seb Lentini and Peter Mason from North Ryde Rotary have been honoured with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition, a remarkable achievement that highlights their outstanding dedication and service to their communities. The Paul Harris Fellow program, established by Rotary International, acknowledges individuals who exemplify the organisation's motto of "Service Above Self." Seb and Peter have consistently demonstrated a profound commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Through their tireless efforts, they have inspired and uplifted countless individuals, fostering a sense of unity and compassion within their communities. Their selflessness and unwavering dedication to service have become a shining example for others to follow. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is a testament to Seb and Peter's exceptional leadership, empathy, and passion for helping others. It serves as a symbol of appreciation for their substantial contributions, whether through philanthropy, community projects, or other initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of those around them. Seb Lentini and Peter Mason embody the spirit of Rotary International and the values it upholds. Their remarkable achievements will undoubtedly continue to inspire and motivate others to make a difference in the world.

WORLD CUP LIVE SITE ROUSE HILL

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Kellyville)—I would like to congratulate Rouse Hill Town Centre, where my office is located, for creating a space where football fans can enjoy every minute of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ live and loud on a mega screen in the Market Square. The Football Fan Zone is decked out with bean bags, and during for every Matildas game, people can enjoy delicious dining offers from Centre retailers pre-game, and grab snacks and refreshments from a selection of pop-up retailers and food trucks during the game. Residents can also watch all the action of daily games in the Football Fan Zone, while cheering on their favourite team, no matter what country they are from. Its great to see the enthusiasm for this historic World Cup held here in Australia. As a long-time champion of the sport of football, its fantastic to see the interest in the sport growing through this world-wide exposure. I invite anyone who wishes to experience the vibe of live site to come to Rouse Hill Town Centre to see the Matildas take on Denmark from 8.30pm on Monday 7th August 2023.

DANCE INDUSTRIE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—Congratulations to Dance Industrie for their well-deserved recognition as 2023 finalists in the Performing Arts category of the Mt Druitt/St Marys Local Business Awards. Dance Industrie, a local performing arts studio, offers classes catering to all dance styles and welcomes individuals of all abilities. Their commitment to providing inclusive opportunities to everyone to embrace the art of dance is truly commendable. I hold a special place in my heart for this local business and deeply appreciate the positive impact they have on young people within my community. This prestigious recognition is a testament to their remarkable talent and the exceptional way they bring out the best in their students. Through teaching, mentoring, and guiding, Dance Industrie cultivates a spirit of creativity, discipline, and joy in everyone they touch. I extend my warmest congratulations to Dance Industrie for this well-earned recognition and for making a difference in the lives of countless young dancers in our community.

ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I want to celebrate the exceptional achievement of the students at St Clair High School who competed with exceptional skill and spirit in the recent Inclusive Ed Boccia State Championship. This year, the team demonstrated impressive performance and resilience to finish as the runners-up in the championship. This follows on from their outstanding achievement of claiming the top spot in the previous year's championship. It is a testament to their consistent dedication, skill, and passion for the sport. Participation in events like the Boccia State Championship not only showcases their sporting talents but also the inclusive ethos of St Clair High School. It is heartening to witness the positive impact of inclusive sports, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie amongst the students. These outstanding young individuals are a shining example of the talent, perseverance, and sportsmanship we foster in our community. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students at St Clair High School for their significant achievements. We look forward to them continuing to strive, excel, and represent our community with pride in future competitions.

HASTINGS VALLEY VIKINGS CHARITY ROUND FOR SISTER MARJORIE'S SOUP KITCHEN

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to acknowledge the Hastings Valley Vikings Rugby Union Club in Port Macquarie and commend them for raising \$8,620 for Sister Marjorie's Soup Kitchen. The Club are one of the standout footy clubs on the Mid North Coast renowned for their family friendly focus and community minded spirit that promotes inclusion and diversity of all ages from Under 6's to "The Wrinkled Horns" of 35 to 85 years of age. Not uncommon for our Vikings, a recent Charity Auction at the Port City Bowling Club saw specially made, first grade jerseys fetch close to \$9,000 for Sister Marjorie's Soup Kitchen that supports our most vulnerable. Sister Marjorie's Soup Kitchen that has been operating for 25 years caters for 50 to 80 people each week at the Vikings home ground on Oxley Oval. Due to the level of demand and storage requirements, the Vikings are donating funds for a container to store supplies. A worthy cause which continues to help so many people each week, I congratulate Hastings Valley Vikings President David Barnes and his Committee for coordinating another charity round to support Sister Marjorie's efforts in our community.

PETA ALEXOPOULOS – COACH EXTRAORDINAIRE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise to recognise Peta Alexopoulos, the dedicated coach of Port Macquarie's Iona Under-14's girls football team. Peta has demonstrated her commitment to the team, training them for the past nine years. Some players first joined the team when they were just four years old and are still participating today. Being passionate about women's sport and advocating for the many benefits for girls who participate is something that Peta feels strongly about. Creating a space for girls to express who they are, on and off the field is a passion for Peta, providing an accepting and welcoming environment where everyone leaves training with a smile, generates a strong team spirit and enhances each player's well-being and self-confidence. Peta says training day has been her favourite day of the week and it is thanks to mentors such as her that women's football and women's participation in sport has strengthened. To celebrate, the tight knit team will be wide eyed in the crowd at the Sydney Olympic Stadium for the Women's World Cup. This is a dream come true for the players and thank you to Peta for creating this opportunity and for your commitment to the team.

FRANCES HOAD & JAN PELHAM – LIFE MEMBERS MCGF

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise to congratulate Frances Hoad and Jan Pelham from the Midcoast Garden Friends [MCGF] organisation on recently receiving Life Membership honours at the Club's Annual General Meeting [AGM]. Frances Hoad and Jan Pelham are Founding Members of MCGF and have both held leadership positions over the organisation's proud history dating back to 2007. To recognise their outstanding contribution, Garden Clubs of Australia [GCA] Mal McKinlay presented Frances and Jan with a well-deserved Life Membership badge to mark 16 years of service and friendship, benefitting the members who regularly participate in the monthly meetings. MCGF Incorporated aim to promote connections and friendship through a mutual love and passion of gardening. Members meet at the Bonny Hills Community Hall on the first Tuesday of each month to share handy hints and tips for growing a range of plant species. Whether you have a green thumb or simply new to the world of gardening, I recommend joining the MCGF to hear and see first-hand the amazing advancements local residents are achieving in backyard horticulture. Once again, I congratulate Frances and Jan for fostering and strengthening the fine art of gardening in our community.

GYMEA BAY CRICKET CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate GyMEA Bay Cricket Club on being crowned Sutherland Shire Junior Cricket Association Club Champions for season 2022-23. GyMEA Bay fielded 15 teams for the season. They were premiers in the 16B, 10A and 10B competitions and contested the 14B, 12B, 10D finals. This is the first time since 2008-09 that the club has taken out the Club Championship and it is a great achievement for all players, officials, coaches and volunteers. One of GyMEA Bay's up and coming players, Billy Bathgate, had

an excellent season, winning the Andrew Hilditch Trophy for best performer in the 10A competition, scoring 425 runs and terrorising the opposition in taking 32 wickets. The club has many dedicated volunteers who have contributed to its success, and I recognise their efforts, in particular its hardworking officials, Matt Berkley (President), Ian Gatherer (Secretary), John Robb (Treasurer), Simone Catto (Child Protection Officer), John Frazer (Junior Registrar) and James Murray-Prior (Publicity Officer). I wish everyone at Gynea Bay Cricket Club best wishes for another enjoyable and successful cricket season ahead.

CRONULLA SEAGULLS FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Cronulla Seagulls Football Club players on their success in Football NSW State Cup titles on 16 July 2023. The State, Robertson and Bill Cullinan Cups knockout tournaments attracts over 500 entries at Cromer Park. The Seagulls had three teams competing, in All Age Men, 21s and 18s. The Seagulls won an extra time thriller 2-1 over UNSW to win the Bill Cullinan Cup All Age Men's game. Scorers were Kobi Sharp and Thomas Nunn. The Seagulls won the U21 Robertson Cup game 3-0 against Earlwood Wanderers. Scorers were Benjamin Armstrong, Anthony Mann and Luke Roberts. The Seagulls also won the U18 Bill Cullinan Cup 2-1 against Burwood. It is major feat for a team to reach the finals, let alone for a single club to have three teams reach the finals, then all of them. Huge congratulations to the club and players.

BURROWA HOUSE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—On 22 July 2023 Burrowa House reached a significant milestone by celebrating its 30th Anniversary at a Community Open Day. Burrowa House, managed by Boorowa Hostel Incorporated is an aged care facility combined with a mixture of fourteen self-care retirement units and four cottages, offering affordable community housing for retirees who aren't quite ready to sacrifice their independence. To commemorate the special occasion, Burrowa House also officially opened their new wing which includes eight new rooms, now housing twenty individuals, up from twelve. If the crowd was anything to go by, the Open Day was a huge success, giving the community an opportunity to view this important facility combined with kids' activities and market stalls. The evening festivities included live music, a monster raffle, a two-course meal, and an auction. Burrowa House also provides employment to over thirty amazing staff, some of whom I had the pleasure of meeting on the Open Day. I am appreciative of the work they do in service to their local community. I know these facilities will be used to accommodate both current, and future generations. Congratulations once again Burrowa House on thirty wonderful years.

COWRA BALLET TAKE ON THE US

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to congratulate the dancers of the Cowra Ballet School who have been selected to perform in California in 2024. This the third time the Cowra Ballet School will be heading to the United States after first traveling to America in 2016 and then again in 2019, before Covid. Next year's group of dancers is the largest group the Ballet School have sent overseas and includes dancers; Natasha Smaluck, Millie Hampton, Allie Melhuish, Addison Skinner, Alli-Rose Cranney, Kayli Hurst, Charlize Skelton, Jojo Giallourakis, Eliza Beck, Matilda Foster, Elias Richens, Amarlee Ford, Darci Ford, Maylana Kirwan, Mason Kirwan, Chelsea Munn, Sophia Strange, Mia Robbins, Charlee Pollard, Mia Thompson, and Jemma Pokoney. The dancers will be heading over to California in April of 2024 to join other dance schools from across the world. The friendships, experiences, and memories these dancers will make next year will last them a lifetime. I wish all the dances and their teachers the very best of luck next year and hope you all have a wonderful time.

TOMMY GAY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to express my sincerest thanks to a very special boy from Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra, Tommy Gay who is just nine years old. On Friday 30 June 2023, Tommy attended the Cootamundra Can Assist barbecue with his mother, Rebecca Gay and donated \$700 to Can Assist Secretary Gloria Harris. Tommy saw other people in their local communities, right across the region raising money for Can Assist and saw an opportunity, a way in which he could contribute. Tommy raised funds by growing what turned out to be a rather long mullet, before proceeding to have it chopped off for this wonderful cause. It's always a nice moment when you hear about a local fundraiser, however it's quite uncommon for the organiser to be in Year 3 at Primary School. I know the Cootamundra Can Assist Branch and wider community are very proud of Tommy for his selfless efforts, as am I. I wish Tommy every success for whatever his future may hold.

BRU COFFEE BONDI

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—Recently I joined the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Cronulla on a visit to small and family businesses in Bondi, in my electorate of Vaucluse. I want to acknowledge Bru Coffee Bondi and owner Sondra Beram. Bru Coffee is a great local business that is not only loved by many locals but is also doing their part to protect our natural environment. Last year, Bru Coffee Bondi went 100 per

cent single use plastics free, and since then they have sold 215,727 cups of coffee without using single use plastics. They are the first single use cup free café in Bondi, and in Plastic Free July there was no better time to visit and highlight Sondra's amazing work – an incredible local success story. We are truly lucky in our local community to have so many great small and family businesses.

BONDI LIQUOR CO

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—Recently I joined the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Cronulla on a visit to small businesses in Bondi, in my electorate of Vaucluse. I want to acknowledge Bondi Liquor Co, an amazing small business in the heart of Bondi. Bondi Liquor Co is the first operating distillery in Bondi, and they produce gin and vodka. I particularly want to note founder Adrian Henshall who showed us how his team make liquor products that are distinctly local. I thank Adrian for his dedication to small business. While I may not have had the opportunity to have a tippie during work hours, I am looking forward to returning to Bondi Liquor Co soon and sampling their amazing local products.

JEWISH CLIMATE NETWORK

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I'd like to congratulate the Jewish Climate Network on the recent opening of their NSW operations. Founded in Victoria in 2019, the Jewish Climate Network's mission is to harness the capabilities and creativity of the Australian Jewish community to accelerate the transition to a zero emissions world. I recently met with Jewish Climate Network CEO, Joel Lazar and Sydney Project Manager, Dina Bloom to hear about the JCN's expansion and the work they plan to do in Sydney – especially in our electorate of Vaucluse, which has the biggest Jewish population in NSW. Since their creation, the JCN has engaged over 10,000 community members. Their work includes political and community engagement, creating opportunities for investors and philanthropists to accelerate climate solutions, and delivering grassroots programs that empower the Jewish community to take solutions into their own hands. I look forward to seeing their achievements in NSW in the years ahead, and I want to thank Joel and his team for their important work.

LIONS CLUB OF GERRINGONG

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Lions Club of Gerringong's annual changeover event which was held on Friday 6th of July 2023 at the Gerroa Boat Fisherman's Club. I was extremely pleased to attend this event and catch up with members and friends. I acknowledge the incoming board of directors and office bearers including President Peter Jeffrey, outgoing President Mark Westhoff. I also acknowledge the award recipients including Rookie of the Year Peter Jeffries, Lion of the Year Stephen Pottie, Club Ringmaster Dave Peade, Club Gopher Ron Brett, Club Construction Chief Ross Wraight, Club Stirrer of the Year Ron Horner and Bob Stewart who received the James D. Richardson Award for his 30 years of service. I acknowledge The Lions Club of Gerringong's dedication to the community including Bruce Ray processing the 1,000,000th Item through return & earn as a part of their recycling initiative. The club's fundraising efforts have raised money for Supported Accommodation & Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra, provided donations to St. John Regional Training initiative and contributed to researching Childhood cancers. Congratulations and thank you – one and all.

SOUTH COAST WRITERS FESTIVAL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises that the South Coast Writers Festival returns from 18-20 August 2023. The line-up includes acclaimed South Coast authors across genres including Crime, Poetry, Politics, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction and young adult novels. Festival participants were announced at the lively launch on 30th June at Wollongong Art Gallery. Screenings of music by Fourplay, the indie-rock String Quartet, in collaboration with the lyrical narratives of novelist Neil Gaiman, created an immersive experience which set the perfect tone for the launch of this year's festival. The festival prides itself on celebrating local authors, with over 50 per cent of the program featuring homegrown talent, including writer Helena Fox leading science writers Tim and Emma Flannery, and Kate Scott who will appear in conversation with Susan McCreery to discuss their novels. Festival opening night on Friday 18th August features 'Books We Love' with presenters Kate Holden, Caroline Baum, Laura Brading, Kay Proudlove, Joshua Lobb, Julie Janson, Hayley Scrivenor, Dominic Knight and Sarah Nicholson and Adara Enthaler. The Festival closes on Sunday 20th August with the South Coast Writers Centre 2023 Poetry Award at Wollongong Art Gallery.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHSIDE RUNNING GROUP

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I would like to congratulate Northside Running Group on its 30th anniversary and the continued success in the growth of members. What started as a small group of runners has grown into hundreds of diversified NRG members. I recognise the NRG's purpose is to provide a fun, safe and sociable environment to enable runners to achieve their ultimate running goals. The club includes run leaders and qualified coaches to assist runners ranging from beginners to experienced, to improve their running technique,

speed, and endurance. I would like to acknowledge the members in achieving their personal bests and who have remained part of the club for upwards of 5-20 years. Again, I would like to congratulate the Club on its 30 years of successful achievements. I especially acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the President of NRG Kim Ryan, and the positive difference you have made to the members of the club.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Early this month, alongside Senator Andrew Bragg, I had the opportunity to present the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Flags to my 1st Balmoral Scout Unit. Some local Scouts and Venturers will be flying the flags as proud ambassadors when they join the 918 Australian contingent travelling to the 25th World Scout Jamboree 2023 in Korea. World Scout Jamboree is a worldwide youth camp is held every four years to promote cultural exchange and build friendships. It is the world's leading international youth event, with more than 50,000 teenagers from 169 countries. Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the World Scout Jamboree, had the idea to invite young people worldwide to enable them to exchange culture and enjoy adventure. The first World Scout Jamboree occurred in 1920 in the Olympia Halls in Kensington, London, and the event is held every four years at a venue decided by the World Scout conference. I congratulate Anthony Raymond, 1st Balmoral Scout Leader, and the local Scouts and Venturers heading to Korea.

SYDNEY BY KAYAK BETTER BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I acknowledge Sydney By Kayak, who was announced as the Better Business of the Year 2023. This award highlights the exceptional work that Sydney By Kayak does, not only showcasing our beautiful Sydney Harbour but the countless efforts in local conservation and sustainability. I have previously highlighted their most recent work installing living sea boulders in Lavender Bay in partnership with the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. It is just one of their many projects aimed at local conservation and sustainability. This year was the 7th Better Business Partnership Awards that, celebrate and recognise the achievements of the best local businesses who exemplify sustainability in their respective industries across our local community. There were thirty-four small business finalists across eight diverse categories. I recognise Laura and Ben, the co-founders of Sydney By Kayak, for all their efforts. You are both truly incredible. My team and I look forward to getting out on the water with you later in the year. Congratulations once again.

LJ HOOKER

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I wish to acknowledge the thoughtful and exemplary actions of Real Estate Agents, LJ Hooker of Mona Vale. A colouring in competition was conducted by the agency, primarily for children but when Daniel and Simone Young of Terrey Hills asked if their 26-year-old son could enter, employee Jen Kaye readily agreed. Colouring in has proven to be great therapy for their son and LJ Hooker subsequently named him a competition winner. Employee, Rachel Raso personally travelled to the Young household to deliver the prize. Mrs Young said LJ Hooker went above and beyond what was expected. She said it was something most people would not give a second thought to – but in our lives, the Agency's actions meant a lot. She said you never know what other people are going through, so the Agency did what most people don't do, and that is to act with understanding, compassion and kindness. Thank you, LJ Hooker, Mona Vale.

NED SLACK-SMITH

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I congratulate Pittwater local, Ned Slack-Smith, on his efforts representing Australia at the 2023 World Rugby U20 Championships in Cape Town. Ned is an impressive individual both on and off the field, always displaying good sportsmanship in his capacity as the Vice Captain of the Junior Wallabies. Sport is about more than the 80 minutes on the field, its about building a community. As a lifelong fan of rugby, I am honoured to support our thriving local rugby community. Ned's success is cause for celebration among the whole community. He is a source of inspiration for so many of our young players. I am pleased that acknowledgement of Ned's impressive achievements will now be preserved in the records of the oldest Parliament of our country.

SAM HIGGS

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I wish Sam Higgs all the best representing Australia in swimming at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. At just 16 years old, Sam already has a number of significant swimming achievement under his belt. Sam earned his spot representing Australia through hard work and dedication both in and out of the pool, with the support of his team at the Warringah Aquatic Club. It is great to see young people follow their passions and succeed. I am sure this is just the start of a great swimming career for Sam and our community is behind him all the way. I am pleased that these words recognising Sam's impressive achievements will now be preserved in the records of the oldest Parliament of our country.

BOSCO GYMNASTICS

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Gymnastics is not a sport for the faint hearted. It requires dedication, confidence and talent to perform a flip on a narrow wooden beam or to sprint and launch yourself off a pommel horse. However, it is clear the team at BOSCO Gymnastics Club have all of those qualities in spades. That is why many a large group of the club's members have headed off to the World Gymnastrada 2023 in Amsterdam. The competition, which began on July 30, will run until August 5, and will pit some of the world's best gymnasts against one another. In the BOSCO Gymnastics Club alone there will be six members from Heathcote High School. The slogan for this year's competition is 'be amazed' – and that is something I know every will be when they witness our local competitors take to the floor. Good luck to all the competitors at the World Gymnastrada 2023 in Amsterdam – particularly the competitors who hail from the mighty BOSCO Gymnastics Club. I know you will do yourselves, your family, your friends and electorate of Heathcote extremely proud.

**NSW POLICE FORCE STATE CRIME COMMAND EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AWARD –
DETECTIVE SERGEANT BRADLEY GARDINER**

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Bradley Gardiner on receiving a NSW Police Force State Crime Command Excellence in Policing Award on Tuesday 16th May 2023, presented by the Rotary Club of Holroyd. Detective Sergeant Gardiner has 25 years of service with the NSW Police Force, with 19 of those years attached to the State Crime Command. He is currently with the Homicide Squad and was nominated for leading the investigation under SF Beuna which involved the disappearance a homicide of a 9-year-old girl at Mt Wilson. Detective Sergeant Gardiner was responsible for conducting an intensive investigation that included canvassing, witness statements, and digital tracking/monitoring. These investigations resulted in locating a barrel containing human remains, and on the same day a suspect was arrested and charged with murder of the victim. Detective Sergeant Gardiner also prepared a comprehensive and complex brief of evidence against the offender, for use during the trial process. Thank you, Detective Sergeant Gardiner, for your commitment to preventing and responding to crime, and for helping bring justice to victims. Congratulations again on your receipt of this Award.

**NSW POLICE FORCE STATE CRIME COMMAND EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AWARD –
DETECTIVE SERGEANT SHARON BROWN**

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Sharon Brown on receiving a NSW Police Force State Crime Command Excellence in Policing Award on Tuesday 16th May 2023, presented by the Rotary Club of Holroyd. Detective Sergeant Brown has 22 years of service with the NSW Police Force, with 15 of those years attached to the State Crime Command. She is currently a team leader and coordinator with the Financial Crimes Squad and was nominated for her investigation under SF Windorra which investigated the actions undertaken by an accountant who had defrauded hundreds of clients of their tax refunds and associated payments. Detective Sergeant Brown co-ordinated an arrest operation and multiple search warrants which resulted in the offender being charged with 110 offences for fraud and dealing in proceeds of crime. Detective Sergeant Brown is to be commended on her initiative and strong work ethic which positively models behaviour to other officers within the Financial Crimes Squad. Thank you, Detective Sergeant Brown, for your commitment to preventing and responding to crime, and for helping bring justice to victims. Congratulations again on your receipt of this Award.

**NSW POLICE FORCE STATE CRIME COMMAND EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AWARD –
SENIOR CONSTABLE SHAUN HOOPERT**

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Senior Constable Shaun Hoopert on receiving a NSW Police Force State Crime Command Excellence in Policing Award on Tuesday 16th May 2023, presented by the Rotary Club of Holroyd. Senior Constable Hoopert has 5 years of service with the NSW Police Force, with nearly two of those years attached to the State Crime Command. He is currently with the Raptor Squad and was nominated for his commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism to the squad since commencing his duties in 2021. Senior Constable Hoopert has demonstrated high performance while targeting well known organised crime network families and their syndicates, such as proactively responding to intelligence and producing high quality intelligence reports. Senior Constable Hoopert is also commended on his efforts in achieving 1st in HWP Class (Ray Smith Award) and 1st in Radar (Craig Thompson Award) during his enrolment with the Highway Patrol Education Program which he completed in 2022. Thank you, Senior Constable Hoopert, for your commitment to preventing and responding to crime, and for helping bring justice to victims. Congratulations again on your receipt of this Award.

BEEF AT THE BARRIERS CHARITY EVENT

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I congratulate Mitch and Sophie Donovan and the team at Donovan Livestock and Property on their annual 'Beef at the Barriers' charity event held at the South Grafton Cup race day. Some 400 people enjoyed the marquee trackside, enjoying some mouth-watering beef from local chef Erin Brown and the team at Vines at 139. While racing on the track was hotly contested, so was the spirited bidding for the charity auction, and I'm told there were some popular winners in the raffle as well. For the past five years the event has been held on South Grafton Cup race day at the Clarence River Jockey Club, with proceeds going to children's charity, Little Windmills. Little Windmills works with rural and remote families in their darkest hours providing support to families who have children who are seriously sick, injured or have special needs by subsidising things like medical costs, travel and accommodation and providing essential equipment and services. It is certainly a very worthy charity to support. Close to \$30,000 was raised at this year's event, and I know the 400 people are already looking forward to purchasing their tickets for next year's event.

ED FORCADILLA

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I wish to take this opportunity to recognise an outstanding constituent in my community, Ed Forcadilla who has served Central Coast Basketball in many capacities for so many years. Ed was recently acknowledged by the Central Coast Basketball Board for his long-standing contribution to the club. In addition to undertaking numerous coaching roles at both domestic and club representative level, Ed joined the Board in 2010 and most recently served as the Vice Chair, looking after the portfolio of Corporate Governance and Risk. Whilst he is no longer on the Board, Ed's passion for supporting the Club doesn't stop. He will be staying on in an advisory capacity, as well as continuing his various committee roles throughout the organisation. Volunteers like Ed play an important role in community sport development and making regional NSW a great place to live and be active. It is so important we acknowledge those who give their time and energy to our local sporting clubs and helping others in our community. I congratulate and thank you Ed for your ongoing contribution to the sport of basketball here on the Coast.

ISABELLE MORLEY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to congratulate Isabelle Morley, a local student from my electorate for winning a highly sought-after Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship presented at a recent Sydney ceremony in late June of this year. The scholarships are for young women who are passionate about their studies, but who may lack opportunities to achieve their academic potential and dreams. Isabelle, who attends Kincumber High School was one of three Central Coast students to receive the scholarship. The three high school students were among more than 700 current Year 9 students who applied for the scholarships. Each scholarship is worth \$20,000 over four years from Year 9- Year 12 and the support ranges from providing laptop/IT support, online homework help and a personal mentor. Within my electorate Isabelle joins an existing cohort of 4 girls both current scholars and alumnae who attend/have attended schools in my electorate that have been awarded this fantastic opportunity. Congratulations again Isabelle on winning this scholarship, I wish you every success chasing your academic dreams into the future.

JANINE SOUTHWELL 2023 REGIONAL YOUTH TASKFORCE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Earlier this year I had the pleasure of meeting Janine Southwell who is one of two Central Coast representatives selected for the 2023 Regional youth Taskforce. Throughout the year the Taskforce meets with senior representatives from Government and its agencies to have their say about services, programs and infrastructure that is important to them. Janine was one of more than ninety young people who recently took a seat in the Legislative Assembly for a four-day sitting in State Parliament as part of the NSW Youth Parliament program. The young representatives raised and debated important issues, preparing Youth Bills across a range of portfolios. As part of the Inclusion and Diversity committee, Janine worked with her colleagues on a bill to support immigrant and migrant support resources. Making sure everyone feels included, specifically in terms of cultural diversity is an issue Janine is passionate about. I congratulate Janine for being an excellent ambassador and advocate for the needs of our region and her peers. I look forward to working with and hearing Janine's views on how the NSW Government can continue to serve young people across our region.

100 YEARS OF FAIRFIELD LIVERPOOL CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On June 3rd, I joined the Member for Liverpool Charishma Kaliyanda, along with Federal Member for Werriwa Anne Stanley and the always entertaining Kerry O'Keeffe, in celebrating 100 years – or a century not out – of the Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Association at their Annual Dinner Presentation at Liverpool Catholic Club in Hoxton Park. The Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Association can be proud of its achievements, having nurtured and supported the great sporting talent of the South West since 1923. The association has also nurtured great talents who have gone on to play first-class representative cricket,

the most famous of which is former Australian test captain Michael Clarke, who spent his junior career playing for the club. I wish to congratulate the Lions on a successful century, and wish them all the best as they embark on their second. Thank you to Peter Moore, Sharjeel Siddiqui and everyone at FLCA involved in putting this event together, and for all you do for local cricket.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY (THE) UNIVERSITY IMPACT RANKINGS

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—I rise as a proud westie to congratulate my alma mater, Western Sydney University for ranking first in the world for its social, economic and environmental impact in the 2023 Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings. The Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings is the main global ranking system for universities, assessing them on their commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In a first for any Australian university, WSU has now ranked first for two consecutive years. The university ranked first for gender equality, responsible consumption and production, and global partnership beating out 1,700 institutions across 115 countries. WSU is an example for tertiary education institutions across the world, having met its commitment to being carbon neutral by 2023, and aiming to become climate positive in 2029. I congratulate WSU on its achievement and its example of Western Sydney leading the nation.

THOMAS HASSALL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On June 13 I visited Thomas Hassall Anglican College in my electorate. A K-12 school established in the year 2000, it has gone from being a small school surrounded by open farmland, to being a large campus now entirely surrounded by housing. I met with student leaders from the primary and secondary schools to discuss their role as school leaders and field questions on the life of a local MP. I also had the pleasure of popping in to see the year 5s who were presenting their solar system display projects to parents, teachers and fellow students. Instead of the usual solar system project, students were challenged to formulate and research their own solar system related questions. Honourable mentions include "What if the earth was donut shaped," and "What if the Solar System had no Gravity." The imagination and creativity of the students was inspiring and thought provoking. Thank you to Principal Ross Whelan for having me. Your hospitality and service to both the school and wider community is warmly recognised.

LIFE HALF FULL'S HELP A CAUSE CHALLENGE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Local Maitland residents Steve and Michelle from Life Half Full ran 231.5kms over 10 days to raise money for the Perry Cross Spinal Cord Research Foundation, who are poised to commence a world-first Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial. This revolutionary treatment involves the transplantation of a patient's own olfactory cells into the spinal cord. Having already been proven effective in preclinical research, preparations are underway to test the ground-breaking treatment in a trial in 2023. Since 2020, Steve and Michelle's motivation has been to live life to the fullest, live simply, with less consumerism and give back where they can. They decided to do this challenge because it has the real potential to change the lives of thousands of spinal cord injury patients. The reality is spinal cord patients struggle to live independently and Steve and Michelle believe that by raising the profile of the clinical trial, then Life Half Full are fulfilling their mission. Congratulations to you both on your efforts.

KYAH NEWCOMBE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL MISS FINALIST

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Maitland local Kyah Newcome who was crowned Royal international Miss earlier this year and won her way to the Royal International Miss pageant in Orlando Florida in July, where Kyah finished Top 16 in the world and won the people's choice category. Kyah is naturally a very shy young lady, and as a way to step out of her comfort zone back in 2017, she decided to join a pageant here in Queensland Australia. Out of this experience, she learned that putting herself out there would in fact help her confidence. This is the main reason she once again decided to submit her entry to the Royal International Miss Pageant. Kyah is an outstanding young citizen who is willing to put herself forward in the hope that she can inspire other young women to have confidence in themselves and achieve anything they put their mind to. She continually advocates within our community and helps raise awareness and funding for vital issues such as Starlight Foundation, Harry's House, Mark Hughes Foundation, Salvation Army drives, Clean Up Australia Day, Landcare and local community groups. Congratulations Kyah, you are a testament to community values.

JESS KOWALSKI

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Maitland High School student Jess Kowalski has been named in the Top 10 for the Art of Smart Year 11 and Year 12 Trailblazer Awards. These awards recognise the achievements of year 11 and 12 students that extend beyond the academics

of the HSC. Jess is a national dance champion, winning titles in tap dance and competitive jazz. She has shown remarkable resilience, balancing intensive training with schoolwork and her mother's battle with breast cancer. Jess's determination drives her to pursue a career as a pharmacist and contribute to cancer research. Jess has worked as a dance teacher, maths tutor, and currently holds a position as a school prefect. Jess's passion for dance extends to music performance and representing her school in dance troupes. Jess will now be mentored by Art of Smarts CEO to help her network for future endeavours and assistance for applications for her university admission. Congratulations to Jess on her achievement and I look forward to watching her continue to achieve in both her dance and university studies.

TERRY KNIGHT

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Terry Knight. Terry has recently celebrated fifty years of service to the Crookwell community, through the various roles that he has held at the Crookwell Shire Council, commencing back in 1973. Terry's first role saw him begin work as a labourer on the Narrawa Bridge Project and on completion wrote his name on the underside of the bridge, which can still be seen today. Terry then spent some time working with the tar patching gang, then being approached to learn and operate a grader, before moving to a solo position at the old sand filter Water Treatment Plant undertaking the night shift during the summer months. Following this role, as always, Terry, a willing and committed team member to continue to learn and develop went on to complete his Water and Sewer Plant accreditation, later to become the Senior Water and Sewer Operator in charge, a role which he continues to hold. Terry's commitment to his roles and his superior work ethic has been unfailing to serve the needs of the community and his colleagues. Congratulations and thank you Terry for your many years of service to the Upper Lachlan Shire.

GUNNING SERVICE CENTRE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Gunning Service Centre. The Gunning Service Centre is a proudly owned family business that has been operating for the past thirty-seven years and has become a well trusted and highly reputable small business, servicing vehicles within Gunning and broader local communities. John and Sandra handed down the business to their son Tahn and his partner Libby on the 1st July 2013, who have recently celebrated their tenth anniversary, as owner operators. This celebration continues to mark a very significant milestone for this family business. Tahn and Libby, acknowledge that the business has received unfailing support from the community and in recognition of this, organised a celebratory sausage sizzle alongside a fun filled event to mark their anniversary. Tahn and Libby also pay tribute to their steadfast and dedicated staff, recognising their professionalism, knowledge and service to the business and community. In order to gain such deserved community respect, it is without doubt the Gunning Service Centre has been owned and operated in a community and customer focussed manner, providing an essential, genuine and reliable service to their community.

PHOEBE CHESTERTON

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—Today I recognise Phoebe Chesterton. Motor Neurone Disease [MND] is a condition, which is currently estimated to effect 2,100 people in Australia and 400,000 around the world. It is a condition that effects the nerves causing them to die off, leaving suffers with a loss of muscle function. Phoebe's father, Tony passed away from MND ten years ago, which has left a fighting spirit in Phoebe to raise much needed funds in the fight against the disease. Phoebe started a GoFundMe page in May 2023, aiming to raise two thousand dollars, however with indelible support from family, friends, community, and local businesses, Phoebe has gone on to raise eight thousand dollars. Phoebe organised to have her long-platted hair shaved off at a charity event held at the Goulburn Bowling Club, where her father had been a member for many years. Phoebe donated her long locks to World's Greatest Shave. Phoebe was humbled by the support that she received and saw this not only as an opportunity to raise money, but to raise awareness of MND and of course share the beautiful memories of her dad, with the many members of the community that known him. Inspiring contribution Phoebe.

'HEAD TO HEALTH'

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—It is estimated that close to half of all Australians between 16 and 85 have experienced a mental illness or disorder at some time in their life. The ability to access mental health information, services and support in a safe and welcoming place is essential. And so I was honoured to attend the opening of the new Parramatta 'Head to Health' service operated by Stride and supported with funding from WentWest. Located on George Street this service provides free, immediate and accessible support 7 days a week for all adults regardless of their residency status. I welcome the transition of the 'Head to Health' pilot to a permanent service that is supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community. I am thankful for the Australian Government's investment in our community through WentWest- Western Sydney's Primary Health Network. As a society we are finally recognising the impact of poor mental health amongst our population. We

have a long way to go in combatting the stigma surrounding mental health and ensuring all support possible is provided to those who need it. However, Parramatta 'Head to Health' is a wonderful step in the right direction for our community.

FIFA WWC COMES TO PARRAMATTA

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—The eyes of football fans around the globe have turned to Parramatta with Sydney Olympic Park playing host to the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Teams from around the world have been playing at Accor Stadium at Sydney Olympic Park - bringing world class sportswomanship to Parramatta. This event is having a positive impact on our area with the local economy experiencing a boon. Teams and visitors are staying in our local area. On a social level, community members are coming together to watch the games at the City of Parramatta live site in Parramatta Square - one of the only live sites in NSW that is broadcasting every single World Cup match. Another positive impact is seeing the love generated for the world game by fans, current and aspirational players. The icing on the cake is the success of the Matildas with interest in women's team sport at never-before-seen levels. In Parramatta we realise just how significant it is that girls and women from across Western Sydney have the Matildas playing in our very own backyard. It's a wonderful achievement for the Matildas to have made it to the Round of 16. Go Matildas!

DUBBO NEPALESE COMMUNITY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to recognise the local Nepalese community in Dubbo. Their dedication to helping overcome the winter blood donor shortage is truly inspiring, and showcases the power of unity and compassion in our society. Last week a dozen men from the Dubbo Nepalese community participated in the 'Red Love' initiative, contributing to the critical efforts to maintain adequate blood stocks during the colder months. Their act of selflessness comes with a heartfelt thought for a woman in desperate need – Amira, a South Australian mother-of-two in urgent need of open-heart surgery, who has a blood type so rare that just one in 10,000 people may be a match. I urge all members of our community to follow the example set by the Dubbo Nepalese community and take part in the 'Red Love' initiative. The act of giving blood is not only an act of kindness; it is an act of saving lives. Together, we can ensure that individuals like Amira receive the care and support they urgently need. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Dubbo Nepalese community and all blood donors who have participated in the 'Red Love' initiative.

NARROMINE LIONS CLUB

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to recognise the Narromine Lions Club, which recently celebrated 70 years of community service. The Narromine Lions Club holds a special place in the hearts of many. It was the 18th Lions Club established in our country, and remains the oldest club west of the Blue Mountains. From its inception, it quickly grew to become the second largest club in size, a testament to the dedication and passion of its members. Throughout the years, the Narromine Lions Club has touched countless lives through its philanthropic endeavours. This past year alone they have generously supported many excellent causes, including the Narromine Preschool, Meals on Wheels, the Royal Flying Doctors Service, Camp House, Licola, Timbrebongie House, Narromine Cancer Support Group, and international Lions charities. These contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of those in need, spreading hope and uplifting spirits. Congratulations to the Narromine Lions Club on this momentous occasion. Your 70 years of service have strengthened the fabric of our community, and I look forward to witnessing your continued growth and success.

WELLINGTON ARTS ART TRAIL

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to recognise and congratulate the committee and volunteers of the Wellington Arts Society on the recent success of the Wellington Arts Trail and the praise they have received from many attendees. Upwards of 500 art lovers grabbed themselves a map and trailed throughout the Wellington region visiting 8 privately owned studios and the Western Gallery that hosted even more artworks and handmade products to be admired. Not only did the Art Trail highlight some of the talented artisans who call Wellington home, but many artists also reported excellent feedback from visitors and sales of their work. Both positive exposure and sales contribute greatly to the confidence of artists and the willingness to participate in future events. It is so heartening to see smaller volunteer run community organisations like Wellington Arts facilitating events like this that bring together likeminded creatives all pursuing a common goal to highlight creative talents and put on a great show for local community members and for all those visiting the region from afar. Congratulations again on a wonderful event and I can't wait to see another successful Art Trail next year!

NATIONAL TREE DAY AT LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—On behalf of the Lane Cove community, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt recognition to all the dedicated volunteers, from Friends of Lane Cove National Park, Park Staff and 185 community volunteers including "The Big Lift" student organisation, who came together

on National Tree Day to make a positive impact in the Tunks Hill picnic area of Lane Cove National Park. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have enriched our environment and brought about lasting change for future generations. Through your dedication, a total of 1,400 trees have found their roots in the earth, breathing new life into what was once a pig farm. Your passion for conservation and love for nature have regenerated this area of the park into thriving habitats, providing shelter for wildlife, and preserving the natural beauty of our beloved national park. Thank you for being the driving force behind the success of National Tree Day in Lane Cove National Park. Your efforts are a testament to the power of collective action, and we are honoured to have you as part of our community.

VALE EMERITUS PROFESSOR ADRIAN LEE

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—On the 21st of July the Lane Cove Community lost a giant of the community. Emeritus Professor Adrian Lee passed away aged 81 and left behind his loving wife Nerissa and children, Andrew, and Amanda. A man of science, Adrian was a distinguished academic at the University of New South Wales and was involved in the University for close to 55 years. Throughout his tenures Professor Lee held a variety of positions including Head of Microbiology and Immunology, Pro-Vice Chancellor, and Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW. He also held a variety of roles with community organisations including a tenure as the President of LaVoce Community Choir. I thank Adrian for his contribution to our community and wish his family all the best during this immensely difficult time.

SUPPORT FOR THE MATILDA'S

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—I would like to acknowledge the 100's if not thousands of constituents across the Lane Cove Electorate who have been passionately supporting the Matilda's during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. It has been fantastic to see so many people joining together at spaces like The Canopy to watch the Matilda's matches alongside fellow locals. Lane Cove Council will continue to screen all of the Matilda's matches at the Canopy, so I hope to see more and more locals come out in support as we go further into the tournament. This World Cup has been an inspiration to many of our younger athletes, especially young women, and I hope that this event spurs them on to get involved in more sport, fingers crossed a future Matilda will be amongst them!

BRYSON DIMOVSKI

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of 14-year-old Bryson Dimovski from Warners Bay, who tragically lost his life on the 28th of July after being struck by a car on Warners Bay Road. Bryson was riding an electric scooter at the time. His young life was taken far too soon and my thoughts are with his parents Andrew and Melissa along with his elder sisters Alisha and Emily. Bryson has been described as a young man with a heart of gold, who was charismatic and mature beyond his years. He was generous and someone who was always willing to help his mates and those less fortunate than himself. Bryson was in Year 8 at Warners Bay High School, with a deep interest in computers and meteorology. He was widely loved, not only by his family but also his friends and fellow students. A roadside memorial adorned with flowers and tributes has been created at the site of his death. On behalf of the people of Lake Macquarie I extend my sincere condolences to all who loved this extraordinary young man.

MAITLAND 2023 HUNTER RUGBY MINOR PREMIERS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—Congratulations to Maitland on winning the Hunter Rugby Premier 1 division minor premiership last Saturday playing in the Upper Hunter Electorate. The 'Blacks' secured the premiership rounds trophy with a 33-14 victory over Merewether in the final home game of the season at Marcellin Park, Lorn. Maitland previously won the minor premiership in 1999 then went on to win the grand final. The Maitland Rugby Union Football Club is Australia's second oldest rugby club. It's long, prestigious history started in 1877 when the first seniors team was established, and the 'Blacks' have been creating history ever since. First grade previously made grand final appearances in 2010 and 2018. Congratulations also to Ben Emmett, who played his 200th grade game for Maitland in the Premier 3 match at Marcellin last weekend. Ben is a 'legend' of the Maitland club and the game of rugby – as a player and an administrator, having served as 'Blacks' president between 2015 and 2017. To current president, Pat Howard, your players and supporters – all the best for the finals series and here's to toasting a successful 2023 season at Marcellin Park.

SINGLETON LEARNING COMMUNITY 2023 EDUCATION WEEK AWARDS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—Education Week Awards for Singleton Learning Community of public schools were presented at Singleton Civic Centre on Monday 31 July. I want to acknowledge SLC Education Week Convenor and King Street Public School Principal, Jonathan Russell, and the staff who organised the presentation evening. Congratulations to all award recipients - enjoy the recognition for your efforts on this significant anniversary marking 175 years of public education in NSW. Excellence in Teaching Awards recipients

include Lyndal Matthews from Broke Public School, Rebecca Hopkins of Jerrys Plains Public, King Street Public's Susan Scott and Katie Camilleri, Jessica Beer-Carter from Milbrodale Public, Jacob Godschalk of Mount Pleasant Public, Sue Winsor from Singleton Heights Public, Singleton High School's Skye Lawrence, Laura Fenwick, Mark Henderson and Tim Merrick and Singleton Public's Anna O'Brien. Excellence in Student Achievement Awards were presented to Hunter Sanderson from Singleton Public School, Singleton High's Caroline Mexon, Georgie Williams, Matthew Waugh and Ethan Williams, Singleton Heights Public's Bethany Power, Campbell Gray from Mount Pleasant Public, Kirkton Public's Isabella Beckingham, Samantha Simmonds and Lucy Cole of King Street Public, Lily Herbert from Jerrys Plains Public and Broke Public's Emily Davies.

SINGLETON ART PRIZE 2023

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—The popularity of art in the Upper Hunter Electorate was showcased during the 40th Singleton Art Prize held during July. Regarded as one of the largest and most prestigious regional art prizes in NSW – this year's event attracted 600 entries. In a fitting tribute for organisers, the Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter, a sell-out crowd filled Singleton Civic Centre for the opening night. And, the crowd kept coming across the four day exhibition – setting new marks for weekend attendance and then for art sales. Port Stephens artist Kay McFarlane Smith's "Turon in the Morning Light" was named Overall Winner. In a Facebook post, Danni Liu expressed surprise that she had been acknowledged with the Acquisitive Prize for her watercolour "Hidden Figure." All Art Prize proceeds are donated to local community projects every year. Singleton on Hunter Rotary is already suggesting art fans pop the 2024 opening date in their diary for Friday 26th July 2024 at 6pm. Happy 40th to the Singleton Art Prize - and congratulations to the Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter for your organisation and stewardship of one of Australia's biggest country art exhibitions.

SANS SOUCI LITERARY INSTITUTE

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport)—On the 8th of last month, the Sans Souci Literary Institute celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Dedicated on the 7th of July 1923, it was constructed to provide the community with a centre for recreational activities in the days of 6 o'clock closing. Originally consisting of a library, meeting room, kitchen, office and two small halls, it has been used as a Housie Hall, a wedding venue, a dance room, a snooker room and even an air-raid shelter. For years it was also the starting point for Ramsgate RSL's major Anzac Day March. Bayside Council celebrated the milestone by hosting a morning tea and an exhibition of artifacts. In attendance was Mr Brian Peacock, the last President of the Institute before it was transferred to the Council's ownership. Brian, also a Councillor of the former City of Rockdale, was involved in gaining the building its heritage listing, and he generously shared stories of the Institute's past. The Institute continues to be heavily used as a community centre, which is a testament to the foresight of the residents who built it so many years ago. Congratulations to the Sans Souci Literary Institute on its centenary.

FELICE MONTRONE

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—Congratulations to Mr Felice Montrone who has been recognised for his service to the Italian-Australian Catholic community. On Sunday 2 July, Felice was acknowledged for his longstanding service with the Medal of Honour at St Fiacre's Parish, Leichhardt. Mr Montrone received his Medal of Honour from the President of the Knights of San Silvestro Association, His Excellency Monsignor Luigi Francesco Casolini di Sersale. This presentation was officiated by Father Ben Johnson OFM Cap, Grand Uff. Giulio Vidoni, and Prof. Ron Pirola. He received the award alongside his friends and I also wish to acknowledge Mr Frank Mirabito and Mr Frank Placanica who were also awarded with the Medal of Honour. Congratulations to Felice Montrone on receiving the Medal of Honour for your service to the Italian-Australian Catholic community in New South Wales. This recognition of service is very well deserved.

VALE RON YEO OAM

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I inform the House of the passing of Mr Ron Yeo OAM, a longtime volunteer and community stalwart in Drummoyne. Ron, or Ronnie as he was known to his friends left an enduring impact on the Drummoyne community. He served as the President of the Rotary Club of Five Dock from 2005 to 2006 and was a devoted Rotarian for many years, having played an instrumental role in many local fundraising events. Ron was always serving others and it shone through his philanthropic endeavours which spanned many organisations, including the Oncology Children's Foundation and the I-India Project Australia. His service earned him many acknowledgments including the Medal of the Order of Australia, Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award, the 2009 NSW Premier's Chinese Community Service Jack Wong Sue Award for Service Beyond the Chinese Community and in 2006, he was named the City of Canada Bay Citizen of the Year. His service to our local community, Australia, and across national borders will always be remembered and an example of a life of service to others – a selfless community leader. I offer my deepest condolences to Ron's wife Cheryl and his family. Vale Ron Yeo OAM.

MARY JO MCVEIGH

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I would like to congratulate a local constituent, Mary Jo McVeigh who has been recognised by the Australian Association of Social Workers as the 2022 Social Worker of the Year. She is the Founder and CEO of CaraCare, a not-for-profit charity established in 2014 in the heart of Concord. CaraCare is a place of healing, growth and discovery and supports children and young people who experience abuse and trauma to engage in creative and innovative group work programs that assist in resilience and recovery. She has a long history of helping children, young people, and families. She has served countless young people and families throughout her career, having worked in the Social Work profession for nearly 40 years all over the globe in Belfast, London, Auckland and now in Sydney. I have had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with Mary Jo and she is a compassionate and kind woman who is passionate about fostering healing, inspiration and resilience to the people she serves. This recognition of a selfless career is so very well deserved. Congratulations Mary Jo, I thank you for the important and significant contribution you have made to our community.

MIRANDA KINDERGARTEN

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge Miranda Kindergarten who are the successful recipients of \$29,414 from the NSW Government's 2022 Community Building Partnership Program. Established in the early 1950's, Miranda Kindergarten proudly educates young children and has supported our community for over 60 years. The preschool continues to create a safe, loving, and educational environment where children are truly valued and appreciated. This grant funding will provide upgraded toilet facilities and enable children to independently use the bathroom and wash their hands in a safe and hygienic environment. Of course, none of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of the Miranda Kindergarten Management Committee. I acknowledge Norman Johnston, Yvette Williams, Kimberly Fenning, Lauren White, Georgia Black, Nicole Brown, Jacky Merrin, Sean Chen, Alisha Markham, Lisa Olthof, Stephanie Dwyer, Joshua Dwyer for their efforts, as well as the dedicated and hard working Director of Miranda Kindergarten, Jenny Hind. I thank the Management Committee of the Miranda Kindergarten for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing firsthand the impact this improvement will have in readying children for primary school.

GYMEA NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the GyMEA North Public School Parents and Citizens Association who are the successful recipients of \$38,653 from the NSW Government's 2022 Community Building Partnership Program. GyMEA North Public School is a welcoming community that aims to guide each student towards achieving their potential in an environment with extensive grass and bush areas. Through this funding a new outdoor play-space will be installed for both GyMEA North Students and Outside School Hours Care students to use. This will encourage engagement in creative and active play in a safe environment to promote the well-being of students. Of course, none of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of the GyMEA North Public School's Parents and Citizens Association. I acknowledge Principal Kirsty Sharman and Parents and Citizens Association Executive Committee members including, Rachel Glasson, Steve Doran, Louise Rayner, and Lynne Graham for their efforts. I thank the members of the GyMEA North Parents and Citizens Association for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact it makes for our community.

GRAHAM AVERY

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Graham Avery of Jannali, on being nominated for Citizen of the Year at Sutherland Shire Council's 2023 Australia Day Awards. Graham lives on the land of the Dharawal people and is a passionate advocate for Indigenous Heritage and our community. Due to his love of the Dharawal language, Graham has assisted in the creation of a picture dictionary of Dharawal words which has been given as a gift to children from Sutherland Shire Reconciliation Inc. Furthermore, Graham also shares his extensive knowledge of native bushland, botanical names, food, and medicines in addition to running Yarning Circles, Smoking Ceremonies, and other culturally significant ceremonies. Graham currently works as the Natural Areas Aboriginal Heritage Officer at Sutherland Shire Council and has served as a member of our Council's Aboriginal Advisory Sub-Committee for nearly 20 years. I congratulate Graham on receiving this nomination and thank him for his ongoing contribution to promoting the Sutherland Shire's unique indigenous heritage.

FIRE & RESCUE NSW MEDAL PRESENTATION - MINMI

Ms SONIA HORNERy (Wallsend)—Fire and Rescue NSW is one of the world's largest urban fire and rescue services and is the busiest in Australia. Its main function is to enhance community safety, quality of life and confidence by minimising the impact of hazards and emergency incidents on the people, property, environment and economy of NSW. Their motto is: "We are Fire and Rescue NSW and we are PREPARED FOR

ANYTHING". These brave and dedicated individuals not only fight fires on the frontline, but they respond to Triple Zero calls in communication centres to help save lives. Their selfless contributions to the community, courage, professionalism and leadership were celebrated at the Metro North 1 Medal Presentation Evening on 20 July 2023 at Wallsend Diggers. The recipients of the National Emergency Medal out of Minmi Station are Captain Evan Dowling, Firefighter Craig Allan and Former Firefighter Daryl Howard. Captain Evan Dowling was also awarded the Long Service Good Conduct Medal 1st Clasp. Congratulations and thanks go to the firefighters and business support staff who have been celebrated.

FIRST WOMAN TO BE HONoured WITH STATUE AT AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The first sculpture of a woman was unveiled on 2 August 2023 at the Australian War Memorial. Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel (1915 – 2000) was the sole surviving nurse of the Bangka Island massacre in the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, in 1942. Bullwinkel joined the Australian Army Nursing Service and was captured by Japanese troops in 1941. After three and half years in captivity, she devoted herself to the nursing profession, honouring those killed in the massacre, raising funds for a nurses' memorial and serving on numerous committees, including a period as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and later President of the Australian College of Nursing. She returned to Bangka Island in 1992 to unveil a shrine to the nurses who had not survived the war. Vivien Bullwinkel AO, MBE, Associate of the Royal Red Cross, recipient of an Efficiency Decoration and the Florence Nightingale Medal - is a model of resilience, a symbol of strength for the vital nursing profession, and we remember her contribution and also those of other women to Australian history.

FIRE & RESCUE NSW MEDAL PRESENTATION - TARRO

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Fire and Rescue NSW is one of the world's largest urban fire and rescue services and is the busiest in Australia. Its main function is to enhance community safety, quality of life, and confidence by minimising the impact of hazards and emergency incidents on the people, property, environment and economy of NSW. Their motto is: "We are Fire and Rescue NSW and we are PREPARED FOR ANYTHING". These brave and dedicated individuals not only fight fires on the frontline, but they respond to Triple Zero calls in communication centres to help save lives. Their selfless contributions to the community, courage, professionalism and leadership were celebrated at the Metro North 1 Medal Presentation Evening on 20 July 2023 at Wallsend Diggers. The recipients of the National Emergency Medal out of Tarro are Firefighters Jeffrey Allen, Joel Fisher, Scott Ford, Gavin Hawes, James Twining, Brodie Verschoor, Andrew Webb, and Retired Firefighter Peter McGee. Firefighter Scott Ford was also awarded the Long Service Good Conduct Medal 2nd Clasp, and Retired Firefighter Peter McGee was also awarded the Long Service Good Conduct Medal 3rd Clasp. Congratulations to the firefighters and support staff who have been celebrated.

THE WOY WOY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY KIOSK

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Tonight, I would like to congratulate Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary for re-opening its kiosk after 18 months of closing due to the Covid-19 lockdowns and renovations. The kiosk is located on Ocean Beach Road and for 20 years, this kiosk has operated out of Woy Woy Hospital. It is an outstanding café on the Peninsula, which serves coffee, tea, sandwiches, and burgers, all made with love and care by the beautiful volunteers. The reopening means the kiosk will need more volunteers to support its ongoing mission. I encourage everyone to visit the kiosk to get a drink, a meal or to spend some of your precious time to accompany other caring volunteers at the kiosk. By supporting the kiosk, you are contributing to the fund that goes back to patient care and allowing the Auxiliary to purchase a range of medical equipment which further benefits the patients at Woy Woy Hospital. I want to acknowledge the outstanding individuals who have been volunteering at the Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary Kiosk. Thank you for your generosity and keep up the good work.

WOMEN IN STEM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Congratulations and thank you ever so much to all those involved in designing and facilitating the series of eight engineering workshops for schoolgirls in year 7 to 10 at the University of Sydney. Students were separated into eight houses named after eight female engineers and spent the day working beside engineering graduates through four engineering challenges. UNSW and Engineers Without Borders provided a lesson in the importance of designing safe infrastructure with a humanitarian lens. The University of Wollongong took students on a virtual reality, mining engineering adventure, looking at geotechnical, civil and materials engineering. Macquarie University provided an electrical engineering investigation to test wind turbines as a viable economic alternative to conventional power plants in Australia. Finally, Cool Aero provided an hour optical engineering experience, testing aircraft design and capacity delivery. Let's continue to encourage everyone with skills in maths, science & technology, who are creative and great

communicators to have confidence to chase their dreams and make Australia and the world a better place for all of us.
