



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Eighth Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 14 May 2024

The Speaker (The Hon. Gregory Michael Piper) took the chair at 12:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome guests to the Parliament. Before I name them individually, I welcome everybody here to Australia's first Parliament, the New South Wales Parliament, and in this case the Legislative Assembly.

I welcome to the Chamber a guest of the member for Blue Mountains, Kate McDonald, who is a volunteer in the member's electorate office. I welcome guests of the member for Kiama, who are members of the Probus Club, including organiser Rob Willdig. I acknowledge guests of the member for Summer Hill, Caroline Lee and Elliott Smith. I also acknowledge and welcome guests of the member for Badgerys Creek, students from Erskine Park High School who are participating in the Legal Studies and Legislature Program conducted by the parliamentary education team. I also welcome guests of the member for Tweed, who has students here from the Tweed River High School. I welcome guests of the member for Newcastle, students from the San Clemente High School. I almost missed the guests of the member for Lake Macquarie, who are members and volunteers from Southlakes Incorporated. Welcome.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a media representative has been approved to photograph question time today.

Members

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Resignation

The SPEAKER: I advise the House of the receipt of a letter on 13 May 2024 from Adam John Marshall resigning his seat as member for the electoral district of Northern Tablelands.

Vacant Seat

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That, in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017, the seat of the member for Northern Tablelands be declared vacant by reason of the resignation of Adam John Marshall.

Motion agreed to.

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that I have issued a media release advising of my intention to issue a writ for a by-election to be held on 22 June 2024.

Ministry

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House that the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government will answer questions today in the absence of the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport.

Governor

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message regarding the administration of the Government.

*Question Time***ELECTRONIC MONITORING**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (12:07): My question is directed to the Attorney General. Given that last week he was downplaying electronic monitoring, why is it now part of the Government's bail package?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (12:07): I wish I had a copy of *Hansard* from last week when I answered a question about these subject matters but, as my memory serves me, I said that we had spoken to some widely respected people in the domestic and family violence sector who cautioned the Government not to proceed with undue haste in any respect, but particularly in respect of bail laws, and not to proceed with undue haste in respect of legislating for electronic monitoring. That was a statement of fact.

In addition to the tremendous package announced by the Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—\$230 million of new money—we have spent the past couple of weeks in detailed consultation with all manner of stakeholders in the legal sector and the domestic and family violence sector. We have come up with a bill that we say will be a very welcome legislative imprimatur to address the emergency and the scourge of domestic violence in New South Wales. I note that in a radio interview this morning the Leader of the Opposition conceded that he had left unfinished business—his words, not mine. I concede that the previous Government did do some very good things in this space, like the coercive control legislation, which we were happy to support, and sexual consent legislation, which we were happy to support. But I do recall in at least two, possibly three, estimates hearings we asked questions of the Leader of the Opposition, the then Attorney General, about electronic monitoring in the wake of a notorious offender allegedly removing his ankle bracelet and then allegedly attempting to flee the jurisdiction. So he had at least 12—

Mr Mark Speakman: Which we fixed.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: "Which we fixed", he says. No, you did not. What those opposite did in government was address standards for private ankle monitoring by private firms. They did not address a new regime, a government-funded and government-run regime, to deal with people on bail. Corrections has always done it in relation to people on parole. But that is "unfinished business" of the highest order, and we intend to finish it.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND BAIL LAWS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (12:10): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on action taken by the New South Wales Government to make it harder for alleged domestic violence offenders to get bail?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:11): I thank the member for Coogee for her important question. I acknowledge that the prevalence and rate of domestic violence in New South Wales is going up, not down. When it comes to prevalence, the national average is 3 per cent in the community. Victoria records a rate of 2.6 per cent; in New South Wales, it has increased to 3.4 per cent. There is a range of reasons as to why that number is increasing, but it is completely intolerable. It is the responsibility of everyone in this House, of all legislators, to ensure that we do everything possible to reduce the amount of domestic and family violence in the community and literally save lives—save women's lives—in this State.

Domestic violence assaults recorded by New South Wales police have increased significantly, to 36,000 incidents as of December 2023. That is a 6.7 per cent increase over two years. As a result, the Government has announced a series of measures, including legislative measures, to bring about significant reform when it comes to bail and remand in the State, most significantly reversing the presumption of bail for serious domestic violence offences in the State—the so-called "show cause" provision in the Bail Act. In addition, for all other decisions relating to domestic violence offences, the Government is including that decision-makers must take into account domestic abuse red flags. That may be strangulation offences, it may be cruelty to animals, it may be coercive control behaviour from an individual. In addition, those decision-makers must also take into consideration the views of victims and their families.

We will also be increasing and expanding the categories of offences for which police and prosecutors can seek a stay in the Supreme Court if they believe a bail decision has been incorrectly made by a lower court. That is important, particularly where police have a particular concern about an individual who has been granted bail. The Government can also announce that it will establish an implementation taskforce when it comes to electronic monitoring so that all those charged with a serious domestic violence offence in New South Wales will be either on remand, and therefore in custody, or subject to electronic monitoring in the community. This is in addition to the \$230 million announced by the Government last week for domestic violence prevention programs across the

community. That includes \$48 million for the Staying Home Leaving Violence program, an initiative that is working well in many jurisdictions but we need rolled out across New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

It also includes \$24 million for specialist domestic violence support workers within the justice system, \$48 million for early intervention programs across New South Wales and, for the first time ever, nearly \$40 million for a primary prevention program across the State. We have seen those programs work well in other jurisdictions, particularly Victoria. Ten years after its royal commission into domestic and family violence, we have an evidence base for what is working in that jurisdiction that we can steal and apply in New South Wales. It is important to note that none of these changes will bring back any of the people killed at the hands of an intimate partner, and we grieve for the families who have lost loved ones. It will also not capture all bad behaviour in our community.

There are still terrible people out there who are committed to inflicting terrible violence on their intimate partners, but I am convinced that these changes will save lives. It is important that the Parliament deal with them and that we adopt them. I apologise that they have been brought in later than they should have been, but this Government is committed to bringing about comprehensive change when it comes to defeating the scourge of domestic and family violence in New South Wales.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:15): My question is directed to the Attorney General. What is the current number of offenders subject to electronic monitoring in New South Wales?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (12:15): The current number of offenders subject to government-provided electronic monitoring in New South Wales is zero, because that is the regime those opposite left us with—zero.

Mr Alister Henskens: What about parole? Don't you know your brief?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Yes, I do. That question is best directed to the Minister for Corrections.

Mr Alister Henskens: You're starting with zero. You don't know.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Corrections deals with parolees.

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

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Corrections deals with parolees. It is okay for those opposite to come holier than thou to this issue that they neglected for 12 years whilst they were in government, but let me just remind—

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

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Let me remind the Leader of the Opposition what he said.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129 on direct relevance. It is a very simple question: How many offenders are currently subject to electronic monitoring in New South Wales? It is a very narrow question.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition. It was a very simple question—

Mr Mark Speakman: A very narrow question. He either doesn't know—

The SPEAKER: The Attorney General has been directly relevant. There is no point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: I have received a note from the Minister for Corrections, and I can advise the House that between 20 April 2023 and 19 April 2024 the daily average number of offenders under electronic monitoring is approximately 1,195.

Mr Alister Henskens: Not zero?

Mr Mark Speakman: Not zero. You don't need to set up a system.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: You guys over there—

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Bib and Bub, you guys need to listen.

The SPEAKER: The Attorney General will direct his remarks through the Chair.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: They need to listen, those two, because the *Hansard* reflects things that Ministers say in this House, not what those opposite hear or wish Ministers had said or want them to say. In the remaining time—

Mrs Wendy Tuckerman: You said "zero". You've got no idea.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Zero for bail, provided by government. Zero—that is what you left us with. We are not operating from a low base on this issue; we are operating from no base. Let me remind the House what the Leader of the Opposition said—

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The Deputy Premier will come to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: —in estimates in answer to a question from the Hon. Adam Searle.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will come to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: This is what the Leader of the Opposition said in estimates:

The issue is that at the end of the day an electronic monitoring device can be dismantled. They are not foolproof ... They are not foolproof.

Those are his words, not mine.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND BAIL LAWS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:19): My question is addressed to the Attorney General. Will the Attorney General update the House on how the New South Wales Government is strengthening the justice system to better protect victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (12:19): I thank the member for Gosford for her question. It goes without saying but I reiterate it: Violence against anyone is deplorable in our community but domestic violence is a particularly insidious form of offending that each and every member in this Chamber has a special duty to prevent. Today we are sending a very clear message, once again, that the safety of victims is the paramount consideration of our Government. That is why I am pleased to report that today the Government has announced a suite of justice system reforms to provide greater protections to victim-survivors and prevent alleged perpetrators from reoffending.

The reforms build on our recent \$230 million announcement in domestic violence responses. They represent another significant step in our State's journey in addressing domestic violence. Our State has been rocked by devastating incidents recently, and we are determined to ensure that our laws are fit for purpose in shielding people across the community, particularly women, from alleged domestic violence offenders. As the Premier outlined earlier, we are confident that we have appropriately balanced the rights of the accused with this Government's primary concern, being the protection of victim-survivors. The changes will not only save lives but also prevent women from suffering injuries—some of them permanent.

The Government wishes it could have announced the changes earlier. The Opposition leader and former Attorney General said to Sarah Macdonald, "I accept that when we left government there was unfinished business." The Government will not leave that business unfinished any longer. At their heart, today's announced changes make it more difficult for those accused of serious domestic violence offences to get bail. The changes are the product of engagement with the police, the domestic and family violence sector and, as I said earlier, stakeholders in the legal sector. Much of what is contained in our response reflects feedback and requests from those groups and valuable discussions. Firstly, we are expanding the category of show cause offences. The show cause test requires alleged offenders to demonstrate why they should be out in the community. The test will now apply to serious domestic violence offences committed by intimate partners, including sexual assault, strangulation with intent to commit another offence and kidnapping, with a maximum penalty of 14 years or more in jail. The test will also apply to coercive control, which will be a criminal offence from 1 July 2024. [*Extension of time*]

The reforms will require electronic monitoring of people charged with serious domestic violence offences who are on bail. That means that that cohort is either held in remand or electronically monitored. They will also expand the categories of offences for which bail decisions can be stayed—that is, the accused person remains in custody while prosecutors challenge their release in the Supreme Court. That will act as an additional safeguard to prevent the release of dangerous domestic violence offenders. For all other domestic violence related offences requiring bail, decision-makers are to consider domestic abuse risk factors, including red flags such as behaviour that is physically abusive or violent; behaviour that is sexually abusive, coercive or violent; behaviour that is stalking; behaviour that causes death or injury to an animal; behaviour that is verbally abusive; and behaviour that

is intimidating. Importantly, the views of victims and their family members where available, when relevant to safety, will also now be bail concerns.

The reforms also include changes to make it easier to prosecute perpetrators who use tracking devices as a tactic to maintain control over their victim, and changes to weekend bail courts across New South Wales to ensure bail decisions are made by magistrates—for example, using audiovisual links—with consultation on the design and rollout of the scheme. No-one should be under any illusion that this is the end of the matter. The changes are a start, which we acknowledge is overdue, towards making our criminal justice system and society more appropriately tailored to respond to the real risks from alleged domestic violence offenders. We will continue to consult legal, police and domestic and family violence sector stakeholders to strengthen the law to better protect the safety of women and children, protecting them from harm.

STRATA HOUSING

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:24): My question is directed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading. Given that the Government's response to the affordable housing crisis relies on an upsurge in apartment construction and living, how will the Minister provide consumer confidence that strata homes will be affordable and manageable to live in, through proper resources for the strata commissioner for oversight and compliance, and funding for the advocacy sector to support strata communities?

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) (12:25): I thank the member for Sydney for his question and his interest, given that he has one of the densest electorates in New South Wales. No doubt there are many other members who have a great interest in this topic. I know how crucial this matter is to the member for Sydney. Members may also be aware that approximately 1.2 million people currently live in strata. We currently have 82,000 strata communities and that is increasing by about 1,000 a year. Over the next few decades it is estimated that almost one in two people will be living in a strata community, so it is important to make sure that our strata laws and regulations are up to scratch.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the advocacy of the Owners Corporation Network, or the OCN as it is colloquially known, and its executive director, Karen Stiles, for her advocacy on behalf of strata communities. The Strata and Property Services Commission has access to Fair Trading and the Better Regulation Division network, including hundreds of employees connecting with the work of the Rental Commissioner and the Building Commissioner. Whilst I am not in a position to announce any budget measures on this front, the Government has made housing a top priority. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is working to make sure that we build houses close to train stations, if only those opposite would get out of the way and let us build more accessible and affordable houses for people. Despite the tight fiscal position, we will certainly still zero in on housing, given its importance to the people in our community.

Last year we strengthened our strata laws, and more change is on the way. We fulfilled our election commitment by appointing the Strata and Property Services Commissioner, who is equipped with the powers and resources of the Fair Trading and Better Regulation Division network, as I mentioned. We also appointed the Building Commissioner to get this sector going. The Strata and Property Services Commissioner's role is to engage with stakeholders and provide advice to government on ways to improve outcomes for people living in strata. He is working with industry, agents and professionals to deliver much better outcomes for those who live in strata.

We have also delivered structural change. We passed the Strata Legislation Amendment Act 2023 to improve the performance and governance of strata communities by making the collective sale and renewal process fairer and more transparent and ensuring that owners do not pay more than they need to for repairs and maintenance by requiring owners' corporations to get at least two quotes for work worth more than \$30,000—a good cost-of-living savings measure. [*Extension of time*]

We have also changed the law to make it easier for owners to remove a strata committee member if they have lost the confidence of the majority of owners, making sure that our strata laws keep up with the workings of strata communities. Whilst that work has begun, it is not over, and we are on our way to the next phase of our strata reform. The next tranche of reforms to implement the remaining recommendations of the statutory review is on its way. Through targeted consultation we are already getting input and gathering views. We expect that the reforms will relate to sustainability infrastructure, repairs and maintenance, and further improving the governance of strata schemes. Crucially, they will also address accountability of building managers, strata managing agents and strata committees, and look at financial hardship provisions. We have set up a quarterly round table with key stakeholders in the strata sector. Participants include the Owners Corporation Network and the Strata Community Association. The round table will ensure that we continue to engage with and examine the sector to see where improvement is needed most.

In getting more strata buildings into the community, we never want to sacrifice quality for quantity. To complement the strata reform, we have undertaken significant building reforms that will improve confidence and trust in the apartment and strata sector. That includes standing up the Building Commission in December, recognising that quality is always important. Strata committees need to take their fair share of the responsibility for ensuring that ongoing investment in building maintenance not only meets their obligations under the law but also improves trust and confidence. We have made significant inroads on strata, but there is more work to be done. We will continue to work with the sector and with agents to ensure that those who live in strata communities have the most up-to-date, contemporary laws to ensure that they can lead better lives.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (12:30): My question is addressed to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Will the Minister update the House on the holistic approach to domestic violence prevention that the New South Wales Government is taking?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:30): I thank the member for Blue Mountains for her question and for her long-term advocacy and passion working in the domestic and family violence space. In the past couple of weeks, the community has come together in New South Wales and across the country to draw a line in the sand when it comes to addressing domestic and family violence. We all acknowledge that the status quo cannot continue. Too many women have died and too much trauma has been inflicted on women, children and families.

Successive governments have invested heavily in crisis response, which is providing responses once the violence has already occurred. Those responses are absolutely critical, but they have also been described as the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. To better deal with domestic and family violence, to achieve better outcomes and to intervene at the top of the cliff instead, we have to identify the violence and intervene as early as possible in that cycle, as well as meet people who have been affected by domestic and family violence where they are and properly support them to safety.

Last week the Government announced a \$230 million emergency package to deal with domestic and family violence. Elements of that package absolutely spoke to early intervention and responses once a crisis has occurred, including by expanding the Staying Home Leaving Violence program right across New South Wales, from the 91 local government areas currently covered to all 128 local government areas across New South Wales, and by investing in specialist workers to support children accompanying mothers to refuges to eliminate the cycle of trauma. The package also invests in better understanding the most impactful ways of intervening in perpetrators' behaviours, with funding for research into perpetrators and effective behaviour change programs.

But the focus on prevention particularly sets the package apart—stopping the violence before it starts and addressing the drivers of domestic and family violence. It includes \$38 million for New South Wales's first ever dedicated primary prevention strategy, developed in partnership with the national leader in prevention, Our Watch. That strategy builds on and brings together a suite of initiatives that are already in place, including the Make No Doubt campaign, which raises awareness about sexual consent. [*Extension of time*]

The strategy also includes educational awareness campaigns on coercive control, which will become a criminal offence on 1 July this year; age-appropriate education in schools between kindergarten and year 10 on safe, healthy and respectful relationships; and the Tackling Violence program, which partners with local rugby league teams to change attitudes to domestic and family violence. That \$230 million package also includes \$8.1 million for the "All in" early childhood program, which supports healthy relationships during the key developmental ages in early childhood settings. The program helps early childhood educators, centre directors and family to better understand gender-based prevention. It gives them skills, knowledge and confidence to identify the actions that they can take to challenge rigid, harmful gender roles and stereotypes that impact on children in their care.

We need to start young and we need to work on this together in early childhood education, in schools and as parents. We need to work together to outright reject any norms or structures that open the doors to gendered violence. In fact, much of the work that the Government does in the Women portfolio is inextricably linked to the outcomes that it achieves in the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence—programs like the Level the Playing Field Program, sporting leadership programs and other initiatives that provide women with the same opportunities to succeed as men. We have set targets for the number of women in construction, particularly in government-funded construction sites, to make sure gender equality becomes a reality in workplaces. Whole-of-government and whole-of-community responses are essential in that area, and we are committed to implementing them.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT WORKERS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (12:36): My question is directed to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The Government's domestic violence package includes "nearly \$24 million for specialist DV support workers within the justice system". Given the Government's delay in recruiting the 118 additional frontline domestic violence workers funded federally, how many additional specialist DV support workers will be recruited with that nearly \$24 million in funding by the end of this calendar year?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:36): I thank the member for Port Macquarie for the question. The Government is absolutely committed to working with the domestic and family violence sector to ensure that it has the resources that it needs to support victim-survivors. Last week I gave a number of answers about the National Partnership Agreement specialist workers. Within the \$230 million package, the \$24 million commitment is for support through Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services. The Government will work very strongly and very closely with the domestic violence sector to ensure that those workers are put in place as quickly as possible. That commitment will be made in the 2024-25 budget, and that will certainly see an uplift in the support that Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services provide. Let me explain what Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services do to support victim-survivors.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: They do a great job.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The member for Canterbury is absolutely right: Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services do a great job of supporting victim-survivors. Those women have gone through an incredibly traumatic period, and they need support that is—

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was how many additional DV support workers will be recruited with that nearly \$24 million by the end of the calendar year.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister has certainly been relevant, but the test of direct relevance has not been met. The Minister will be directly relevant.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I cannot provide any further detail, apart from that we are working strongly with the domestic violence specialists to ensure they have the resources as quickly as possible. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that victim-survivors receive the support they need. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services are an incredible support for victim-survivors. As I mentioned, they provide support to people who are in intense trauma, who need support right through the justice process, and that is what we are committed to doing.

ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (12:39): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's commitment to build the Rouse Hill Hospital?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:40): I will definitely need an extra two minutes. That is for sure.

Mr Steve Whan: Give him 10.

Mr RYAN PARK: Mum is watching again, so give me 10. What a hardworking member for Riverstone we have in Warren Kirby, in that part of north-western Sydney. That community is very lucky to have him. When I first took over the job as Minister, something unusual struck me—I vaguely remembered something, which sometimes happens in opposition. I vaguely remembered that in 2015, which was when Premier Minns was first elected to this place, then Premier Mike Baird announced a hospital for Rouse Hill.

[Opposition members interjected.]

Opposition members can take their time. I will get them in a minute. They will all get a minute. That really dynamic, hardworking zealot—the predecessor of the member for Riverstone—was unbelievable.

Mr Paul Scully: Who was it?

Mr RYAN PARK: When I think of energy, I think of Kevin Conolly.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order: Mr Speaker, I ask that you remind the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair, as is appropriate under the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr RYAN PARK: He announced it. But so did our good friend the member for Kellyville. He had a very good go at it. He announced it in 2015, went back again in 2019, and then thought, "I'll have one more go" in 2021. It is incredible. I could never get away with that in my electorate. He announced it three times. When I became the Minister, I thought I would be seeing a hospital at least started—

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The Minister will calm down.

Mrs Leslie Williams: My point of order has two parts. First, the Minister is flouting your previous ruling.

The SPEAKER: That is my call.

Mrs Leslie Williams: The second part is taken under Standing Order 129. The answer has absolutely nothing to do with the question asked.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order taken under Standing Order 129. However, I ask the Minister to be more mindful of the standing orders and of speaking through the Chair.

Mr RYAN PARK: Last night the member for Kellyville said, "I've got an idea." He announced it three times: in 2015, 2019 and 2021. It is not bad going. By the way, when we went there, there was grass—no foundations.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

Mr RYAN PARK: He said last night, "I know a way of building it quicker—don't have an emergency department!"

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The way in which the Minister is answering the question is inflaming the situation.

Mr Alister Henskens: Mr Speaker, my point of order has two parts. First, the Minister is flouting your ruling on the point of order taken by the member for Port Macquarie. Secondly, he is offending against Standing Order 74 by encouraging quarrels in the Chamber.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order. The Minister is not being quarrelsome. However, if an extension of time is sought, it may not be granted because the Minister is not heeding my advice or my rulings. The Premier will come to order.

Mr RYAN PARK: This is an important hospital. Not only will we build it, but we will enhance it with an extra \$400 million.

Mr Warren Kirby: I seek further information.

The SPEAKER: On the basis that the Minister indicates he will adhere to the standing orders, I grant an extension of two minutes.

Mr RYAN PARK: We will be delivering a larger, more substantial hospital. It will have an emergency department—there's a novel idea! I do not want to overcook it or anything. It is incredible. I had to fight for that. We will deliver an emergency department—newsflash! There will be a couple of patients there. There might be a doctor. It will operate. It will be like a real hospital. There will be sick people—all that sort of stuff. It will have an emergency department and an urgent care centre, but it will also have a centre to enable us to deliver virtual care, which I have talked about in this House many times.

It will also be the first of our hospitals built around a precinct that includes accommodation and early childhood education. Importantly for that community, we will not only actually deliver the hospital and improve health services but also deliver around 1,200 direct jobs and many thousands of indirect jobs during construction. That is great for the New South Wales economy and for the people of north-western Sydney. We are determined now to get on with the job. Planning is underway. The detailed design work will now start. Construction will begin at the back end of next year or early 2026. We hope to deliver the hospital by 2028. It will come with an emergency department, which is absolutely necessary. We cannot short-change the people of that community.

Mr Paul Scully: The member for Kellyville wants to short-change his constituents.

Mr RYAN PARK: I will not do that. I will stand up for the hardworking people of Kellyville and make sure that we deliver a hospital they need and deserve.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Cootamundra, I welcome to the gallery Erin Dib, the wife of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice, and member for Bankstown. I also welcome Eddie and Myrna Rizko, guests of the Minister.

SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKERS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (12:48): My question is directed to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The Government's domestic violence package includes \$48 million for "workers who support children accompanying their mothers to refuges". Given the Government's delay in recruiting the 118 additional frontline domestic violence workers funded by the Federal Government, how many additional support workers will be recruited with that \$48 million by the end of the calendar year?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:48): I thank the member for Cootamundra for the question and her interest in supporting children who are members of families where there has been domestic and family violence and who need an incredible level of support. I refer to my previous answer. The Government will consult and work with the domestic and family violence sector to determine the best way of putting those additional workers in place. We are committed to doing that consultation and ensuring that those specialist workers are put into the refuges that are most highly in need. At the moment there are specialist children's workers in 21 refuges across New South Wales. Those workers provide trauma-informed intensive support to children who have lived in a household where there is domestic and family violence.

Whether they have been direct physical victims of domestic and family violence or not, every child who lives in a household where there is domestic and family violence is a victim of that domestic and family violence, so it is important to provide support to children who have been in that situation. It also means that women in the refuges, along with their children, can get the support they need. That is very important support. Those specialist workers, as I said, are in 21 refuges at the moment. When the Government has put the additional workers in place, they will be in 30 refuges across New South Wales.

I would love to see specialist children's domestic violence workers in every single women's refuge across New South Wales. That would be the ultimate goal, and we should work towards it. But this is the first phase—the initial steps—of the Government's response to domestic and family violence, which includes the \$230 million package with \$45 million for a justice response. The Government is committed to working with the domestic and family violence sector—the people who speak and work with those workers on a daily basis—to ensure that the workers are placed in the areas where they are most needed. They must go to where there is the highest demand, where they can make the greatest possible change in the greatest number of children's lives, not just for right now but into the future.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:51): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is fast-tracking the historic expansion of public preschools, and outline what that means for New South Wales families?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:52): I thank the member for Prospect for that important question. I am certainly happy to answer it, because one of the most significant investments any government can make is investment in early childhood education. The evidence is clear. The research has been telling us for decades that government investment in early childhood education is significant because those who have access to it tend to have higher pay, less contact with the criminal justice system and improved educational and wellbeing outcomes through the term of their lives.

The question asked by the member for Prospect goes to a part of early childhood education that this Government is proud to invest in, which is preschool education and, in particular, the provision of public preschools. That is for the year before kindergarten, which can change the trajectory of young lives. A child's transition from preschool to kindergarten to primary school is absolutely critical to the rest of their educational journey. The cruel irony is that those who need the benefit of that investment the most, particularly in preschool education, are those in disadvantaged communities, who have had less access to public preschools because that access has not been provided. The opportunity has not been there for so many communities because services were simply out of reach.

That is why I am so proud that this Government is making the biggest investment in public preschools in New South Wales's history. We have an ambitious plan to build 100 public preschools in New South Wales. It is not something that we—unlike those opposite—have just stumbled upon after 12 years in government. It is a key part of this Government's agenda.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: It is ambitious, but the Government believes in it. We want to make this life-changing investment for our youngest children—our littlest learners. We know that the return on investment across the whole government for the lifetime of those people is absolutely enormous. Thanks to the good, ambitious work of the planning Minister, we were able to come up with ways of fast-tracking the development, approval and building of these preschools. [*Extension of time*]

That means that, thanks to the work of this Government, planning approval can be fast-tracked so that new buildings will be treated as complying developments and existing buildings will be treated as exempt developments.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Ms PRUE CAR: It will shave months off the planning and approval processes to get these public preschools up and running. One of the first communities to benefit from the change will be in the electorate of the member for Liverpool at Gulyangarri Public School. Soon there will be the public preschool that the community has been waiting on for so long. That gives me the opportunity to point out the big difference between the work of this Government in the area of education and the mess that was left to us by those opposite. After 12 years of absolutely no investment in public preschools—

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

Ms PRUE CAR: —when it came to the election, members opposite said, "Actually, what we should do is build preschools, even though we've been in government for 12 years and done absolutely nothing." Members opposite promised to build 500 preschools. How on earth could they do that? The member for Hornsby may as well have promised a million preschools—that would be as believable.

Mr Matt Kean: Point of order—

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

Mr Matt Kean: The Minister is misleading the House. The Coalition Government invested \$5.8 billion in universal preschool and the Deputy Premier should be saying thank you to the Coalition.

The SPEAKER: That is not the way to take a point of order. I call the member for Hornsby to order for the first time. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms PRUE CAR: The member for Hornsby should spend more time listening. I am talking about the building of public preschools, on which the former Government did nothing.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: That school site was chosen by an independent panel—a thought very foreign to the member for Hornsby. The Young Liberals did not choose where these preschools will be going.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: The Government will be proud to deliver the preschools faster than the former Government ever could.

COFFS HARBOUR HEALTH CAMPUS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (12:57): My question is directed to the Minister for Regional Health. Before the election, the Minister said that he would focus on resourcing and staffing our hospitals rather than ribbon-cutting and opening new buildings. Why has his only ministerial visit to my electorate been to cut a ribbon and not to fix resourcing and staffing issues at the Coffs Harbour Health Campus?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:58): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour—

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. Government members will cease assisting the Minister. I am sure that he can answer the question.

Mr RYAN PARK: I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question, and I will certainly need an extension of time for my answer. The good member has raised this issue with me, and I have had the opportunity to engage with him on it. In addition, I have spoken to the head of emergency at that hospital, Dr Tankel, as recently as this morning. There are some significant and challenging staff issues across the Coffs Harbour Health Campus, as there are for many of our hospitals at the moment. I have made it very clear that after 12 years of a wages cap, unfortunately, we see some challenges in the workforce. We have increased the budget for Coffs Harbour Health Campus to about \$225.2 million. That is an increase of about \$15 million on the previous year,

give or take. That is roughly the amount. I had a good opportunity to chat with Dr Tankel. Not only have I spoken to him; I am now making sure that the senior levels of Health are engaging with him. He tells me that we are about nine full-time equivalents short in terms of nursing staff in that area—he might have said about 9.2. We are going to work through that as an issue.

Let me tell the House what the Government is doing in relation to the workforce. The Minns Labor Government has doubled the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in hard-to-reach and hard-to-fill areas. The Government is moving to safe staffing, which is the largest reform. That will start in the next couple of weeks, firstly in Liverpool and North Shore. It will mean a ratio of one to three in emergency departments. That is not supported by the Coalition. It is only us on this side of the House who committed to 500 additional paramedics targeted specifically for rural and regional areas. I note that the Health Services Union is in the gallery today. I thank the HSU for its advocacy around those 500 additional paramedics for the bush. We will work with the member for Coffs Harbour to make sure we continue to improve staffing across our hospitals. It is the biggest challenge we have, but we are going to continue to work on it every single day.

PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:01): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport. Will the Minister update the House on the progress of the Parramatta Light Rail project?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (13:01): I am pleased to be able to update the member for Parramatta, who is a passionate advocate for that important project and for reliable public transport services for Western Sydney. Many members on the Government side of the House are excited about what we are delivering for communities that were absolutely forgotten by those opposite. But I have good news for the member and for the House, as Parramatta Light Rail has reached an exciting milestone. Yesterday we began daytime testing as we get closer to passengers being able to jump on board that important new public transport service in just a couple of months. The first 45-metre-long tram travelled from the stabling yards at Camellia, over the beautiful new Bidgee Bidgee Bridge and into the heart of the Parramatta education and business precinct on Macquarie Street. That is the first time in 80 years that a tram has travelled along Macquarie Street, Parramatta, in the daylight.

Locals were out and about welcoming the new tram, and they can expect to see more as we speed up the testing and commissioning phase. Most importantly, we want to keep everyone safe. We remind everyone to look up and look out for the trams. Do not step into the corridor without being conscious that there are new trams moving around. Of course we will be engaging closely with schools and businesses to keep everyone safe. Our street teams are wearing red to match the trams, and they are out there sharing information about how the new service is going to improve lives, make businesses thrive and better connect communities. We expect more than 16,000 people to jump on board the new service at Church Street in the heart of Parramatta. In fact, 28,000 people will be using that public transport service by 2026. The people of Westmead will be able to get a new public transport service to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia, and it obviously means another public transport service to connect to our future Sydney Metro West.

Trams are now travelling along that state-of-the-art, sustainable track. It is unique because it has something called a rubber boot system. It is an Australian first and, together with the green track—where there is grass between the tracks—it reduces noise and vibration. That is one of many sustainability gains because of the investment in public transport. That includes a new shared walking and cycling path from Carlingford to Tramway Avenue. Walking and cycling infrastructure should not be an optional extra. They should not be add-ons; they should be a part of our transport system. They also need to be a part of the Western Sydney investment, not just in the east but in the west as well. [*Extension of time*]

Light rail is incredibly popular. It is one of the forms of transport that has surged in popularity since COVID. We are still seeing numbers down on some transport modes, but light rail is incredibly popular. It is easy to get on and off, it is quiet, and it is efficient. It is one of the reasons why our Government is committed to continuing to plan and build the second stage of Parramatta Light Rail. Planning approval has been granted as a direct result of our Government's \$200 million investment so that we could begin construction in this term of Parliament. We are moving ahead at pace to deliver the 320-metre-long bridge between Melrose Park and Wentworth Point—a critical construction that we need because those suburbs have grown rapidly. People moved to those communities on the basis of having a public transport service but, under those opposite, they have got absolutely nothing. In fact, those opposite promised to deliver that critical public transport link 17 times, but delivered absolutely nothing. There was nothing but crickets for people relying on a way to get in and out of their suburb.

We on this side are listening and we are delivering. Construction will start on that bridge later next year, and we will see major construction start on Parramatta Light Rail stage two during this term of Parliament, because

we believe that Parramatta is the geographic heart of our city. It is our second biggest CBD. It needs to keep growing and it needs the public transport to service it. That is why we are building Parramatta Light Rail stage two. That is why we are building Sydney Metro West. We are delivering the public transport services that Western Sydney suburbs and communities deserve.

REGIONAL PATIENT TRANSPORT

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:06): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. My local paramedics tell me that upwards of 50 per cent of all call-outs for ambulances in the Ballina electorate are for non-life-threatening transfers between hospitals, which can take them out of action for many hours due to distance and ramp times. Will the Minister explore developing the Patient Transport System for regional areas like mine to operate at night and on weekends to support our paramedics to focus on responding to life-threatening conditions that require emergency transport?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (13:07): I thank the member for Ballina for her fantastic question. She was an active member during the landmark inquiry into regional, rural and remote healthcare services and was a very strong advocate for her community. For those who are not aware, the Patient Transport Service is part of a system called HealthShare. It plays an important role—and I will get to a particular population group in a minute—to move patients around the system. Obviously, non-life-threatening transfers do not require a paramedic. That is challenged and not as robust as it could be in rural and remote areas where, to be honest, it needs to be even more robust, because if we do not get it right then a large number of paramedics—as was alluded to by the member for Ballina—find they are spending a lot of time transporting patients who could otherwise be transported under a more suitable arrangement.

The Ministry of Health and I are looking at that, and I will engage the member for Ballina with the Regional Health Division to continue to work on and look at the issue. Under the leadership of Luke Sloane, we are looking at the policy with a particular focus on how it can be improved, particularly for those living in regional, rural and remote areas. Those who live outside metropolitan Sydney will be very pleased that we are focusing on that. That comes because of our Government's deliberate focus on regional, rural and remote health care. That is very near and dear to my heart, but I understand it is very important to many people in this place.

Many people across the political divide are very strong advocates for their communities. We are trialling a new reservation-based model for patient transport in the Hunter-New England area. Early advice to me suggests it is starting to work better. It ensures that people understand when they are going to be picked up. There is better coordination and convenience for people. People are not waiting for extended periods of time. We will look at what we can do to roll that out. I urge stakeholders and communities to ensure they are plugged into the review process. As I said earlier, we are also rolling out 500 additional paramedics. The first 125 paramedics have been rolled out. That will bring the full-time equivalent in the Ballina area to approximately 25 paramedics. [*Extension of time*]

Additional paramedics are coming in and are in place in that community. The program deliberately focuses on providing additional paramedics for regions and areas outside of the big centres—Wollongong, Sydney and Newcastle. We needed a program that targeted additional paramedics because, to be honest, one of the key issues that kept coming up, time and again, in that landmark inquiry was the lack of paramedics in regional, rural and remote New South Wales. It was also noted that where paramedics are in place, they often get caught transporting patients they should not be transporting. We need the patient transport system and additional paramedics. We are working on both of those two levers to try to improve services for regional, rural and remote New South Wales. Importantly, last year we landed a landmark pay deal with our paramedics, which took their remuneration from the very bottom among jurisdictions up towards the top after a 12-year wages cap.

That pay deal came at a very hefty price for the Government, but we needed to do it because we were losing paramedics, particularly in the Ballina area and in communities around the borders to the north and to the south. I know the member for Bega, the member for Wagga Wagga and the member for Murray talked about that. That landmark pay deal, delivered by the Minns Labor Government, will ensure paramedics are paid at a substantially higher rate than ever before. We are focused on patient transport. We are focused on new paramedics. We believe in delivering better health services for rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (13:12): My question is addressed to the Minister for Medical Research. Will the Minister please update the House on how the New South Wales Government is supporting medical research?

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) (13:12): I thank the member for Wallsend for her question, and I acknowledge the great work the Hunter Medical Research Institute does in the north and north-west of New South Wales. Medical research is essential to ensure the people of New South Wales have access to the best treatments and care for their health. The Government is committed to supporting our world-class health and medical research sector. I acknowledge up-front that support for medical research is bipartisan. I often reference the work of former Ministers Hazzard and Skinner. They have left a great legacy. As custodians, we want to improve on that legacy as much as possible.

Investing in medical research does not just save lives; it also saves dollars. For every dollar invested in medical research, \$3.90 is returned to the Australian economy. That is why the Government is proud to continue more than \$100 million in support each year for medical research in this State through the Office of Health and Medical Research. Through ongoing sizeable investments in a range of infrastructure and research initiatives, the Government aims to position New South Wales as a global leader in health and medical research innovation. Key New South Wales Government investments in the sector include \$160 million over a four-year period to support eligible, independent medical research institutes with the indirect costs of research through the Medical Research Support Program; \$134.5 million to develop a commercial-scale viral vector manufacturing facility in Westmead; \$95.8 million for an RNA pilot manufacturing facility; and more than \$40 million annually for research and commercialisation grants across cardiovascular research, medical devices and research translation; as well as ongoing support for clinical trials, including access for our rural and remote New South Wales populations.

I am thrilled to announce that the next round of the Medical Research Support Program has opened for applications for 2024 to 2028. Previous recipients include the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, the Hunter Medical Research Institute, the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research and the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research. Recently I was honoured to visit the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, based in the St Vincent's health precinct in Darlinghurst. I saw firsthand the world-leading research at those institutes, which includes genomics and large-scale analysis of human genetic data at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and learning how spider venom can be used to help improve heart transplant success rates at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. [Extension of time]

The workers behind this work strive every day to improve the lives of people not only in New South Wales but also across the world. Through programs such as the Medical Research Support Program, the Government is investing in their work, which will lead to improved health outcomes for all. The investment behind these New South Wales Government initiatives will help to ensure our health and medical research ecosystem continues to thrive. I acknowledge and thank researchers across the State. Their work enhances and saves people's lives every day. As the Minister for Health would acknowledge, their work improves the way we deliver our services, which is good for patients and good for the State's economy.

Documents

INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 16 (1A) of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2012, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of Custodial Services entitled *Inspection of Wellington Correctional Centre 2022*, dated May 2024, received out of session on 6 May 2024. I order that the report be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISOR

Correspondence

The SPEAKER: I announce receipt of a copy of correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser enclosing advice provided to the Hon. Robert Stokes, former Minister, dated 24 March 2024, received out of session on 10 May 2024. I order that the document be printed.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 242 (3) of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002, I announce receipt of the report of the Office of the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Report under section 242(3) of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*

for the period ending 28 May 2022: *Covert Search Warrants*, dated June 2022, received out of session on 10 May 2024 and authorised to be printed.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 19 of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992, I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *Embedded Networks Final Report*, dated April 2024, received out of session on 13 May 2024 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (13:18): As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 13/58*, dated 14 May 2024. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

DISPOSAL OF BUSINESS

The SPEAKER: In view of the resignation of the member for Northern Tablelands and in accordance with past practice, I order the removal from the *Business Paper* of general business notices of motions (for bills) the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2024 and the Payroll Tax Amendment (Regional NSW Exemption) Bill 2024, and general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 1276, 1372 and 1475.

[*Notices of motions given.*]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Bills

BETTER REGULATION, FAIR TRADING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 8 May 2024.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (14:30): I speak on behalf of the Opposition on the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I indicate the Opposition's support for the bill. The language used in several Acts under the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio is outdated. The amendments in the bill aim to modernise the language used in those Acts. The bill proposes various basic and administrative updates to a range of related Acts to modernise references to technology, streamline definitions, enhance privacy and extend provisions for outdoor dining and entertainment which were originally part of the 2023 Vibrancy Reforms package. During COVID the former Coalition Government introduced provisions to permit councils to allow outdoor entertainment. We supported the continuation and expansion of that policy as part of the reforms in the 24-Hour Economy Legislation (Vibrancy Reforms) Amendment Act 2023, known as the 2023 Vibrancy Reforms package. The bill will enable that policy to continue—and rightly so, in our view.

The bill will allow certain documents that were required to be posted only on a specific website to now be shared through other suitable electronic means. It updates laws and regulations to replace old technology terms, for example, videotapes and floppy disks—and I noted with interest the Minister's mention of lithographs—with references to more modern technology. The bill updates laws and regulations to have a consistent definition of business day across different Acts, which is surely a good thing. It updates laws to remove old-fashioned public notice requirements and ensure that public notices can be issued using modern forms of technology, and to allow for keeping and sharing of documents electronically.

The bill amends various Acts to allow for the service of documents by electronic means, makes minor changes to various laws and regulations relating to the privacy of individuals, and makes various minor terminology replacements. Most importantly, the bill will allow local councils to continue to promote outdoor dining and performances, extending the measures introduced under the previous Coalition Government. The bill

finalises that initiative by clarifying specific language about powers and correcting an administrative issue. The Opposition is pleased to support the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (14:32): I speak in support of the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading for his work in this space. The main purpose of the bill is to make minor housekeeping amendments to various legislation in the Better Regulation, Fair Trading, and Gaming and Racing portfolios. Those amendments modernise outdated provisions and ensure fair trading laws remain relevant and up to date. The bill makes amendments to 22 principal Acts, one amendment Act and seven regulations to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and improve legislative consistency and clarity.

Schedule 1 to the bill amends seven Acts to update references to a "website" and to be technology neutral. Removing references to a specific website and providing for that information to be available more broadly on a New South Wales Government website or using other electronic means futureproofs the law and gives the regulator more options to use alternative online technology. Schedule 2 amends six Acts and one regulation to remove and update references to outdated technologies in New South Wales legislation, such as videotapes and computer diskettes. The bill also seeks to increase legislative consistency and clarity by standardising the definition of business day and removing references to "working day" across six Acts and two regulations.

Further technology-related amendments have been made in schedule 4, which removes outdated public notice requirements from several Acts and, if still necessary, updates the public notice requirements to be technology neutral. Several Acts across the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio contain or imply solely paper-based record-keeping processes, or contain outdated requirements for the physical display of documents. The amendments in schedule 5 to the bill modernise the law by enabling electronic record keeping and removing restrictions on the electronic distribution and sharing of documents.

In addition, the bill amends provisions across 21 Acts to harmonise the general methods for service of documents and allow for service by electronic means under schedule 6, and amends various legislation under schedule 7. The bill also amends the Liquor Act 2007 to continue provisions allowing local councils to encourage the use of outdoor space for dining and performances, and to repeal a related regulation. The bill is necessary not only to simplify and futureproof regulatory frameworks in line with modern technology and practices but also to reduce the regulatory burden and ensure reforms passed by Parliament can operate as intended. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (14:35): I make a brief contribution in support of the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The bill makes various amendments to ensure that legislation remains relevant and in line with current technology and practices. Schedule 1 to the bill makes amendments to seven separate Acts to permit certain documents which are currently required to be published on the website of an agency or department to be published instead on a New South Wales Government website or by other electronic means deemed to be appropriate. Schedule 2 to the bill removes references to outdated technology spanning various fair trading legislation. Where appropriate, the bill updates the provision to be technology neutral, to support the use of new technologies.

The definitions of business day and working day vary over several different Acts. Schedule 3 to the bill sets a clear definition for business day and removes references to "working day" across six different Acts and two regulations. That change eliminates any potential confusion for customers. Currently, it is a requirement under the Funeral Funds Act 1979 and the Storage Liens Act 1935 for contributory funeral fund operators and storage companies to publish their notices in newspapers. Schedule 4 to the bill provides those businesses with the choice to publish such notices online. The bill removes, where appropriate, the need for those businesses to give a public notice. Further, the bill amends the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002, removing the obligation for the regulator to place newspaper advertisements regarding making a claim against the Property Services Compensation Fund. Alternatively, the regulator will be required to publish a notice on a New South Wales Government website, or by other electronic means deemed appropriate, to bring the notice to the attention of those who will be affected by it.

Schedule 5 to the bill amends various Acts to allow parties to exchange or record information electronically, eliminating the need for in-person contact. There are several current laws which imply a business is to keep paper-based records. Providing the option for electronic record keeping allows businesses to use up-to-date methods to share records. Schedule 6 to the bill aims to amend 21 Acts across the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio to streamline the service of documents by allowing extra methods of serving documents electronically to be added in the regulations, futureproofing the law. The bill will enable consumers to have a choice in how they wish to be contacted. For documents to be served electronically, the recipient must first consent to having their documents served in that way and must provide the address or location for service.

Schedule 7 to the bill makes various amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The bill aims to increase privacy protections for association committee members and the public officer while lowering the potential for identity fraud or harm. The bill does that by removing the requirement that the association's official address must be the same as where the public officer can be found and, instead, clarifies that the address should be one in New South Wales where documents can be served by post. The bill also removes the requirement for the secretary to be notified of certain personal information about committee members and the public officer for the purpose of being recorded in a publicly available register. Regarding the finalisation of an association's affairs and the distribution of surplus assets following the involuntary cancellation of an association's registration, the bill removes confusion surrounding the term "winding up" and addresses the circumstance where an association has assets that it cannot distribute.

The bill amends the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 and the Tow Truck Industry Act 1998 to remove the requirement to provide a statutory declaration, where it is unnecessary. Currently, those Acts are the only ones left in the portfolio that still make reference to the need to submit a statutory declaration. As a false or misleading declaration is already considered a general offence under the Crimes Act 1900, the need for a statutory declaration is unnecessary. The Biofuels Act 2007 relies on the international industry standard for biofuel sustainability. It is the only Act in the portfolio that relies on external publications. The bill amends the Biofuels Act to enable the regulation to "apply, adopt or incorporate a publication as in force at a particular time or as in force from time to time". That will prevent a regulation from referring to out-of-date documents if not amended in time.

The Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 is amended to enable members to interact with the board through electronic means rather than in person only. Further, the need for a business to keep and provide a copy of the regulating Act and regulations, if requested by a person attending their office, is removed for both the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 and the Funeral Funds Act 1979, as copies of all Acts and regulations can be found on the New South Wales legislation website. The Motor Dealers and Repairers Amendment Act 2023 is amended to clarify that parties can make claims on the compensation fund to enforce a tribunal order, rather than just a judgement or order of a court under the Motor Dealers and Repairers Act 2013. Clarification is given to the period in which a person can be disqualified from being involved in the direction, management or conduct of business under the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002. Where previously no time frame was specified, the bill states that the disqualification can be temporary or permanent.

Schedule 8 to the bill finalises amendments made to the Liquor Act 2007 last year to permanently grant local councils the authority to allow outdoor dining and performance on local roads and public spaces for a temporary period. Finally, the bill also inserts a new part into the Liquor Act 2007 to continue to empower councils to allow the use of certain spaces for outdoor dining, performance and extension of foyer space on a temporary basis. The bill is essential for improving the digital relevance and modernisation of our legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (14:44): I speak in support of the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading for bringing the bill to the House. The bill supports the work of the Government by introducing several reforms to ensure that laws remain current and fit for purpose. I will focus on some of the minor but meaningful amendments in the bill that will broadly modernise and futureproof the law so it stays relevant in a digital world. They include amendments that futureproof references to websites where documents can be published and ensure that provisions are technology neutral, remove and update references to outdated technology, enable electronic record keeping and sharing of documents, and modernise and update public notice requirements.

Firstly, I speak to the amendments in the bill that update existing requirements so that documents can be published more broadly on a New South Wales government website or by other appropriate electronic means. The reform aims to ensure that the laws in the portfolio are technology neutral so they can remain responsive to an evolving technological environment, which is crucial for digital transformation. The bill identifies seven Acts that currently require the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service to publish certain information on either the department's website or a website the department maintains. In other situations, the secretary can require a regulated entity to publish information on a website the secretary deems appropriate. However, government webpages are continually changing, which can cause confusion to members of the public. Machinery of government changes can lead to new webpage configurations and the migration of information. More importantly, the New South Wales public needs to know where information can be accessed and be able to access it easily.

There is currently an initiative to transform the digital experience that the New South Wales Government delivers to make it easier for customers to seek, say and do. The Government is building nsw.gov.au as the one place for customers to source information from across government. The aim is to create a consistent, world-class, customer-centric experience for the citizens of New South Wales. Over the coming years, the Fair Trading website

content will fully migrate onto the whole-of-government website to deliver accessible digital information to the people in New South Wales. This Government is focused on creating a positive digital experience for the citizens of New South Wales by designing content based on their needs rather than the structure of government. However, New South Wales laws should also be responsive to those needs. The changes in the bill achieve that by providing that the secretary publish information more broadly on a New South Wales government website.

The way that people access information is changing. As technology evolves, consumer expectations and behaviour change. That means people can access information or communicate using alternative technologies, like apps. The Service NSW mobile app is a great example of how the New South Wales Government and the broader community have adapted to modern technology, with over five million active users accessing identification and information via the app. To futureproof the laws, the bill provides that information can also be published using other appropriate electronic means, not just on websites. That flexibility will mean that documents can be published using the most appropriate method. The reform is minor but timely and smart, as it futureproofs references to websites in all the Fair Trading statutes and will ensure that the laws remain fit for purpose in a digital world.

The bill also makes minor amendments to remove outdated references to technology and enables other electronic methods to be used where necessary. The past few decades have seen rapid technological development, including high-speed internet that enables instant sharing of information through email and messaging platforms, yet various statutes across the portfolio still reference archaic technology for people to use to communicate or store records. They include lithograph, fax machine, typewriter, videotape, computer diskette and microfilm. Those forms of technology are considered obsolete and have no relevance in modern society. In fact, I would be surprised if the younger generations have ever heard of some of them.

The bill removes those outdated references and updates certain provisions using technology-neutral language to enable other, more appropriate forms of technology to be used. For example, the Biofuels Act 2007 currently provides that the expert panel can perform any of its business at a meeting at which members "participate by telephone, closed-circuit television or other means". The bill removes the outdated reference to closed-circuit television and updates the provision so meetings can be held by other electronic means as well, which would include videoconferencing technology. The amendments modernise the laws in favour of technology-neutral provisions to ensure the laws can keep pace with ever-evolving technologies.

I now turn to the amendments in the bill that enable electronic record keeping and sharing of documents. The bill identifies five statutes that contain or imply solely paper-based record keeping and sharing processes. They include requirements that businesses hold paper-based records and make them available for physical inspection on request at any reasonable hour. Outdated laws that do not take into account changes in technology and business practices can impose unnecessary burden, detract from business productivity and discourage growth.

The proposed amendments complement existing paper-based activities where necessary and modernise the laws by ensuring there is flexibility to keep and share documents electronically. Moving away from solely paper-based activities and enabling electronic activities will give customers the choice to transact how they wish. It will also make compliance easier and help reduce the regulatory load on businesses and consumers. For example, the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1990 does not recognise that owners and tenants can keep electronic accounts relating to the tenancy. It also does not recognise that records could be exchanged between parties without the need for a personal home visit. The bill addresses that by modernising the provision and providing greater flexibility in how accounts can be kept and shared.

Another example is the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998, which requires that notice of a meeting "must be displayed in a conspicuous place at the registered office and each other office of the society". The days of people attending an office to read notices on a noticeboard are long gone. In some instances, societies no longer even have physical offices; they conduct their business online. Furthermore, all members of cooperative societies are already required to be notified of a meeting. No other relevant persons need to be notified. The bill removes those outdated and unnecessary requirements to modernise the law and reduce burdensome obligations, which will provide a small cost-saving for those societies.

Lastly, I turn to the amendments in the bill that modernise and update requirements that public notices be published in newspapers. The bill identifies three Acts that continue to require public notices to be made in the form of newspaper advertisements. Public notices are an important tool for communicating information about everyday matters affecting the people of New South Wales. However, newspapers are no longer the most efficient way to notify the public, as more people use online methods to access information and news. The number of people reading newspapers has decreased, and the cost to reach the public through newspapers is high. The bill addresses that by ensuring that public notice requirements reflect contemporary ways to publish information.

The amendments remove outdated and redundant public notice requirements and update provisions to be technology neutral. Amendments to the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002 will mean that Fair Trading no longer has to publish newspaper notices about when claims can be made against the compensation fund relating to a defaulting licensee. Instead, the notice can be published on any New South Wales government website or by other appropriate electronic means to bring the notice to the attention of people who are likely to be affected. Modernising the law to remove outdated provisions and rejuvenating it so it is technology neutral and technology friendly futureproofs the law. I am confident that the reforms in the bill will deliver practical results to improve the community's experience in their interactions with the Government and the law. Once again, I commend the Minister for bringing the bill to the House.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (14:53): I support the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading for bringing the bill to the House. Today I focus on the amendments in schedule 7 to the bill. That schedule contains various miscellaneous but important reforms that seek to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, ensure the laws remain fit for purpose and operate efficiently, and clarify and support the intended operation of the law.

I will speak about the amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 that aim to increase privacy protections for committee members and public officers. Associations represent a diverse range of small-scale non-profit and non-commercial bodies, including sporting clubs, charities and migrant support services. Firstly, the current laws require an association's official address to be an address at which the association's public officer can generally be found. That means that members of an association can discover the public officer's personal address, as it is the same as the association's official address. That information can also be accessed by any person who searches the public register, which is a privacy concern.

The majority of people would be uncomfortable knowing that the address at which they can generally be found is recorded on a public register. The bill addresses the matter by removing that link and requiring that the official address be an address in New South Wales at which documents can be served on the association by post. That reform will improve the privacy of public officers and will remove the risk to those who have concerns for their safety.

Secondly, the bill removes the requirement for committee members to provide their date of birth and residential address. That information is currently required to be recorded in the register of committee members, and any person can inspect that register free of charge. The requirement that associations make the register of committee members available for inspection is also not necessary and has been removed. Information in the register is mainly relevant to people involved in an association, and not to the public. Similarly, the bill removes the requirement for a new public officer to provide their date of birth when they are notifying the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service of their appointment. A copy of the notification can be made available to any person who searches the public register. A public officer's date of birth is unnecessary for the proper administration of the Act. A declaration on the notice of appointment that the public officer is aged 18 years or older is sufficient.

That outdated requirement is a violation of privacy and increases the risk of identity theft and associated fraud. It also exposes private individuals to potential doxxing or other forms of intense harassment. Stakeholders, including women's refuges, associations with members who are judicial officers, corrective services staff and staff who work in child protection, have raised concerns about those requirements. Many people in those fields do not ordinarily disclose their personal details to the general public due to safety concerns. The proposed amendments seek to uphold the privacy of committee members and public officers, and to reduce the risk of harm. Those reforms are critical to ensuring the law remains fit for purpose in the modern world and continue to support the intended operation of the law.

I now turn to another important amendment to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, which will remove an impractical governance procedure and allow an association's assets to be distributed. Section 77 of the Act currently sets the process following the involuntary cancellation of an association's registration. It provides that the association's property comes under the control of the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service. The provision also empowers the secretary to deal with the finalisation of an association's affairs and the distribution of surplus assets.

However, the provision uses the term "winding up", which potentially misrepresents the function of the secretary. The term "finalisation" is more appropriate for that process, as the process of winding up an association is different. That is because the applied provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 of the Commonwealth apply when an association is winding up its affairs. Removing the term "winding up" from section 77 of the Act will clarify the process for finalising an association's affairs. Importantly, that reform will ensure that an association's assets can be distributed as intended following involuntary cancellation.

I now turn to the amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 that aim to reduce red tape and expenses when carrying out ballots. Currently associations are restricted to choosing one method to conduct voting ballots of its members, which is to use the electronic ballot process or the postal ballot process but not both. That is impractical and simply does not reflect the modern ways in which voting can be conducted. The voting system for State elections in New South Wales would be highly impractical if our citizens did not have access to multiple methods of voting on election day. There is no reason that associations and their members cannot have the same flexibility. The proposed amendment will allow more associations to use combined electronic and postal ballots. Removing that red tape will provide flexibility and is likely to reduce unnecessary costs for the administration of associations.

The proposed amendments will remove unnecessary provisions relating to statutory declarations. I understand that only three Acts in the Fair Trading portfolio still refer to and require submission of statutory declarations. While statutory declarations have use in certain situations, such measures are not always needed. For instance, making a false or misleading declaration is already a general offence under the Crimes Act 1900. Additionally, some Acts have specific provisions making it an offence to make a false or misleading statement on a form.

Under the Truck Industry Act 1998, the secretary can require that additional information be verified by statutory declaration as part of an application. However, separately, it provides that it is an offence to make a false or misleading statement as part of the application, whereas under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 a person can provide a statutory declaration to fulfil certain requirements instead of completing the mandatory approved form, which has its own declaration section. These Acts' requirements to use statutory declarations are unnecessary, and removing them will ensure clarity and consistency with other laws in the portfolio. The amendments will also reduce any administrative and compliance burdens of completing and lodging such declarations.

The amendment to the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 will enable members to interact with their boards by electronic means rather than only in person. Digital adoption took a quantum leap during the pandemic. It accelerated the use of digital technologies and changed how we interact with each other. The Government is responding to this momentum by ensuring that all our laws are modern, to ensure better outcomes for the people of New South Wales. This includes improving the ways in which co-operative society members can interact with their boards to fulfil their obligations. Amendments to the Co-operative Housing and Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998 and the Funeral Funds Act 1979 will remove an archaic requirement to keep a hard copy of the regulating statutes and make it available for inspection. Those provisions are outdated and redundant, as copies of all Acts and regulations are now readily accessible online for free. Removing those requirements will provide a small saving for those businesses, which will not need to purchase or print new copies each time the relevant statutes are updated.

Lastly, I turn to amendments that will improve clarity of the law to ensure that it operates as intended. The bill will update a recent amendment to the Motor Dealers and Repairers Act 2013, which is yet to commence, to clarify that parties can make claims on the compensation fund to enforce a tribunal order, not just a judgement or order of a court. Finally, the bill will amend the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002 to clarify that the period in which a person can be disqualified from being involved in directing, managing or conducting a business can be either temporary or permanent. That amendment will provide certainty and enable NSW Fair Trading to implement disciplinary decisions more effectively. I am confident that the outcome of the amendments in this bill will be in the best interests of the people of New South Wales. Once again, I commend the Minister for bringing the bill to the House.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:03): I support the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading for bringing the bill to the House, as well as the staff in his office and the department for their hard work on the bill. The bill will introduce amendments to 21 principal Acts, one amending Act and six regulations across the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio. Omnibus bills like this one act as important vehicles for a range of minor miscellaneous amendments. They enable the Government to ensure that laws remain fit for purpose and responsive in the modern world. This bill contains several miscellaneous reforms seeking to modernise outdated provisions; create more future-fit laws to ensure they stay relevant in today's digital world; ensure that legislation is harmonised and consistent across the portfolio; clarify legal requirements; and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.

I will now speak broadly to the amendments across the first six schedules to the bill. Those schedules propose broad reforms to ensure that laws in the portfolio are consistent and fit for purpose in the digital age. The reforms futureproof references to websites where documents can be published and ensure that provisions are technologically neutral; remove and update references to outdated technology; standardise the definition of

business day; remove outdated public notice requirements and update some to be technologically neutral; enable electronic record keeping and sharing of documents; and allow for the service of documents by electronic means.

I will now speak to how the bill futureproofs requirements to publish documents on a specific agency or department website. Although I am often fond of remarking that I meet very few members of the public who wait with bated breath for the latest updates from government websites, I can say that sometimes that does happen—I stand corrected—and, when the community needs to access information, it should be easily available and easy to find. The proposed amendments to seven Acts will update website references, where appropriate, to refer to a New South Wales government website more generally. In fact, the Government is currently in the process of updating and consolidating its websites on the nsw.gov.au website. This reform also applies technology-neutral language to enable regulators to consider and use alternative technologies, like apps. The amendments will provide greater flexibility for the regulator and allow legislation to keep up with technological advancements, which are taking place at rapid speed.

References to outdated technology have been removed from various statutes across the portfolio. When was the last time you used a lithograph or magnetic tape? I know I am a newer member of this House and perhaps one of its younger members. However, references to such technologies—which in some instances were invented in the 1700s—are inappropriate in twenty-first century statutes. The proposed amendments remove outdated references to technology. Additionally, some of the provisions have been updated, where necessary, to allow for other electronic means. Using technology-neutral language will enhance the law's capability to accommodate new technologies, which, as I mentioned, have been advancing with greater speed as each year passes. The reform will enable businesses to innovate and adopt new technologies, which they can use to communicate or record information without having to seek permission from the regulator.

I now turn to the proposed amendments to standardise the definition of business day across the portfolio. Currently there are several definitions of business day across statutes. The term "business day" is also used interchangeably with the term "working day"—which is confusing, as we can appreciate. The bill amends nine statutes to rely on the new standard definition of business day and inserts the new definition where it is missing. That amendment will clarify the law and make it more consistent for customers, reducing the risk of inadvertent noncompliance. Amendments in the bill will update requirements in three Acts that allow public notices to be published only in newspapers. Provisions that require notices to be published in newspapers were introduced decades ago. But newspapers are no longer the most efficient way to convey public notices to a mass audience, as more people are using online media to access information and news.

In fact, some communities across our State have no physical newspapers. In my community, following the COVID pandemic, the *Liverpool Leader* became an online-only newspaper and the *Liverpool Champion* no longer exists. Therefore, my community is not served by newspapers that can publish public notices. Digital channels of communication have become critical as customers increasingly use digital services to access information. The bill removes public notice rules only where they are outdated or redundant. Public notices are still necessary and the requirements have been updated to be technology neutral. Those changes will help businesses and the Government to save unnecessary costs spent on newspaper notices and will enable greater flexibility in the notification of our incredibly diverse communities. For businesses, some of the savings could be used to improve services, which can then flow through to consumers.

I now focus on an amendment in the bill that will enable electronic record keeping and electronic sharing of information without the need for in-person contact. Currently, several laws contain or imply solely paper-based record keeping for businesses. The laws also contain requirements for records to be provided or distributed in hard copy or the use of outdated methods to share records—for example, making records available on request for physical inspection at any reasonable hour. The proposed amendment will provide oversight while also allowing the public to access information quickly and efficiently by removing the requirement to physically visit an office. I am aware that an increasing number of offices prefer digital record keeping or solely use digital record keeping, and that will save businesses and consumers time and money.

Finally, I draw attention to the amendments in the bill that modernise and harmonise the general service of documents provisions across 21 Acts in the portfolio. The bill will futureproof the law by providing the option to serve documents by electronic means, not just email, and allowing extra methods to be added in the regulations. The changes will benefit industry by creating clearer and more consistent rules. Customers will also have more choice in how they want to be contacted, creating a better experience and reducing the risk of delays. The bill also inserts the standard general service of documents provision in some Acts that do not contain a service of documents provision, despite making references to the giving or serving of notices or documents. That reform will provide legislative certainty and clarity.

As the Minister stated in his second reading speech, the bill is an important step in the Government's stewardship approach to managing legislation and ensuring the laws are fit for purpose. I am confident that the

amendments in the bill will modernise the laws in the Minister's portfolio by recognising technological advancements and by providing greater legislative clarity and consistency, thereby finally bringing the legislative framework for businesses and consumers into the twenty-first century. I commend the Minister and his staff for their work in bringing the bill to the House.

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (15:12): I speak in support of the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and commend the Minister for introducing the bill. It will implement 17 reforms to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and improve legislative consistency and clarity. It also makes amendments to simplify and futureproof regulatory frameworks and modernise the laws in line with twenty-first century technology and practices. I draw the attention of the House to some of the minor but practical reforms in the bill that enhance consistency across various laws in the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio. The reforms include standardising the definition of business day, and updating and harmonising the methods for serving documents.

First, I will speak to the amendments in the bill that standardise the definition of business day. The bill will amend six Acts and three regulations across the portfolio to rely on the new standard definition of business day. Those amendments will update existing definitions to rely on the standard definition of business day or insert a new definition where one is missing. They also replace references to working day with business day. Currently, several definitions of business day exist across those statutes. The main variations involve whether the terms bank holiday and special holiday are included in the definition.

The term "business day" is also used interchangeably with the term "working day", which is confusing. In other instances, either term may be used in legislation without a definition. For example, the Retirement Villages Act 1999 currently refers to both business day and working day, but neither term is defined in the Act, whereas the Retirement Villages Regulation 2017 refers to working day within a specific schedule and is defined to mean any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday. Similarly, there is no definition of business day in the tow truck legislation, even though that term is referenced about 25 times throughout the Tow Truck Industry Regulation 2020.

This issue may appear to be very simple, but sometimes knowing what counts as a day or, more precisely, a business day can be legally important. The term "business day" is something that most people would have come across multiple times. It is a key term that can be found in important agreements and contracts. It is also a term that is used in various statutes where a person needs to calculate the number of days to ensure compliance with a certain requirement—for example, having to serve documents on a person or notify Fair Trading of a matter within a certain time. It is important that businesses and consumers have a clear and consistent definition of business day. To address those issues, the bill creates a single reference to business day with a common meaning.

The proposed standard meaning of business day is a day that is not a Saturday or a Sunday and not a public holiday or a bank holiday throughout New South Wales. The amendments in the bill also link the term "public holiday" to the definition provided in the Public Holidays Act 2010, or as provided in another Act. The term "bank holiday" has been included in the standard definition as it is not a defined public holiday. Among the amendments, the bill will update existing definitions of business day across various fair trading statutes such as the Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003 and the Motor Dealers and Repairers Act 2013.

It is not exaggeration to say that the fair trading laws impact our lives every day, from buying a baby cot to organising a funeral and everything in between. Providing a single standard definition of business day means that Fair Trading customers can rely on the same definition to more easily comply with legislative requirements across various statutes. It can also help facilitate the smooth operation of transactions, minimise the risk of disputes and reduce inadvertent noncompliance.

The terms business day and public holiday are commonly used terms that appear throughout the New South Wales statute book. Therefore, providing a single standard definition of business day is the best approach. The standard definition will also remove the potential for multiple interpretations of the meaning of public holiday. While the reform is simple, it provides meaningful changes that will benefit the people of this State and make the laws in the fair trading portfolio more consistent for customers.

I now speak about the amendments in the bill that update and harmonise the general service of documents provision across 21 Acts in the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio. Most of the Acts identified currently do not provide for the electronic service of documents other than by email. A small number of Acts have inconsistent or outdated methods of service, whereas others lack a service of documents provision altogether, despite making references to the serving of notices or documents. For example, the Biofuels Act 2007 does not provide a method of service, despite the Act mentioning serving documents on a person. To address those issues, the proposed amendments in the bill update and harmonise the service of documents provisions where relevant. A standard general service of documents provision has been inserted in those Acts that lack a service of documents

provision. Specifying the acceptable methods of service in those Acts will provide greater legislative clarity and certainty.

The bill also inserts a standard method to serve documents by other electronic means and adds capacity to prescribe other methods of service under the regulations. Expanding the current methods of service to include other electronic means, rather than limiting it to email, will modernise the fair trading laws and provide greater flexibility. That change will enable evolving capacities of technology to be used in the future—for example, by allowing notices to be served via an online portal. For example, the bill will amend the existing service of documents provisions in the Community Gaming Act 2018 to insert the option for documents to be served by other electronic means to an address or location specified by the recipient for the service of documents of that kind. That means that in order to serve a document using electronic means under the Community Gaming Act, the recipient will need to consent to the service of documents in that way and provide the address or location.

The bill also makes a range of consequential amendments to omit provisions that detail specific service requirements so that the general service of documents provision can apply instead. Those amendments increase the range of options available for individuals and businesses in how they want to be contacted. That creates a better experience for customers and can help reduce the risk of delays. The changes will also benefit industry by creating more clear and consistent laws. In conclusion, the two reforms I have just talked about are a small part of a much larger bill that will bring sensible changes, embed best practice and ensure there is legislative consistency. Achieving greater consistency across our laws will provide better outcomes for the people of New South Wales. I am proud to be a part of this Government as it delivers the bill. Once again, I commend the Minister for bringing the bill to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I welcome the guests to the gallery.

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) (15:21): In reply: I thank the shadow Minister and member for Willoughby and my colleagues representing the electorates of Fairfield, Mount Druitt, Camden, Heathcote, Liverpool and Penrith for their contributions to the debate on the Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As the House has heard, the bill will implement 16 miscellaneous reforms that amend various statutes across the Better Regulation and Fair Trading portfolio and the Gaming and Racing portfolio. The reforms in the bill will modernise provisions and create more future-fit laws to ensure they stay relevant in today's digital world, ensure the laws remain fit for purpose and operate efficiently, reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, ensure legislation is harmonised and consistent across the portfolio, clarify the powers for councils to allow temporary use of outdoor space for performance and dining, and clarify and support the intended operation of the law.

The amendments in the bill demonstrate this Government's commitment to ensure the laws operate as intended, remain fit for purpose and keep pace with developments in the community and twenty-first century technology and practices. It is in the public's best interest that the laws of this State are accurate, coherent and effective. Legislation should be updated to remain current, and outdated requirements that impose costs for businesses and government alike should be removed. That is exactly what the bill does, even if the amendments are minor and housekeeping in nature. As I outlined earlier, the bill will make minor but important improvements to various statutes in the portfolio to ensure they reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, remain relevant and are consistent and clear. NSW Fair Trading regulates a broad range of important sectors in the community. It is critical that the legislation it administers remains relevant and is kept up to date, otherwise there is a risk that consumers and businesses could lose confidence in the laws being administered or it could lead to an increase in misunderstandings and disputes. I am confident that the bill will benefit and deliver meaningful change for the people of New South Wales.

I take this opportunity to thank industry, consumer and other government stakeholders that have contributed to the development of the reforms contained in the bill. I would also like to thank the department officers for their hard work during development of the bill. In particular, I acknowledge Warren McAllister, Leona Fernandez, Abby Tozer, Chinyama Zuze, Vickie Chu, Hannah McIntosh and Adam Heydon from Fair Trading Policy, Emily Crocker from the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, and my own ministerial staff, Alicia Sylvester, Laura Gregory and Ivy Tseng. I commend the bill to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

RESIDENTIAL (LAND LEASE) COMMUNITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Anoulack Chanthivong, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

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) (15:25): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Amendment Bill 2024. The bill amends the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013 to improve the regulatory framework for residential land lease communities. The Act sets out the rights and obligations of operators of those communities and the people who live in them. In a residential land lease community, residents generally own the home they live in, such as a caravan, and pay rent to community operators in the form of site fees for the land on which their home sits. Residents may also be tenants who, for example, rent the home directly from the home owner. Operators of residential land lease communities range from small businesses to large corporations. Many communities have only permanent home owners, but some are a mix of home owners, tourists, tenants and long-term casual occupants.

Residential land lease communities play an important part in New South Wales housing diversity. Many communities provide lower-cost and affordable homes for vulnerable people, especially older Australians. They also offer an alternative housing option for people who wish to live in more communal environments and are often marketed as offering a resort lifestyle at a fraction of the cost. There are more than 500 residential land lease communities in New South Wales, with more than 40,000 people living in them. Ninety-five per cent of communities are in regional and rural New South Wales, so the bill will have significant positive impacts on those areas, including the Central Coast, Port Macquarie and Ballina. A statutory review of the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act was completed in 2021. The review involved extensive consultation with key industry stakeholders and the public. More than 350 submissions and 100 survey responses were received during two rounds of public consultation. The review found the Act remains relevant and effective but also identified opportunities to improve the Act.

In finding opportunities for change, the review made a total of 48 recommendations. Those recommendations were generally aimed at making home owners', operators' and other residents' rights and obligations clearer; increasing certainty for consumers; improving the law in relation to electricity pricing; reducing disputes between operators and home owners; and improving life in communities for all parties. The bill is a first step in the long journey to improve residential land lease community laws. It is disappointing the former Government sat on its hands for years while those communities and industry stakeholders were crying out for action. This Government is taking action. The bill implements 21 of the 48 recommendations the review made. The legislative reforms in the bill will address some of the most pressing issues in residential land lease communities. The Government will continue to engage with stakeholders on the remaining proposals. By bringing the bill to the House, we are making some important changes now, but we recognise that more time is needed to consult on the remaining reform proposals so that we get those changes right.

The bill will benefit operators and residents in residential land lease communities as it will make site fee increases using the "fixed" method easier to understand and predict for home owners and require site fee increases made using the "by notice" method to include more information about the reason for the increase. It will improve home owners' enjoyment of their home by, for example, allowing them to make certain minor changes to their homes without operator consent. It will introduce a new price cap for electricity charges in communities with embedded networks for electricity so that residents and operators have more certainty about energy prices. It will bring greater transparency to communities by, for example, requiring operators to give information to residents about proposed developments in the community that may impact them. It will reform voluntary sharing arrangements so that they continue to provide a flexible way to buy a home while minimising any potential exploitation of vulnerable home buyers. It will ensure fair outcomes for home owners who face termination due to reasons outside of their control.

I now turn to the provisions of the bill. Under the Act, operators may increase site fees using one of two methods—the "by-notice" method or the "fixed" method. When entering into a site agreement, the operator and

home owner will agree to use one of these two methods to increase site fees. One of the biggest issues that stakeholders raised during the statutory review was site fee increases using the fixed method. There were concerns about how some operators are using complex calculations with multiple components to increase site fees under this method. For example, calculations have been seen to include any positive change in the consumer price index, plus a fixed percentage amount, plus percentage increases in operator costs since the last fee increase, plus a fixed dollar amount. This makes it somewhat difficult for home owners to understand how much their site fees will increase in the future, putting increased uncertainty and pressure on household budgets.

The New South Wales Labor Government has been clear that its top priority is helping people across New South Wales with cost-of-living pressures. The bill makes an important change to ease the burden on residential land lease community home owners and improve transparency so that they know exactly what they must pay when their site fee increases. The bill will limit operators to using a single element to calculate a site fee increase under the fixed method. This change will improve clarity and certainty about such fee increases. It will allow home owners to more accurately predict and plan for their site fee increases. The single element could be, for example, a percentage of the aged pension, a fixed percentage amount or an increase in proportion to variations in the consumer price index.

The bill will also require operators to review and update all existing agreements that use more than one element to calculate a fixed method site fee increase within three years of the commencement of the amendments. This means that home owners who now face complex fixed method calculations for site fee increases will benefit from the bill's reforms. Updating existing site agreements will need home owners and operators to agree on a new way to increase site fees. If a variation agreement or new compliant agreement is not entered into within the three years, the bill provides that the "by-notice" method of site fee increase will become the default method.

The "by-notice" method of site fee increase can be challenged in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, providing further protections and recourse for residents. I know what a difference this change is going to be for residents in certain communities. My esteemed colleague the member for Gosford, who is present in the Chamber, has been actively advocating for this change for constituents who have directly experienced the difficulties caused by complex calculations using the fixed method of site fee increase. I thank the member for Gosford for her ongoing advocacy on behalf of her community.

I also recognise the importance of the operators who run residential land lease communities. The New South Wales Government wants operators to thrive as they are a fundamental part of flourishing communities. The Government understands that operators will need time to implement the changes to the fixed method of site fee increases. As such, the bill gives operators a three-year transition period. The bill also limits the number of times site fees can increase under the fixed method to once per year. This limit does not extend to increases tied to the age pension. Site fee increases tied to the age pension will be limited to twice per year. This change aligns with the existing 12-month limit for by-notice site fee increases. It gives certainty to home owners about how often their site fees can increase.

Further, the bill will require that a site fee increase using the "by-notice" method include more information about the reason for an increase. Where a site fee increase is due to higher costs for specific items, the operator will need to provide information in the notice, including the item details, how much these costs have gone up since the last fee increase and details of how the operator has apportioned the costs for these items when calculating the increased site fees. The bill also implements recommendation 18 of the statutory review to stop the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal from considering the value of the land on which the community is located when deciding if a site fee increase is excessive. The value of such land is not relevant to site fee increases and should not be a factor the tribunal can consider when deciding these matters.

Another critical reform in the bill addresses a key issue about electricity charging in communities with electricity embedded networks. The sector has been appealing for a solution to this issue for many years. Embedded networks are private energy networks for services such as electricity, hot and chilled water, and gas. Many residential land lease communities use an embedded network for their electricity needs. The community operator is usually responsible for the supply of electricity through the network. Residents generally cannot choose to get their electricity from someone else. Given this lack of consumer choice, it is critical that these consumers are protected from excessive prices and understand the pricing in a clear and transparent manner.

Electricity charging in communities with embedded networks is complex, time consuming and uncertain for operators and home owners. Currently, the Act limits the utility charges an operator may charge home owners. In 2018 the New South Wales Supreme Court in the case of *Silva Portfolios Pty Ltd trading as Ballina Waterfront Village & Tourist Park v Reckless* held that an operator cannot charge a home owner more than the operator has been charged for the electricity that the home owner consumes. This has meant that operators cannot recover their administrative and maintenance costs for their embedded networks as they can only pass on electricity usage charges to residents.

It has also meant that the way electricity bills are worked out has become complex, time consuming for operators to administer, and hard for home owners to plan for and understand. To make matters worse, these issues have led some operators to outsource the operation of their electricity embedded network to third-party electricity retailers. Due to a current gap in the law, such third-party providers can charge residents as much as they want for electricity and are not bound by the current Act's limits on utility charges. The statutory review recommended that further work should be undertaken to look at introducing a new price cap for what operators or third parties can charge residents for the supply and use of electricity in communities with embedded networks.

The bill implements this price cap with the support of all key stakeholders consulted on the bill. This approach will ensure that residents in communities with embedded networks are not paying excessive electricity charges compared with residents in communities without an embedded network. It will also have numerous other benefits. These include reducing the complexity of billing for operators, allowing operators to recover the costs of maintaining their embedded networks and giving residents much needed clarity and certainty about how much they can expect to pay for their electricity.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW will set the median market price. The supporting regulation will require IPART to determine this price every 12 months and give notice of this to the Commissioner for Fair Trading. The commissioner will then have to publish the required information on a publicly available website, making it accessible for operators and third parties. This reform may impact the existing low rates some residents pay. As such, the statutory review also recommended considering measures to address any pricing impacts on customers due to the new cap. The bill sets out two such measures. Firstly, at least once a year, the electricity supplier for the community must give written notice of the charges they pay for their electricity supply to residents. Secondly, at least once every two years, the electricity supplier will need to review and compare their electricity supply contract with at least one other comparable offer from another electricity retailer. If the contract is more than two years, then the supplier will need to review the contract after its expiry before a new one is entered into. The supplier will also need to give each resident written notice of their review.

I recognise that IPART has recently considered the regulation of embedded networks in New South Wales. It made several recommendations about electricity charging in embedded networks in the report it published in April. IPART's recommendations overlap with the electricity charging provisions in the bill to some degree. Some may ask why the Government is introducing the electricity reforms now. The electricity pricing reforms in the bill are a stopgap measure until broader industry regulation for electricity pricing is implemented. It is necessary to proceed with the reforms now as stakeholders have been calling for change for several years, thanks to the inaction of the former government.

The reforms are needed to address the difficulties operators and residents face. The situation has now become urgent. They cannot wait any longer. It has been made clear to stakeholders that the measures in the bill related to the electricity pricing of embedded networks are temporary until the Government implements broader industry regulation for electricity pricing. Stakeholders understand and support the Government's approach. My colleague in the other place, the Minister for Climate Change, and Minister for Energy, will lead the Government's response to IPART's recommendations and their subsequent implementation. I look forward to working with Minister Sharpe to progress that important work.

I turn to the new utility billing provisions in the bill. The provisions are in line with recommendations 24 and 25 of the statutory review. Currently, the Act does not have any specific requirements about what information an operator must include on a resident's utility bill or how often such bills are to be issued. Feedback to the review suggested that the lack of rules has led to inconsistent billing arrangements across communities. That has created uncertainty for residents, which again impacts their ability to properly budget. For electricity and gas billing, the bill introduces provisions so that the entity issuing the bill, such as an operator, must comply with the relevant national energy rules. The rules are the National Energy Retail Rules for retailers and the Australian Energy Regulator's *Retail Exempt Selling Guideline* for exempt sellers. For billing for all other utility types, the bill details the minimum information to be set out in bills and requires that bills must be issued to home owners and tenants at least once every three months. Those requirements are consistent with those that apply to electricity and gas billing. The changes will give home owners and tenants more clarity and certainty about their utility bills.

A key benefit of living in residential land lease communities is the communal environment. Residents can get to know each other and support each other. They can share the benefits of facilities that they may not otherwise have access to on their own—for example, pools, tennis courts or libraries. However, due to the shared nature of communities, the Act needs to strike a balance between individual home owners' rights and those of the community and operator. The review of the Act identified opportunities to give home owners more freedom to enjoy their home without detriment to the community or operators. An example of that is home owners being able to make certain minor alterations and additions to their homes without the operator's consent. Section 42 of the Act currently generally restricts a home owner from changing the exterior of the home except with the operator's

written consent, or as allowed under their site agreement. The bill will mean home owners can now add window locks, screens, shutters and door screens without the operator's consent. That seems sensible and streamlines the process for home owners and reduces operators' administrative burden having to approve minor changes.

The bill also provides a regulation-making power to allow other minor alterations to be included in the regulation. Any such change will only be made if it strikes a good balance between the rights of home owners, other residents and also the operators. The Government will closely consult with key stakeholders on any such proposed change. The bill strengthens residents' freedom to enjoy their homes by clarifying that operators are only to enter a home in certain situations, such as with the resident's consent or in an emergency if necessary to avert danger to life. It will also clarify that operators can only ask home owners to fix significant dilapidation of a residential site if the home owner has caused it. That is in line with recommendation 33 of the statutory review.

It is important that residential land lease community laws properly protect home owners and enable them to make informed decisions. At the same time I acknowledge the key role that operators play in the growing residential land lease communities sector. Flexibility and minimising unnecessary red tape are important to support the viability and growth of those communities in New South Wales. There are a number of reforms in the bill that balance those different considerations and aim to improve overall outcomes for home owners and operators. Increased transparency between home owners and operators encourages cooperative relationships and reduces the number of disputes.

In line with the statutory review recommendations, the bill introduces small changes to operators' obligations relating to information sharing. Those added obligations are proportionate and aim to limit impacts on operators as much as possible. For example, the statutory review found that communities will benefit from more transparency from operators about development proposals and applications that operators are pursuing. As such, the bill will require an operator who is seeking to lodge a development application or planning proposal that may affect the residential land lease community to give written notice to all potentially affected residents. Operators must give written notice to potentially affected residents at least 30 days before lodging their proposal. The notice is required to also have a brief summary of the proposal. Residents deserve to know of any changes proposed to the community that may impact them, not only because the changes might affect existing features and amenities of the community but also because they may impact on day-to-day living—for example, construction in a community. However, to limit an operator's administrative burden, the provision only makes operators give notice of proposals they actually intend to lodge.

The bill also makes changes to the voluntary sharing arrangement provisions of the Act. Currently, the Act allows voluntary sharing arrangements where a prospective home owner can agree to pay the operator an entry fee, an exit fee, a deferred site fee or a portion of the capital gain or sale amount when the home is sold. Those arrangements give flexibility to operators and prospective home owners to negotiate agreements to buy a home that can be tailored to the prospective home owner's individual financial situation. However, the statutory review found that the ability of operators to charge entry and exit fees could be excessive and act as a barrier to the uptake of voluntary sharing arrangements. The bill removes the ability of operators to charge entry and exit fees under those arrangements.

The bill also introduces a measure to improve transparency for prospective home owners entering voluntary sharing arrangements. It will require operators to give prospective home owners written information about the costs of a voluntary sharing arrangement and the costs of a rent-only agreement. Rent-only site agreements only require homeowners to pay site fees to the operator for the site. In contrast, voluntary sharing arrangements allow homeowners to pay operators in other ways. For example, under such an arrangement a homeowner could pay a smaller site fee and part of any capital gain they get when they sell their home. That will mean that prospective home buyers can better understand the options that they have and their financial implications to make fully informed decisions.

Another aspect of the bill that I want to draw to members' attention is a key protection for communities in light of our State's most recent experiences with extreme flooding and fire. As members are aware, those events have been devastating for the people of New South Wales in affected communities. The bill strengthens the emergency procedure requirements to ensure communities can properly respond to extreme weather events and other emergencies. Section 37 of the Act currently requires operators to have emergency evacuation procedures in place and to take reasonable steps to ensure that all residents are aware of the procedures. The bill will require operators to test the procedures at least once a year and to keep records of the tests. I understand that many community operators already test their emergency procedures. The introduction of this requirement only formalises the obligation for many operators. This will ensure that all communities have emergency procedures that are up to date and ready to be deployed when needed. The amendments will also ensure residents are aware of the procedures.

As I have said consistently, the Government is committed to properly balancing the rights and responsibilities of home owners and operators. The Act clearly sets out when an operator can end a site agreement. The restrictions on when an operator can do so are important because an operator ending a site agreement has considerable consequences for a home owner. If an operator ends an agreement, the home owner will need to move, which is highly disruptive. But operators must be able to end agreements where needed so they can operate their communities effectively. The statutory review generally found that the termination provisions in the Act are working well, but the review sets out some changes to ensure fairness to home owners.

Section 127 of the Act allows an operator to terminate a site agreement because the site is not allowed to be used as a residential site under relevant laws, such as planning law. But the operator has to pay the home owner compensation if the home owner did not know this at the time they entered the site agreement with the operator. The review found that there are situations where an operator has taken action that resulted in a residential site not being allowed to be used, but because this happened after the agreement was entered, operators do not have to pay compensation to home owners. The bill fixes this loophole to ensure operators are held responsible for their actions and have to compensate affected home owners, irrespective of when the site agreement was entered into.

The bill also amends section 127 of the Act to extend the period to vacate a residential site from 90 days to 120 days after home owners receive a termination notice. This applies where the termination notice is due to the residential site not being lawfully useable for the purposes of residence. This supports home owners to find a different place to live by giving them more time to search. Lastly, the bill removes section 128 of the Act. Currently, section 128 allows an operator to end a site agreement if the residential site has not been used for at least three years as the place of residence of the home owner or another person permitted to live there. This change is in line with review recommendation 48 and means home owners will not be pushed out of a community where they have met their actual obligations.

The Residential (Land Lease) Communities Amendment Bill before the House will implement some of the key recommendations of the statutory review of the Act. I thank all key industry and community stakeholders and members of the public who have made valuable contributions to these reforms. In particular, I want to thank and acknowledge the Caravan and Camping Industry Association, the Affiliated Residential Park Residents Association, the Tenants' Union of New South Wales, the Independent Park Residents Action Group, and the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW.

The bill is the first step in delivering changes to improve residential land lease community laws for the benefit of all parties involved—operators, home owners and other residents. It will support the continued growth of residential land lease communities in New South Wales by ensuring that the regulatory framework is modern and has the flexibility and balance needed to operate effectively. I look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders to progress the remaining statutory review recommendations. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (VIBRANCY REFORMS)
BILL 2024**

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 7 May 2024.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:54): I lead for the Coalition in debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The Coalition will be seeking to move amendments in the other place and will support the passage of this legislation through this House. The Coalition believes in getting government out of the way and encourages businesses to fulfil their full potential. Businesses should not be tied up in more administration and overly restricted by onerous rules and regulations which at their worst are harming the profitability and continued operations of many hardworking businesses around the State. The underlying weakness of the economy under Labor governments here and in Canberra is already tough enough for small businesses. Almost every input cost has been increasing substantially along with the pain of persistently high inflation. The Coalition is supportive of backing small businesses to expand their operations to enhance their economic viability because they play such a vital part in employing local people in communities across this State.

Encouraging later operating hours is a helpful tool for businesses to consider. Businesses such as The Joey in Palm Beach should not be facing closure due to bureaucratic meddling. The Coalition wants people to enjoy nights out with family and friends. The environment must exist where vibrant venues in local communities are supported so that people do not feel they must travel into the city to have a fun night out. Often people living in the suburbs decide not to go out at all when going to the city is seen as the only option. That is to the detriment of the vibrancy of our society and communities, big and small, right across New South Wales. Young people often bemoan the cost of a \$100 Uber to get back home from the city on a Friday or Saturday night, so it would be of

great benefit to the nightlife of Sydney to have more venues operational at a later hour and closer to where people live in appropriate locations. The Coalition first appointed the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner when it was in government, having pushed for the expansion of the role when dealing last year with the cognate bills, the 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2023 and the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner Bill 2023.

Turning to the detail of the bill, the purpose of the bill is to provide for the issuing of vibrancy guidelines and the making of decisions about extended hours of operation for relevant food and drink premises consistent with the guidelines. The Minister outlined in his second reading speech how the guidelines will favour later hours of operation. A consent authority, typically a council, must have regard to the new vibrancy guidelines when assessing applications for extended hours of operation for food and drink premises at any hour which is beyond 7.00 p.m. on any night of the week. As a result of this legislation, consent authorities must consider the vibrancy guidelines as a part of the usual merit assessment process. We welcome that the vibrancy framework still allows for legitimate concerns to be raised and dealt with appropriately.

The vibrancy guidelines must be considered for both new and modification applications. Development applications [DAs] for new food and drink premises will still be considered on a case-by-case basis. Food and drink premises are restaurants, cafes, takeaway food and drink premises, pubs and small bars. The vibrancy guidelines will apply where the premises the subject of the application are not located within a special entertainment precinct or within residential zones, and are situated on land which is 500 metres or more away from the nearest residential premises. The latter two provisions are important to ensure that residential areas are protected from excessive noise at a late hour of the night. This legislation presents a sensible pathway for businesses to trade for longer whilst not creating noise and other related issues for local residents living near a venue. A 500-metre distance is more than appropriate and will mitigate almost all reasonable concerns. The Coalition is very supportive of all of the above changes.

Under schedule 8, vibrancy guidelines will be issued by the planning secretary after consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. That will occur after the passage of the legislation. The Coalition has growing concerns with this Government's abrogation of its duties through its use of guidelines because guidelines do not present the same level of scrutiny as regulations and are not subject to the same notification requirements. We also deem it appropriate that the Minister instead of the planning secretary publish the guidelines as the Minister is accountable to the Parliament. The Coalition would prefer the Government to be open and transparent with the public by undertaking such measures through making regulations because regulations ensure that the Parliament has greater oversight over the decision-making of the Government. I foreshadow that the Opposition will move amendments to this effect in the other place. The amendments do not change the intent of the bill, just the mechanics to enhance accountability.

The Coalition has been working on a number of these issues in consultation with the entertainment and music industry to ensure a strong and vibrant night-time economy across New South Wales. It is no secret that the night-life in Sydney has faced extensive difficulties over the past decade, and we are committed to working collaboratively with the industry and community to restore a vibrant, safe and enjoyable night-time environment. The Coalition welcomes this legislation to enhance the viability of small hospitality businesses to ensure there are more options for people to enjoy the night-life in our State and believes its amendments will strengthen accountability to this Parliament. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:59): I am pleased to speak in support of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024, introduced to this place by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. I welcome the member for Manly, and shadow Minister, in leading the Coalition's support of the bill. I was intrigued to hear the member for Manly speak about reducing red tape, which is generally the Liberal Party's mantra—

Mr Rory Amon: Unlike you guys, putting up red tape here there and everywhere—green tape, red tape, blue tape, any kind of tape, hazardous tape. Put tape around you.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: Thank you for the interjection. But I recall that a few years ago, when they were talking about this matter, venues had to be licensed for a particular genre of music. For instance, a venue licensed for country and western music could not play rock and roll. Venues were licensed for a particular purpose—maybe country and/or western. We welcome the Coalition's support, but they were in government for 12 years and could not work out these vibrancy reforms to get our entertainment industry going. I thank the Hon. John Graham from the other place, and acknowledge Minister Harris, who is in the Chamber—

Mr David Harris: Changing regulation at a million miles an hour.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: —for changing regulations. I also acknowledge the Deputy Premier. All of them were out and about announcing these changes, especially last year, after extensive consultation with the community. As the Minister said in his second reading speech, the bill has:

... a clear purpose. It will make sure that councils and other consent authorities consider the Government's vibrancy agenda as an integral part of the merit assessment process for applications to extend trading hours.

The bill achieves this by introducing a requirement for consent authorities to consider vibrancy guidelines that support the New South Wales Government's vibrancy agenda. Although the Government's agenda and the community's expectations are clear, the recent decision in relation to Joey's restaurant—

Mr Rory Amon: It's "The Joey".

Mr STEPHEN BALI: —has highlighted the need for further reform—

Mr Rory Amon: It is not Joey Tribbiani from *Friends*; it's "The Joey".

Mr STEPHEN BALI: Have you taken some type of tablets or something to make you overly excited about the second reading speech?

Mr Rory Amon: I am just happy to be here.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: The member for Pittwater is vibrant today in the Chamber.

Mr Rory Amon: That's right. I'm just projecting the intent of the bill.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: The interjections are coming thick and fast. The decision has highlighted the need for further reform for food and drink premises that are located outside the late-night trading zones and cannot access extending trading through exempt pathways. The guidelines will be issued by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, after consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. It is appropriate that planning experts within the department work alongside the leaders of the Government's vibrancy reforms to develop the specific content of those guidelines.

The vibrancy guidelines are aimed at enabling venues to operate in a way that achieves their full social, business and cultural potential, particularly as part of the night-time economy. The guidelines will address various factors, including consideration of the impacts of late trading such as sound, light spill, safety, transport and amenity. The guidelines will help councils strike the right balance in meeting community expectations and supporting local businesses to thrive. The Government undertook vibrancy reforms last year to boost New South Wales' night-time economy. These reforms are already benefiting live music and the dining and creative sectors. Over the course of the most recent summer holidays, we witnessed firsthand how businesses and communities benefited through sensible management of sound, coordinated precinct planning, improved licensing and simpler pathways for activating outdoor areas. In my view, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is probably the best Minister in the House and, of course, he has a wonderful Parliamentary Secretary.

Ms Charishma Kaliyanda: And he's so modest.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: Yes. It is on the public record now. The Minister has already stated that the New South Wales Government is committed to resolving issues across our planning, liquor licensing and sound complaint management systems to improve the vibrancy of our State and boost our night-time economy. Last year, when about four Ministers, including the Deputy Premier, spoke about the vibrancy reforms, *The Music Network* reported online:

New South Wales' live entertainment space got a shot of vibrancy late last week ... The reforms are essentially an untangling of a bureaucratic mess created and dumped by successive, previous administrations, the outcome of which is a streamline system ...

I think that addresses the earlier comments of the member for Manly. The bill is a small part of the Government's broader vibrancy reform agenda. It is unfortunate that consent authorities, including councils, have not clearly understood the desires of both local communities and businesses. However, the bill and the vibrancy guidelines it enables to be considered by consent authorities make the Government's position clear. Some in this place may argue that consideration of guidelines is an imposition on consent authorities, particularly councils. To allay such fears, before the vibrancy guidelines are issued, consultation is also intended to be conducted with councils, the Office of Local Government and stakeholders within the hospitality industry and the wider community.

Further consultation with Liquor and Gaming NSW, NSW Health and the NSW Police Force will also be held. Consultation will be important to ensure there are no unintended consequences in how the vibrancy guidelines are framed and to ensure that positive outcomes are maximised. Feedback from the industry has been fabulous, with the Australian Recording Industry Association [ARIA] and Phonographic Performance Company of Australia welcoming the plans. Annabelle Herd, CEO of ARIA, said:

We thank the NSW Government for continuing to commit to creating an environment where contemporary music can thrive and realise its true potential as a cultural and economic contributor. The removal of red tape that has suppressed NSW's capacity to deliver a world-class live entertainment offering is a major step toward retuning the state to its former glory as a hotbed for fostering up-and-coming talent and connecting them with new fans.

I commend the bill to the House.

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater) (16:07): I make a contribution to the debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024 and, in so doing, I pay tribute to business owners across New South Wales who have been unfairly treated by weak councils. I pay tribute to Ben May and Rob Domjen, co-owners of The Joey restaurant. It is a privilege to stand in this Chamber today and support this bill because it is the direct result of the efforts of the Pittwater community. I am pleased that the Government has listened to the concerns of my community and to me. When introducing this bill, Minister Scully directly referenced the experience of The Joey. The bill would be better named "The Joey" bill. Ben and Rob have transformed The Joey, breathing fresh life into a beloved Palm Beach and Pittwater institution. Together with our golden beaches, pristine bushland, expansive waterway, amazing volunteers and so much more, venues like The Joey add to the rich tapestry of Pittwater. Having taken over and rebuilt The Joey, Ben and Rob sought to extend their trading hours so that the venue and the amazing community it sits within could be enjoyed by many more.

Well done to Ben and Rob! Despite their efforts, they were met with a maze of bureaucratic absurdities, seemingly gotcha moments and opposition from a very small number of objectors—about seven. Over 100 individuals supported the proposal via the formal submission process. What is more, Pittwater is a community of individuals who unfearingly communicate their opposition or displeasure to a proposal, be it on social media, through formal channels or by stopping me on the street. After the Joey plan was rejected by council, my office was inundated with phone calls, emails and social media commentary from residents who could not understand why the community support and benefit of the proposal was ignored by the council. The answer was bureaucracy gone mad.

The bill means that vibrancy guidelines may be prepared by the planning secretary after consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. Those guidelines may be issued to enable venues to operate in a way that achieves their full social, business and cultural potential, particularly as part of the night-time economy. In determining any application for extended hours of operation, a consent authority—in this case, a council—must have regard to the vibrancy guidelines. That provides councils with the basis to approve applications like the one submitted by Ben and Rob.

As the Minister said in his second reading speech, sensible hours of operation for venues are critical to supporting the Government's vibrancy agenda, particularly for venues located outside crowded residential areas. The bill and the vibrancy guidelines, which will be developed subsequently, are intended to encourage councils to make decisions that are consistent with the Government's vibrancy reforms and agenda. The bill balances the right of residents to quiet enjoyment with the right of the individual to enjoy a vibrant community. In that way, the bill will support Pittwater businesses, create local jobs and provide a place that so many more can live in and enjoy. Well done to The Joey. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (16:11): I contribute to debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The purpose of the bill is to require a consent authority, such as a council, to consider new vibrancy guidelines when assessing particular applications to extend the hours of operation of food and drink premises in areas with low residential populations. The bill complements the Government's recent vibrancy reforms, including the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner Act 2023 and the 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023, which were passed by this House in November last year. At that time, I spoke on those reforms in this place.

The reforms have provided greater support for venues in New South Wales to reach their full entertainment, economic and creative potential, especially at night. That has been achieved by streamlining, modernising and simplifying the regulation of entertainment noise, planning and liquor licensing, and outdoor activation, and by strengthening the special entertainment precinct framework. The bill proposes to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to require a consent authority to consider the vibrancy guidelines, to be issued by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure following consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner.

Liverpool has often been lauded as Sydney's third CBD, after Sydney and Parramatta. However, anyone who has been to all three would understand that Liverpool is currently not living up to that title. The bill will go some way towards factoring in the vibrancy needed to help Liverpool reach its full potential. The bill applies to a new development application that includes a proposal for hours of operation beyond 7.00 p.m. and an application to modify a development consent to extend hours of operation beyond 7.00 p.m. for certain premises. The vibrancy guidelines will apply where the premises the subject of the application are not located within a special

entertainment precinct as defined in section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993, or within residential zones such as R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5, and are situated on land 500 metres or more away from the nearest residential premises. The vibrancy guidelines are intended to encourage councils to make decisions that are consistent with the Government's vibrancy reforms and agenda and to provide more certainty to venues and communities about trading-hour decisions.

Liverpool City Council has invested a lot of money in remaking Macquarie Mall into a pedestrian thoroughfare. Upon commencement of the extensive redevelopment of Macquarie Mall in 2015, our current mayor said that it would be one of the best malls in Australia. Today, almost 10 years after those upgrades began, I doubt anyone in the electorate of Liverpool would make that assertion. It lacks the necessary businesses and vibrancy to draw flocks of people to Liverpool in the same way they are pulled to Sydney or Parramatta. Out of fear for their safety, many in our community actively avoid Macquarie Mall, save for the occasional cultural festival and the more recent monthly activations. Unfortunately, most of the area shuts at 5.00 p.m. In order to revitalise our city, it needs to be open later.

We must give local businesses and operators the flexibility to draw crowds during much later hours. That is especially important, given that Liverpool hosts one of the largest hospitals in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a 24-hour hospital and health campus. An 18-hour economy nearby would do much to assist those in our area who do shift or night work and the younger people in the precinct who want to socialise with friends and colleagues outside the usual nine to five operations.

There is much room to grow into our strengths in south-west Sydney. As the region grows and Sydney's second airport comes online in a very short time, it becomes even more vital to develop vibrant spaces for our residents and visitors. Recently I attended a launch event for the South West Sydney Tourism Task Force. I commend the work of president Fazila Farhad and Davy Nguyen, who have brought together many members, including hotel operators, club operators, tourism businesses, local chambers of commerce, travel agents and others to think about how we can create a visitor economy in south-west Sydney, improve vibrancy throughout our region and prepare for the coming of Sydney's second international airport.

Over 130 languages are spoken in my community, which draws its heritage from over 120 parts of the world. The community has an incredible strength in the ability of its members to speak so many languages, understand so many cultures and do business with people in so many parts of the world. That will make south-west Sydney an incredibly attractive region where people can visit, do business and hopefully enjoy vibrant after-hours recreation. That is the strength of some of the reforms. The vibrancy guidelines, which will be developed in consultation with a multitude of stakeholders, will help us apply the vibrancy reforms to suit the needs of different communities across our State. That flexibility is important. I commend the work of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in bringing the reforms to this House and to the State. I also commend the Minister's team for their hard work to make sure that especially those of us who are a little younger can look forward to a thriving after-hours life in New South Wales once again. We have been waiting for that for a very long time. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Kellyville) (16:18): I contribute to debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. First and foremost, the Opposition certainly does not oppose the reform. Anything that we do to stimulate the economy by enhancing our venues and encouraging more people to come to them is a great thing. I come from a time when the live music industry absolutely thrived, not only across this city but across New South Wales. In the late '70s and early '80s, there were hundreds of venues across the city. It would surprise a lot of the people here. I used to say that on every street corner there was a pub, in every pub there was a venue and for every venue there were a number of bands. Every venue in those years wanted a band not just on Friday and Saturday nights but four or five times a week. One could guarantee live music on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and sometimes into Sunday nights. Dee Why Hotel, for instance, had a big Tuesday night, a large Friday night and a Sunday afternoon. Many venues like that encouraged the growth of an incredible depth of musical talent across New South Wales and across the country.

I talk of a time when bands were born and some were already established, like Cold Chisel and Midnight Oil. INXS had come over from Western Australia, and Swanee is another name that comes to mind. The depth of talent at the top level was amazing but, lower down, bands like Matt Finish worked the circuits regularly. There were incredible bands like The Cockroaches, from which The Wiggles were born. There was an endless depth of talent and those guys were making a quid. They were making a living, getting paid \$250 a night in some cases, at the smaller pubs—until the crunch in the '80s when poker machines were introduced into pubs across New South Wales. I will not mention the Government at that time but it actually was the Labor Party. It can never be forgiven, from my point of view.

That is probably why I detest and hate poker machines as much as I do. If people want to put \$10 through a poker machine, like my mum used to do once a year, I do not have an issue with that. The damage that they have

done to families is reprehensible, in my book. But the damage they did to the live music industry at that time stopped it in its tracks. Straight away, venues—small pubs, large pubs, RSL clubs, leagues clubs et cetera—no longer had to put up with noise complaints, difficult band managers negotiating prices or drunken musicians. I am happy to put up my hand and say that I used to be one of those in my younger days. They could simply put in place some of the money munchers—some of the poker machines. That cruelled it for the hundreds of musicians that we lost in New South Wales through the implementation of poker machines.

I commend Government members for what they are doing at this time to increase the vibrancy. In the late '70s and early '80s, I was in pubs before I was even able to drive. Mum was my roadie for one of the bands that we used to play in. I played in bands for some 10 years, and I played in every venue across Sydney and New South Wales—up to Queensland, certainly down the South Coast and out to the Central West—because they could not get enough of live bands and every venue wanted us. That just disappeared overnight, certainly to the detriment of the industry but most definitely to the detriment of families.

So many families are devastated by poker machines and the loss of income and the food off the table. The Whitlams hit the nail firmly on the head in their song about how the industry was cruelled—"blow up the pokies and drag them away"—but members opposite will not do that because governments want the trains to run on time. They wanted an excuse; they got a tax. I suppose it is hard to resist that sort of money but, ultimately, one has to look at the damage that it has done.

In closing, I note one of the bands that we used to work with; I think the last time was at the Royal Antler at Narrabeen. We always worked prolifically up and down the North Shore. The member for Manly is in the Chamber. I acknowledge the Manly Vale Hotel and the Diggers. I could rattle off many dozens of venues and I have been in them all. But the one band that we played with that really grabbed the industry and the world by storm was a band called Jimmy and the Boys. People may not remember them, but if members google them then I am sure they will find a couple of hysterical YouTube videos. I am sure they would be out there.

The lead singer of Jimmy and the Boys was none other than Ignatius Jones. For the record, Ignatius Jones was an amazing frontman and an incredible singer. He went on to have some singles himself, following on from the band Jimmy and the Boys. In later life he became the designer for the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, if I remember correctly. Apart from the amazing wealth of other things that he contributed, he has a great legacy of design work for events around the country. Sadly, he passed away last week, which is a great loss to the industry. He was a musician of some talent back in the day. We cannot do enough for vibrancy. That was a little bit of the seedy background of the member for Kellyville, which will remain forever hidden because we luckily did not have social media or cameras on our phones. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (16:26): I support the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The bill makes amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, hereafter referred to as the EP&A Act, to provide for the issuance of vibrancy guidelines and decisions about extended hours of operation for particular food and drink premises, consistent with the guidelines. The 24-Hour Economy Commissioner Act 2023 and 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Amendment Act 2023 passed Parliament on 30 November 2023 and received assent on 12 December 2023. The vibrancy reforms have provided greater support for venues in New South Wales to reach their full entertainment, economic and creative potential, especially at night.

The bill provides that the planning secretary may, after consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, issue vibrancy guidelines to enable venues to operate in a way that achieves their full social, business and cultural potential, particularly as part of the night-time economy. The bill also amends the EP&A Act to require a consent authority to consider the vibrancy guidelines when conducting a merit assessment of certain applications to extend the hours of operation of food and drink premises such as restaurants, cafes, takeaway food and drink premises, pubs and small bars. The amendments in the bill will ensure that consent authorities consider vibrancy guidelines as part of the usual merit assessment process. The bill is necessary to encourage councils to make decisions that are consistent with the New South Wales Government's agenda and to provide certainty to venues and communities when deciding trading hours. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (16:28): I support the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. It makes good sense in providing an opportunity for hotels, pubs and clubs to thrive and survive, coming on the back of some very difficult years. We hear all the time that it is difficult enough in retail without having unnecessary rules and regulations placed upon us. It is important to allow alfresco dining and extended trading hours to occur so that we can enjoy the great outdoors while enjoying food and beverages. In June 2021 planning to make outdoor eating and drinking a permanent feature on the State's hospitality scene was underway. Over 200 venues—more than 130 of them licensed—took part in a trial, which created an additional capacity for 3,350 patrons to attend those venues. I am highlighting this because it is important that those hospitality venues be allowed to thrive and survive in today's environment.

During the eight weeks of the trial, Darling Harbour businesses reported an average increase in turnover of 33 per cent and a 27 per cent increase in the number of patrons. It showed that they want to provide that alfresco service. Back then the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces talked about increasing those areas and making them permanent. In October, after the pandemic, everybody was looking at how to breathe new life into and turn the light back on for our hospitality industry, which was coming alive post-lockdown. A raft of initiatives was implemented. Some \$66 million in funding saw alfresco dining and outdoor activations and events return. Now that we are reopening those doors, it is hazy and difficult to remember what it was like back then. We were focused on supporting new outdoor entertainment and dining precincts across the State, and it is great to see that this Government is continuing down that path.

The Alfresco Restart package was one initiative that was kick-started with some of that \$66 million in funding. That package helped the hospitality, arts and music sectors get back on their feet after the long lockdown. Part of assisting the hospitality industry was making events permanent, such as the Festival of Place, the Summer Night Fund program as well as \$5,000 grants for hospitality businesses and the emergency temporary alfresco dining measures. Some things we brought in during the pandemic should continue and become permanent, like we are seeing today, and some things we switched off during the pandemic should never be brought back. What we are seeing now is a fresh, new and energised hospitality sector.

I note that the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is in the Chamber. I commend him for introducing this bill and continuing the good work of permanently enshrining some of those wonderful initiatives for the hospitality industry that were started in 2021 and 2022. The provisions the Minister talked about will require that a consent authority, when determining an application for extended hours of operation, have regard to new vibrancy regulations to enable venues to achieve their full social, business and cultural potential, particularly as part of the night-time economy. I note that in the Chamber is also the hospitality Minister, who is on board with making sure that we have a vibrant hotel, pub and club sector to keep this great State moving forward.

It is also important to note that the development of the vibrancy guidelines is intended to be subjected to detailed public consultation. I look forward to being part of that consultation with the planning Minister and the hospitality Minister, particularly in relation to Liquor and Gaming NSW, for which I am the shadow Minister. The Government has committed to resolving the issues around planning, liquor licensing and noise complaint management systems to improve the vibrancy of our State and boost the night-time economy again, building on the work that was started a number of years ago. It is great to see that that is continuing. In addition, provision has been made for making permanent the exemptive element pathway for outdoor dining on private land for cafes, clubs and restaurants, and those permanent exemptions will make it easier for businesses to thrive and grow over this busy summer trading period and into the winter period.

As a regional member, I always think "NSW" stands for "Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong", but the lights burn brightly in regional New South Wales. I note that the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy in the upper House has taken on board some suggestions and amendments to ensure that the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner takes areas outside of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong into consideration. It is great to see that this bill is expected to benefit regional areas and rural zones by providing later dining options for the locals and tourists, as well as additional hours of employment for those employed in the hospitality industry.

That leads me to the Working Holiday Maker program run by the Federal Government, which requires backpackers coming into this country to spend three months in a remote or very remote location in New South Wales if they want to continue to work in hospitality in regional areas. Those backpackers set themselves up, work for six months while they learn how a system works in a particular hospitality venue, and then they have to move and work three months somewhere else, out of hospitality. By then they have to retrain and start all over again. We are working with the Federal Government and the Australian Hotels Association to look at what we can do to support that program, such as removing "remote and very remote" on working holiday visas and having "regional" instead.

These amendments are sensible. It is great to see that this Government is continuing to focus on what was started all those years ago post-COVID. We are shining a light and making sure that our hospitality industry—our hotels, pubs, clubs and cafes—can do what they do best and provide the best service in Australia, and it is happening in New South Wales.

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) (16:37): I note the comments of the shadow Minister, the member for Tamworth. We had a discussion outside the Chamber about the next Liquor and Gaming regulatory roadshow, which is being held in Tamworth. It has a vibrant night-life and is the home of country music in New South Wales. The Central Coast is actually where all the musicians live, but they go to Tamworth to perform. But I note his enthusiasm. We talk about these events all the time. I appreciate his comments and support on these important reforms.

I support the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024 and note the good work of the Hon. John Graham, the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, the planning Minister and my department in formulating the regulation necessary to make that work. It was a real team effort across the Government. The bill is important because our State is a great place to live and it will make it an even better place to live. The reforms are a vital next step in the Government's election commitment to promote a safe, inclusive and vibrant 24-hour economy across New South Wales. The bill continues all the determined efforts and positive work of the Government to bring vibrancy back into New South Wales.

Through this bill the Government will strengthen its commitment to make it easier for venues to stay open later and give people more options to have an enjoyable night out. They are both things the community has asked for time and again. The bill does this by ensuring that councils and other consent authorities will consider vibrancy as an integral part of the merit assessment process for applications to extend trading hours in limited but important circumstances.

As the Minister noted in his second reading speech, we have recently witnessed barriers in the planning system that have prevented some venues outside of entertainment precincts from extending their trading hours. Recent decisions made by councils responding to applications from venues to extend their trading hours highlight the need for reform. The bill will ensure that vibrancy is enshrined as a consideration in the consent process that authorities must weigh up as part of the assessment. It will introduce new provisions to schedule 8 to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 which will require a consent authority, when determining an application for extended hours of operation, to have regard to new vibrancy guidelines.

The vibrancy guidelines will be developed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure after consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. Local councils will be required to have regard to the new guidelines in certain circumstances when assessing certain extended hours of operation applications. Item [2] of schedule 1 to the bill defines an extended hours of operation application as a development application that includes a proposal for extended hours of operation, or an application to modify a development consent to allow extended hours of operation. That will encourage councils to make decisions that are consistent with the Government's vibrancy reforms and agenda and consistent with the will of the community. Giving venues more opportunities to open later and broaden the scope of offerings on their entertainment menu will play a big part in feeding the vibrancy ecosystem of our State. The bill will play an important part in meeting that goal.

I speak to how the bill fits with the Government's broader vibrancy agenda. The Government has a broad and comprehensive policy agenda for vibrancy reform and has already made a number of changes to benefit the State's hospitality sector, including the live music and performance industries. Sensible hours of operation for venues are critical to supporting the hospitality sector and the Government's vibrancy agenda. As Minister for Gaming and Racing, last year I was proud to have carriage in this House of the first stage of the Government's vibrancy reforms. Those reforms covered six broad areas of change, including sensible venue sound management for licensed premises, promotion of more outdoor dining and extension of trading for live music and performance venues.

Through some of the organisations that I am involved with on the Central Coast, I support young people engaging with live music. It is particularly difficult for young people to find venues. Quite often they have to spend a lot of money to set up in surf clubs, halls or other places so that people can come and listen to their music. Having more recognised venues where that infrastructure is already in place would give them more opportunities to grow and develop their talents. It means that their skills will be in higher demand, and it would continue a long tradition of developing amazing artists in New South Wales who can perform across Australia and even internationally.

I reflect on the importance of providing incentives for venues to trade longer and cutting red tape to encourage venues to open up and diversify their offerings. Allowing extended trading hours for venues where it is sensible and aligned with community and industry needs is critical to the Government's vibrancy agenda, particularly for venues located away from residential areas. That has been clearly communicated to stakeholders and the community during the Government's previous consultation on the vibrancy reforms.

We know the hospitality sector is going through a difficult period, with inflation and the post-pandemic landscape creating a whole range of challenges for both owners and workers. We want hospitality businesses in New South Wales to open, to grow, to expand and to thrive. Hospitality is a major part of the New South Wales economy, and the Government recognises and applauds that contribution. But we know that those in hospitality need a fair go from consent authorities. The Government has listened to the community and industry on this issue, and it has acted.

I note that the member for Gosford is present in the Chamber. The Government hopes that Gosford will be one of the new precincts. It is a city that has long been neglected because of the major shopping centre at Erina

Fair, but new hotels and venues are opening. Those venues are keen to group together and provide entertainment for the community. We cannot allow that opportunity to pass by. It will mean that locals on the Central Coast will not have to go to Newcastle or Sydney for their entertainment; they can stay local, which is a very important thing. The Government recognises the importance of assisting councils to promote vibrancy. The bill will ensure that when a venue in an area with a low residential population applies for extended trading hours in the future, the merit assessment of that application will involve the consideration of vibrancy. It is a simple proposition to help hospitality and other venues reach their full potential.

The changes in the bill strike the right balance in meeting community expectations and supporting local hospitality businesses to thrive, particularly given that many local venues also provide the livelihoods of residents who live in that community, especially young people. It builds on the Government's previous reforms to promote extended trading hours and increase the vibrancy of the night-time economy. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024, combined with the work already undertaken by the Government to promote the vibrancy agenda, is a positive step towards creating a vibrant and diverse hospitality sector. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:46): I speak in support of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. I thank the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for the work he has done, along with the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, to bring the bill to the House. I also thank the "Minister for Hospitality", the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Central Coast for his input. I also thank the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. It is so exciting to have a 24-Hour Economy Commissioner in New South Wales. The commissioner has visited the Central Coast on a number of occasions, including in the past week, to meet with local business leaders and discuss the Uptown Accelerator and Uptown Grant Program.

Arts and culture are at the heart of the Central Coast. Under the former Government it was heartbreaking to see the lack of support for that sector. That decimated its capacity to deliver to its potential for our communities. Once again I mention the great work that is being done by the Naughty Noodle FunHaus Factory to improve access to arts and culture for the LGBTQI+ community. A consortium called Central Coast Music and Arts is also uniting live musicians across the coast and creating opportunities for young people with festivals and live music. It is supporting local acts and also introducing some really fantastic acts to the area. I also mention that Gosford will soon have its first ever rooftop bar. Let us bring on the vibrancy reforms for the Central Coast—it will be wonderful.

As the member for Kellyville mentioned, in the good old days of our youth growing up in Newcastle, live music was available almost every night on Hunter Street. That is the kind of opportunity I want to see for young people on the Central Coast, and in Sydney and across New South Wales: live music and arts and the opportunity to be out and about with friends. It is super important. Let us bring on the changes we need to bring vibrancy back to the State. The bill is about making it easier for venues to stay open later and ensuring that communities across New South Wales have greater access to a good night out, with more options available for all of us. As I said, it will create opportunities for young people to get out and enjoy the hospitality sector, and also to participate and work in the hospitality industry. The bill preserves the usual merit assessment process but requires consent authorities to consider the vibrancy guidelines when conducting assessments. The onus will be on the council to ensure that vibrancy is included in what it achieves for the community.

The centre of my electorate, Gosford city, the capital of the Central Coast, is facing unprecedented growth, with the landscape of the city changing by the day. Time and again I have spoken to members of my community who are desperately crying out for our arts and culture scene to be supported alongside that growth. Our Labor branch members really value the arts and culture scene, and they are putting pressure on us to deliver more opportunity for that scene to grow on the Central Coast. Liveable cities are cities that have vibrant venues, places to gather and places of community. We cannot continue to block vibrant and diverse night-time venues as a matter of standard practice. For venues outside of centres and residential zones, we must be open to considering the significance and importance that brings to our communities. I thank the members of the Gosford Erina Business Chamber for their advocacy to improve the night-time economy and vibrancy, particularly of the City of Gosford after dark. I commend CEO Peter Lawley for his passionate advocacy to ramp up and create opportunities in Gosford.

The Mariners games is a great example. It would be absolutely fabulous if there were not huge barriers to opening facilities for outdoor entertainment after the Mariners game this Saturday night. That would be the ideal situation as the population of the Central Coast grows, especially in the dense part of Gosford. Sensible hours of operation for venues are critical to supporting the Government's vibrancy agenda, particularly for venues located outside of centres and residential zones. The bill and the vibrancy guidelines that will be subsequently developed are intended to encourage councils to make decisions that are consistent with the Government's vibrancy reforms

and agenda, and to provide more certainty to venues and communities about trading hour decisions. Anything we do about trading hours and the outdoor trading complexities and licensing will bring a welcome hit to venues across the Central Coast and beyond. I commend Bay Road Brewing for its perseverance in creating a fantastic venue right next to the Mariners' stadium. May its capacity to operate extend and improve the vibrancy of Gosford.

People in our regional and rural areas are familiar with the difficulty of finding something to eat late at night. This reform will benefit our regional and rural areas by providing dining options for the local community and tourists as well as additional working hours for those employed in the hospitality industry. The New South Wales Government made a key election commitment to restore vibrancy to New South Wales—and what fun it was doing that—including the significant reforms commenced in 2023 that continue today. The bill is also about creating opportunities for live music and supporting the growth of the incredible talent across our communities. As the member for Wyong, and Minister for the Central Coast mentioned, we hope this will create more opportunities for the fantastic people on the Central Coast who are involved in the Tamworth Country Music Festival to perform and be part of our community as well as the country music scene further away.

I have been working with the local business and arts community for years, hearing about the difficulties they face, being blocked by inflexible councils and bureaucratic red tape. For too long the number, viability and growth of venues and entertainment and performance spaces has been unduly reduced and restricted by planning, licensing and noise regulatory frameworks that are duplicative, outdated and complex. This is alongside increased complexity for venues and entertainment spaces impacted by the 2014 to 2021 lockout and last-drinks laws and the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill follows the New South Wales Government's \$30 million injection to improve the safety of cities across New South Wales. I compliment the Central Coast Council on its work with a million-dollar injection to improve the safety of the Gosford CBD. Council did an amazing job with pop-ups, art, laneways, performances and lighting up the city; it has been a fantastic step. Women across my community are thankful for those safety changes.

With New South Wales losing half of its music venues over the past decade, the New South Wales Government is committed to swift action. We have introduced the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner Act 2023 and the 24-Hour Economy Legislation (Vibrancy Reforms) Amendment Act 2023, including important reforms such as establishing the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner role—thanks to Michael Rodrigues for his great work—giving incentives for live music and performance venues, which we are seeing across the coast; standardising licensed premises' hours of operation; broadening eligibility for licensing special events; strengthening harm-minimisation measures in the Liquor Act 2007; introducing permanent measures that boost flexibility for venues and patrons; and making permanent the ability for councils to temporarily approve outdoor dining and performances on unclassified roads and footpaths without seeking approval.

In closing, I thank the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and their teams, for pulling it all together to make the bill happen. The New South Wales Government is committed to supporting businesses and improving community amenity. Unlike the former Government, we will support businesses and our 24-hour economy to flourish into vibrant and diverse venues. The bill is the next important step in the Government's vibrancy reforms; it definitely will not be the last.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (16:54): I am pleased to speak in support of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The bill applies to areas with low residential populations, specifically venues that are not located in special entertainment precincts or certain residential zones and which are situated on land that is 500 metres or more away from the nearest residential accommodation. As such the bill is expected to benefit food and drink premises in regional and rural areas as it will apply in the rural recreation and conservation zones. Many rural and regional areas are renowned for their unique cultural and creative offerings. The bill will support communities by increasing hours of employment for employees and encouraging later dining options for local communities and tourists.

Given the 500-metre boundary, the bill is likely to apply mainly to dispersed areas. It will also apply to premises in other zones that are 500 metres away from residences, such as employment and recreation zones. Food and drink premises in many zones, including employment and some industrial areas, already benefit from standard hours of operation through an exempt pathway. It is important that the Government provides that guidance to consent authorities to consider the benefits of supporting vibrancy in more parts of our State.

The bill is only one aspect of the Government's broader agenda for vibrancy reform and is intended to address a relatively confined issue relating to extended trading hours for certain food and drink premises. However, the Government has a broad and comprehensive policy agenda for vibrancy reform and has already made a number of changes to benefit the State's live music and performance industries. That has involved providing incentives to venues to trade longer where they offer live music or performance, cutting red tape to encourage venues to open up, and changing the rules around outdoor and street activations so that music and

entertainment can extend outdoors. The 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023, which received assent on 12 December 2023, made a number of significant reforms that included measures for venues to receive extra trading hours if they meet certain eligibility requirements on nights when they are hosting live music.

We have seen significant interest in those reforms from businesses of all sizes and from the community that, post-COVID, are keen to resume living life to the max and having great memorable experiences with friends, family and work colleagues. Those experiences are only made possible when the settings are right—settings that cut red tape and fix the rules around outdoor and street activation to create the vibrant places and spaces in which our communities want to meet, to have fun and to create memories. The bill complements the Government's broader agenda for vibrancy reform to bring people back to the CBDs and keep them there after dark.

I see it in my electorate of Parramatta, where street activation, cutting of red tape and a willingness of the Government to work with businesses and local council is making the city of Parramatta more inviting and enticing. From Eat Street to Little India in Harris Park, from Sydney Olympic Park to Parramatta Square, and from Riverside Theatres to our local clubs such as Dundas sports with its Sunday sessions, opportunities like those are bringing people out and about—and bringing them out after dark. That is what we want to keep our cities vibrant and return them to what they used to be. On a Sunday afternoon the Dundas Sports and Recreational Club provides an opportunity for people to bring their guitars and play live music—an opportunity for those bands that, until recently, did not have a stage to play on.

Opportunities like that support young artists and musicians. We need more opportunities not only in the bustling inner west and Sydney CBD, but also across Western Sydney and New South Wales. The Riverside Theatres is a great example of a place that is supported by the Government. It offers a number of elements that support the 24/7 economy and a vibrant city. It includes not only a theatre but also dining venues. People have somewhere to go before and after they attend the theatre. There is the potential for performances to run over several sessions. There are performances that start early in the day and performances that start later in the evening. That provides opportunities for people who finish work at different times and people who may be coming from other events to be out and about later in the evening.

The Government has recognised the importance of the Riverside Theatres by investing \$40 million in its redevelopment. That investment will enhance the Riverside Theatres and allow it to not only continue its current offerings but also expand. The redevelopment will include a 1,200- to 1,300-seat theatre, a black box theatre and a cinema. These offerings, combined with the current offerings at Eat Street and CommBank Stadium, speak perfectly to the Government's goal of achieving a vibrant economy.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): It being 5.00 p.m., debate is interrupted for the public interest debate. I order that resumption of the debate stand an order of the day for a later hour.

Public Interest Debate

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (17:01): I move:

That this House agrees that nuclear energy has no future in the energy mix for New South Wales.

It is 2024. We need to replace our energy system in the next 15 years. It is no secret to members of this House that I support renewable energy. We have four remaining coal-fired power stations in New South Wales that will need to be replaced in the coming years. It is a fantasy to say that those power stations could be replaced with nuclear energy in New South Wales. What is more, we do not need it. The Government has a plan to replace ageing coal-fired power stations and deliver low-cost, renewable energy. We have the technology, and the Government is implementing its renewable energy plan. It already has enough committed projects to get it halfway to its 2030 target. My communities of Bawley Point and Kioloa have embraced the concept of renewable energy, becoming the first areas in New South Wales to have a renewable, sustainable and reliable energy source run by a community battery and microgrid. It has made my area resilient, and it has reduced energy bills.

Recently I heard commentary that we should join the 30-odd countries that use nuclear power. New South Wales is joining the 130 countries that are rolling out renewables, not nuclear. The case has not been made for why we need nuclear in New South Wales. We have a strong renewables sector, a vast amount of land, and some of the best solar and wind resources in the world. Other countries do not have those advantages. Nuclear is expensive and could not be delivered in the time frames New South Wales needs for our coal power stations to be replaced. Australia has no nuclear energy industry and it would take years—even decades—to develop the capability to have nuclear energy in New South Wales.

In the countries with nuclear, small and large-scale nuclear reactors are running over budget and behind schedule. The first United States [US] reactor built from scratch in decades, located in Georgia, has been described as "maybe the most expensive power plant ever." The project is running seven years late and \$26 billion over budget. In the United Kingdom, Hinkley Point C is running \$55 billion over budget. Late last year the only company with a small, modular nuclear power plant approved in the US cancelled its first project due to rising costs. Nuclear energy is currently prohibited in New South Wales under the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibitions) Act 1986. Even if it were not prohibited, developing, planning, constructing and commissioning a nuclear power station can take more than a decade.

As Australia has no nuclear power industry, it would likely take longer here. Not to mention that Australia has no skills or experience in the build, operation or maintenance of nuclear power plants, or managing the fuel cycle. According to the CSIRO's *GenCost 2023-24* consultation report, nuclear energy is likely to remain up to 350 per cent more expensive per megawatt hour than other current lowest cost, large-scale firm generation technologies. The Government is clear on the way forward: We need to forge ahead with renewable energy. However, the Opposition appears to be somewhat confused and conflicted. On 29 April 2024 the Leader of the Opposition, and member for Cronulla told the ABC's *Q&A*, "We can't wait for nuclear. We should be going ahead with our electricity road map, which will have heavy reliance on renewables." Today, however, the Liberal Leader told ABC radio he wants to overturn the nuclear ban, despite conceding that nuclear does not have a future for at least the next 20 years.

Meanwhile the member for Hornsby has repeatedly stated that the previous Government investigated nuclear energy but it did not stack up. He has characterised the nuclear pivot as an excuse to delay rollout of renewable energy. The Federal Liberal Party wants a nuclear future, with Peter Dutton about to name possible sites for nuclear reactors. The New South Wales Nationals website states that they "support investigating the use of nuclear power in Australia, especially small modular reactor technology". A few weeks ago The Nationals leader, the member for Dubbo, and Sam Faraway from the other place were in France as part of a European study tour into nuclear energy. Several New South Wales Liberal and Nationals frontbenchers appear to be in favour of overturning the current prohibition on nuclear energy and are proponents of nuclear energy. The list of members includes the member for Dubbo, the member for Willoughby and the member for Wahroonga. In 2008 Nationals member and member for Tweed, Geoff Provest, stated, "I would even cross the floor on it. Virtually, over my dead body," about nuclear power. He reiterated that position in 2020.

We do not need nuclear, and the people of the South Coast electorate have made that quite clear to me. They want renewables. The Minns Labor Government has a plan to deliver the low-cost, reliable energy that New South Wales households and small businesses need with renewable energy. The Opposition needs to decide. Does it support the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap that it loves to trumpet when it suits or does it support Peter Dutton's secret nuclear policy? In the meantime the Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:08): I appreciate the member for South Coast moving this motion. But if she is going to raise an issue, she needs to make sure she has her own house in order. Of all the issues raised in Parliament this week, this one receives zero points. This debate gives citizens no hope that they will get cheap, reliable and clean energy. Instead, it demonstrates the absence of any serious policy agenda from this Government, despite its pretence. This Government was gifted the best blueprint for energy transition in the country. In fact it was so good that the Government voted for it. It enthusiastically embraced it yet, more than a year on, the wheels are well and truly falling off as the good citizens and businesses of New South Wales are punished under higher energy costs with no help in sight. There were those promises during the campaign but there is absolutely nothing to show for it.

It was clear that the energy policy in this State would go backwards under Labor when things got off to a wobbly start. The Treasurer, with his L-plates on, was conducting secret meetings with a multinational company to discuss the importance of Australia's biggest coal clunker, Eraring. The only problem was that he was speaking to the wrong company. Months of Mookhey scampering around Brookfield ultimately led to nothing because that company never acquired Eraring. One can imagine the time, energy and effort that was wasted by Mookhey and co—that effort could have been put into a sensible energy policy. Why has no-one in the Government asked for a reverse auction to meet the energy needs of Eraring if it shuts? If that question has not been asked, then why not? I have no doubt that many of those opposite campaigned for net zero and lower emissions but none of them, in their contributions this evening, will acknowledge the coal-stained press release issued quietly by this Government a couple of days ago. There will be more on that in a minute.

Notwithstanding that, what is the truth when it comes Labor and its energy policy? It is failing to meet its own legislated emissions reduction targets. Six months ago it legislated emissions reduction targets but let it slip out last week that it is well off track and will miss those targets. Aside from breaking the hearts of environmental groups, it is a big problem because the revelation did not escape scrutiny entirely. The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham

in the other place had some choice words. He said, "My support for this Government depends on their certain actions on climate change."

Not only is the Government missing its own legislated targets, undermining investment in all forms of renewable energy and preparing to sling buckets—millions of dollars—of taxpayers' money into an old coal power station; it has dropped the ball so badly that it has whipped out the crystal ball. It is looking deep into the future and ruling out technologies that it has no idea about. It should stop wasting time and get back to work. It should provide some cheap, reliable and clean energy for citizens and industry. It should take note of section 8 of its legislation, the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023, which states "action to address climate change should take into account the best available science."

The Government should not be afraid of testing assumptions and having a pragmatic, rational, global perspective on technology and all opportunities available at any point in time because voters are getting restless and energy bills are going up. Voters will not remember this smart debate about keeping nuclear out, but they will remember that nothing was done to keep their energy bills down and nothing was done to provide some environmental leadership as the Government looks to keep Eraring open. I move:

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

- (1) Supports the transition to renewables.
- (2) Supports the investigation of alternative technologies.

That is no different to the legislation that this Government passed only last year. The Government has sold out the environment and it has sold out citizens and industry by punishing them with higher energy bills. It cannot even meet its own legislated targets.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:12): I speak in support of the motion moved by the member for South Coast. It is an important motion because we have an energy road map in New South Wales. It is supported by this Government and it is a transition to renewables. Even though members on the other side of the House enthusiastically embraced the road map while they were in government, they are confused about whether the Government will continue down that path or waste lots of time and money pursuing nuclear energy, which, as we all know, is the most expensive form of energy generation. The worldwide average price for nuclear power in 2030, as predicted by the International Energy Agency, is somewhere between \$212 and \$253 per megawatt hour compared to wind and solar, which is between \$69 and \$101 per megawatt hour.

For those opposite, just because it is the most expensive does not mean it is the best. It is not like comparing a Porsche to a Hyundai. Hyundais are good cars and they do the job well enough. Someone does not need to spend money on a Porsche to get from A to B. Similarly, we do not need to build a nuclear power plant when the scientists and staff we have in New South Wales can build the same generation capacity. We have no capacity for a nuclear energy industry. In most places in the world it takes over a decade to build a nuclear power plant from scratch. Here it would take at least 20 years because we have no-one capable of doing the construction nor performing the operations. We just do not have that capability.

To give members some examples of just how difficult it is, the first nuclear reactor built from scratch in decades in Georgia in the United States is being described as "the most expensive power plant ever". It is running seven years late and is \$26 billion over budget. In the United Kingdom, Hinkley Point C plant, which is being built at the moment, is running \$55 billion over budget. Members on the other side of the House love to talk about small modular reactors as the solution to everything, but last year, the only United States company to have started trialling small modular reactor technology has abandoned that trial because it was getting too expensive.

An interesting thing about small modular reactors is that the amount of energy they are predicted to generate is equivalent to what nuclear power plants generated when they first started. There is a reason that they got bigger—it is called economies of scale. Small modular reactors are not going to save money and that is the reason that one was abandoned. I do not know why members opposite are still pursuing the idea. I hope that the member for Dubbo had a lovely trip to France. I hope he drank some nice wine because he wasted time looking at technology that is irrelevant to New South Wales. The member for Dubbo travelled with the Hon. Sam Farraway from the other place, who is keen to be the Federal member for Calare. I imagine they want to fill the Central West with nuclear power plants. If he is the candidate for Calare, I am sure that will be an election-winning strategy. I imagine that Andrew Gee felt absolute delight when he read about that.

The public interest debate was proposed by the member for the South Coast. She did not mention it but just outside her electorate in the Commonwealth Territories in Jervis Bay there was a proposal to build a nuclear power plant at Murrays Beach in the Booderee National Park.

Mr Adam Crouch: It was not even in her electorate.

Ms JULIA FINN: I said "just outside her electorate". It is not even in New South Wales; it is in the Commonwealth Territories. It is absolutely beautiful. It is a beautiful part of the world and, had a nuclear power plant been built on it, would have been visible from her electorate. All around the Jervis Bay area—Huskisson, Vincentia and all those suburbs—people rallied against constructing a nuclear power plant.

Mr Adam Crouch: Are you aware of Lucas Heights?

Ms JULIA FINN: It is a power plant, not a nuclear medical facility. It is a power plant.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting.

Ms JULIA FINN: It was proposed to be built at Murrays Beach but because of the huge outrage—which those opposite will bring upon themselves if they continue to want to build nuclear power plants all over New South Wales—it was overturned.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (17:18): For a government that sold its way to the election on a promise of strong green credentials, in a little over a year the Minns Government has proven itself to be nothing but hot air. Quite frankly, debate on this bill is a lot of hot air—again. I am not sure why we are debating it. Stakeholders who were promised a green and clean world are no doubt shaking their heads. They are incredibly disappointed because they have been let down. I am surprised that Labor started a debate on this topic today. Why would they shine a light on energy when it has been such a big, fat, red fail by Labor. It should be hiding in shame when it comes to energy, not trying to expose it.

For the benefit of members opposite, let me begin with some cold, hard facts. Under the previous Liberal-Nationals Government, New South Wales was on track for a 56 per cent reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2030. Fast-forward a year and, under the Minns Labor Government, New South Wales is now on track for only a 44 per cent reduction. That is a 12 per cent dive in such a short runway. It is astounding and it is very revealing. These were targets that Labor wanted enshrined. It is not possible to end up in this spot accidentally. Labor wanted the Liberal-Nationals targets that we were on track to deliver enshrined in legislation. We were inclined to agree.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): All members will come to order. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE: There is a lot of noise, and that is all Labor members can do—just deliver hot air and no action when it comes to climate. Six short months ago, as the energy Minister said:

NSW Labor has followed through on its commitment to the people of NSW to take serious action on climate change and keep this government and future governments accountable for delivering on emissions ... targets.

Labor has failed its own test in only six months. Why would Labor Ministers commit to those targets when they could not follow through? I will tell the House why. It is because Labor is very good at announcing policies, not following through, and disappointing the taxpayers of New South Wales. Labor has done the same with emissions targets going backwards, public school funding cuts and our triple-A credit rating at risk, and it is delivering the lowest level of housing in a decade.

The people of New South Wales are being disappointed time and again. Let me remind members opposite that the Liberals and Nationals were on track. We had policies—a road map—that was providing certainty to investors, attracting rivers of gold to this State on the promise of renewable energy road maps, and at the same time reducing emissions and reducing household energy prices. Two-thirds of this investment was going to the regions because the regions were carrying the burden of the rollout of the renewables, and it is important to note that the regions suffer a disproportionate impact from climate change.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): Order! The member for Vaucluse has the call.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE: The previous Government left this Government with an outstanding road map that was attracting investment, and all the new Government had to do was follow the dots. What has Labor done? It has extended the coal-fired Eraring plant at the cost of \$150 million a year but, in doing so, it has failed to explain the reasoning. Labor Ministers have hidden it. They will not release the energy department's advice on Eraring and the full costings and timing of the Government's support. Why? Because Labor is not transparent.

Instead of being focused on the very big problems that Labor members are creating for themselves, why are they focusing on this debate? The Coalition supports the investigation of long-term technologies to secure affordable and reliable clean energy. Why would anyone take anything off the table based on ideology only? The Opposition bases its policies on fact, what is proven to work and what was working under the New South Wales Coalition Government. Labor is failing the people of this State on every front: delayed targets, failed targets,

unexplained investments and power bills rising. Instead of being focused on the job, Labor members are throwing smoke bombs and blowing hot air in this Chamber.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (17:23): A small modular reactor right in the middle of Double Bay—that is what Labor members want to see, right outside the Twenty One, because that is the change in policy of the Opposition. I have to say that the Opposition's new policy is informed by Dugald Saunders and Sam Faraway going on a European study tour. Imagine them walking down the streets of Paris, sucking in the escargots that are probably eradicated, and that will inform their new policy. Before Opposition members eat their nuclear baguette, they may wish to give some consideration to the courage of the previous energy Minister in their own Government. The member for Hornsby demonstrated considerable courage as he took on his fellow Tories, both in New South Wales and in Canberra, to pursue renewable energy strategies for this State. Members might remember the Prime Minister saying, "Who is this Minister? Who is Matt Kean? I've never heard of him." Everybody had heard of him because he advocated a policy that might have been anathema to the right wing of the Liberal Party and might have been anathema to the Tories. But the reality was that he was on the money.

What caused the Leader of the Opposition to open the door? Nuclear energy currently is prohibited in New South Wales through the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibitions) Act 1986. That clearly was the position of the former Government. That clearly is the position of the current Government. It clearly has been the position for over 30 years. Why did the State Liberal Leader, Mark Speakman, tell ABC Radio this morning that he wants to overturn this ban, despite conceding that nuclear does not have a future at least for the next 20 years? That is bizarre, and it is particularly bizarre for a man of his integrity, his intelligence and his knowledge as a former environment Minister of this State. The member for Cronulla is obviously under pressure from some of the extreme zealots in the Opposition—people like Dugald Saunders, who probably studies nuclear energy in the Louvre while looking at the *Mona Lisa* and thinking that that is a reflection of himself, some archaic, dying National Party person. Why does he not go to Dubbo and tell his constituents that he wants to put a small modular nuclear reactor in the middle of town? Might he choke on his French baguette?

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order: I ask that the Leader of the House refer to members by their electorate, not by their name.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I uphold the point of order.

Mr RON HOENIG: One of the most bizarre things about the Coalition's approach to this issue is the complete absence and understanding of facts. During debate in the House it was clearly put that other countries are trying to construct small- and large-scale nuclear reactors. The member for Granville referred to it. The first United States reactor to be built from scratch in decades—in Georgia in the United States—has been described as maybe the most expensive power plant ever. The project is running seven years late and is \$26 billion over budget. In the United Kingdom, Hinkley Point C is running \$55 billion over budget. That is the technology that members opposite are referring to—something that Australia does not have available to it. The Leader of the National Party should go back to Paris, have some more escargots and baguettes, and leave the business of running the Government to the adults.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (17:28): What a disgrace! Labor members should remember that they started the debate. First of all, we had a member trying to change the motion after it was already moved in the House. That was the Government's first mistake. Its second mistake is accusing the Opposition of trying to bring forward nuclear power as an option. We have not talked about it; the Government has. I clarify that I did a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA] trip to the United Kingdom and to France. I looked at modular housing. I represented my electorate at Villers-Bretonneux—go on, sledge me for that—and I looked at energy options. Is that a crime? No, it is not. If anyone opposite thinks I have done the wrong thing by representing both the Parliament and my electorate, bring it on. I welcome it.

This debate is topical because cost of living is the most important issue for every Australian right now. And where is most of the focus? It is on power prices. Currently, we are faced with an unpalatable but inevitable situation where energy seems to be increasing in price and dropping in reliability. That is exactly the opposite of what people in our communities need and want. They need us to secure affordable, reliable and clean energy, and to look into any alternative technologies to achieve that. Sadly, we currently have a government that is failing in every way when it comes to energy. The rollout of renewables across New South Wales has been wrecked. For proof of that, just ask any regional community.

In my own patch, the Orana Renewable Energy Zone, there is constant angst around the lack of consultation since this Government came to power. Clearly, proper consultation has gone out the window and there is no input from those who have been impacted. It is not good enough. As we come to a pressure point on how we can keep the lights on, why would the Government rule anything out? Why would it pretend to be know-all on energy,

and why would it blatantly rule out anything, at all? Has it heard of the Grattan Institute? It is a pretty reputable group. At a meeting I recently attended, Tony Wood, director of the Grattan Institute Energy and Climate Change Program, said that every energy source, including nuclear, should be on the table.

An innovative government would have anything and everything on the table to try to help all our communities to achieve reliable and cheaper power. To remove nuclear as a potential option is simply playing politics, which is all this debate is about today. It is not about who has something in their backyard; it is about playing politics. Many other countries in the world have already started using or are considering using nuclear power as part of their energy mix. Places like France, the United Kingdom and Canada are doing it well. They have a mix of nuclear and renewables balancing their grid. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, in December 2023, nuclear was raised as one of the important solutions to climate and energy security.

Ms Tamara Smith: By The Nationals.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: At COP28?

Ms Tamara Smith: Yes, there was a whole delegation of your own colleagues.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Oh, please! Among the recommendations that came from the conference was the need to triple nuclear energy capacity if we are to get anywhere near reaching net zero by 2050—that is, triple nuclear energy globally. If we are going to look at things seriously, we need to incorporate everything that is possible for the future and not deny anything. Let us not forget that our nation has already taken steps in this space. The AUKUS partnership and the deal Australia has made to secure nuclear submarines has happened and it will continue to evolve.

Mr Nathan Hagarty: When are the subs coming?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: The subs are coming under a Federal Labor government, which has signed a deal that will have—

Mr Nathan Hagarty: When?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Let me explain it slowly. It will have small modular reactors in submarines under the sea. The rhetoric that nothing will ever happen is a joke. Everything should be on the table and to remove anything from the table is—like this Government—silly.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: I raise an issue that relates to parliamentary practice. The Opposition has crossed out a number of words from the amendment. It reads "supports the investigation of alternative technologies". The motion that the Government moved is "agrees that nuclear energy has no future in the energy mix for New South Wales". It is very clear from what the Leader of The Nationals has said that the Opposition is advocating an investigation of alternative technologies, meaning nuclear. That is the intention.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: That is not what I said.

Mr Paul Scully: That is the intent of your amendment.

Mr Ron Hoenig: That is certainly the intention of—

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Do not try to change the amendment.

Mr Ron Hoenig: That will be the question that the House will consider—whether or not nuclear energy is looked at as an alternative—because that has been the subject matter of the member's contribution. I make that very clear to the Leader of The Nationals. He may want to amend his amendment.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: There is an amendment in writing. That is what is on the table.

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:34): I oppose the motion. That does not mean that I support nuclear power. A decision on State policy should not be made or communicated in a public interest debate. If this Government is serious about cheap and reliable energy to reduce the cost of living, it will investigate all options for generation, including nuclear. Australia has one of the largest economic demonstrated resources of uranium, which represents about 30 per cent of the total EDR of uranium in the world and supplies around 10 per cent of global uranium. As at 2019, 450 nuclear power stations were in operation in 31 countries, with a combined capacity of about 400 gigawatts.

Instead of taking it off the table completely, let us look at it critically. This debate will do nothing to stop community commentary, but an evidence-based inquiry will. Let us ask and answer questions of public policy properly; that is what the people of New South Wales expect. An inquiry can investigate community, environmental and safety risks; the expenses of building and operating nuclear power plants; and the reliability of nuclear energy. That is the right way to formulate public policy. We are in a time of global energy transition. It

would be irresponsible to not fully investigate all options that might assist New South Wales with that transition. If a thorough inquiry shows that nuclear is not viable and should be off the table, then so be it.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA: I seek leave to contribute to the debate.

Leave not granted.

Ms TAMARA SMITH: I seek leave to contribute to the debate.

Leave not granted.

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (17:36): In reply: I thank all members who contributed to this important debate. To the member for Manly I say: Labor did support the previous Government's energy policy but only after we made major amendments to it. Eraring Power Station is like the Vales Point Power Station. In 2015 the previous Government sold it for \$1 million and then it bought it back after four years for \$172 million. Eraring was sold for \$50 million, and it has recently been reported in *The Guardian* that the company that bought it needs the Government to prop it up with \$150 million per year.

Mr James Griffin: You're about to sling them millions of dollars.

Ms LIZA BUTLER: Those opposite wonder why energy bills have gone up. It is because of the former Government's privatisation. It is absolutely unbelievable. The member for Granville spoke about the transition to renewables and the reduction in cost it will bring to consumers. I can vouch for that because my own community has transitioned to renewables and people tell me that the reduction in energy costs has transformed their lives. The member also acknowledged that it would take 20-plus years to transition to nuclear. We do not have that time. I thank the member for reminding me of the proposed nuclear site at Jervis Bay. The people of the South Coast have spoken loudly and clearly to me. They do not want nuclear in their region.

I remind the member for Vacluse that the regions have taken a hit due to the previous Government's privatisation policy. It makes me wonder whether uranium mining is the new coalmining. Like the member for Heffron, I would like to know what the communities represented by those opposite think of the comments around nuclear energy that have been made in the media recently.

Mr Dugald Saunders: What do your communities think about windfarms? Or gas?

Ms LIZA BUTLER: I am happy to bring that up as another debate. I say to the Leader of The Nationals that members of his party have commented on nuclear energy recently and the people of New South Wales want to know where he stands. I again remind the member for Dubbo that the cost of power in New South Wales has dramatically risen since the former Coalition Government privatised most of the State's energy. Strangely, I agree that we need clean, reliable energy. We need to harness wind and solar. People all over New South Wales want to duplicate what we have in my electorate and my hometown of Bawley Point. I thank the member for Barwon for his contribution. It was probably the most sensible thing I heard from the other side of the House. I commend the motion to the House.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for South Coast has moved a motion, to which the member for Manly has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes36
 Noes45
 Majority.....9

AYES

Amon, R	Hannan, J	Saunders, D
Anderson, K	Henskens, A	Singh, G (teller)
Butler, R	Hodges, M	Sloane, K
Clancy, J	James, T	Speakman, M
Cooke, S	Kean, M	Taylor, M
Coure, M	Kemp, M	Thompson, T
Crouch, A (teller)	Lane, J	Toole, P
Dalton, H	Layzell, D	Tuckerman, W
Davies, T	McGirr, J	Ward, G
Di Pasqua, S	Perrottet, D	Williams, R
Donato, P	Petinos, E	Williamson, R
Griffin, J	Preston, R	Wilson, F

NOES

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

PAIRS

Ayyad, T	Kamper, S
Cross, M	Warren, G
Roberts, A	Bali, S
Williams, L	McDermott, H

Amendment negated.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The question now is that the motion be agreed to. A division has been called for. There being only five members against the question, the question is resolved in the affirmative. I direct that the names of those members be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Noes

Mr R. Butler
Mrs H. Dalton
Mr P. Donato
Mrs J. Hannan
Dr J. McGirr

Motion agreed to.*Bills*

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (VIBRANCY REFORMS)
BILL 2024**

Second Reading Debate**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (17:52): The Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024 is only one aspect of the Government's broader agenda for vibrancy reform and is intended to address a relatively confined issue relating to extended trading hours for certain food and drink premises. However, the Government has a broad and comprehensive policy agenda for vibrancy reform. As I have already mentioned, we see that in situ in Parramatta. From Sydney Olympic Park to Parramatta CBD, from CommBank Stadium to Qudos Bank Arena—and what happens after the events at those venues—the Government is putting steps in place to support businesses that want to extend their offerings into the evening so that people can stay out and about. It is not only about opportunities for people to eat; it is also about opportunities for people to enjoy the live music and vibrancy that we saw prior to COVID that we lost for a time and that the previous Government failed to support.

This Government is stepping up to ensure that it is an integral part of what New South Wales has to offer and that people can enjoy their spaces and places. The vibrancy guidelines, which are the core part of the bill, build on those reforms to make sure additional businesses and communities do not miss out on the opportunities created through the Government's vibrancy agenda. The bill requires the consideration of the vibrancy guidelines

by a consent authority under specific circumstances, as has already been explained. However, there is nothing to prevent councils and other consent authorities from voluntarily using the guidelines to support their decision-making. Members in this place would recognise the importance of providing clear direction to consent authorities when making decisions about the extension of operating hours. Therefore, I commend the bill to the House.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:55): I make a brief contribution in support of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The purpose of the bill is to make amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to provide for certain decisions about extended hours of operation for particular food and drink premises. The bill introduces a provision that when an application for extended hours of operation is being determined, the vibrancy guidelines will be evaluated by a consent authority. That will enable the venue to achieve its full social, business and cultural potential. The vibrancy guidelines are issued by the planning secretary following a consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner. Vibrancy guidelines do not have the power to override all other planning considerations and will not lead to applications being automatically approved or declined. Councils will still be required to consider the environmental and other impacts as appropriate.

The bill states that the requirement to have regard to the vibrancy guidelines must be in addition to all other applicable requirements under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and any other appropriate Act. Having those guidelines ensures that maintaining a vibrant night-life is a key part of the merit assessment. However, it is essential that that does not hinder other important considerations such as the impact that noise and light will have on the surrounding environment. For that reason applications will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The vibrancy guidelines developed following the passage of the bill will address concerns regarding the potential impacts of later trading hours, such as sound and light spill, safety and amenity. The public will be considered when developing vibrancy guidelines.

Further to the planning secretary consulting the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, the Government intends to consult councils, stakeholders within the hospitality industry, and the wider community. That will ensure positive results are prioritised and there are no unintentional consequences from how the vibrancy guidelines are formed. The Office of Local Government NSW, Liquor and Gaming NSW, NSW Health and the NSW Police Force will also be consulted. Once that has taken place, the vibrancy guidelines will be issued by the planning secretary and published to a New South Wales government website. The bill states that consent authorities will only be required to consider the vibrancy guidelines in limited circumstances, such as assessing certain extended hours of operation applications. Those applications are defined as development applications that include a proposal for extended hours of operation or applications to modify a development consent to allow extended hours of operation.

Only premises in low-density residential areas, premises not located within a special entertainment precinct and premises situated 500 or more metres away from the nearest residential accommodation will be subject to these provisions. The bill is not applicable to premises in residential zones; this ensures that there will be limited impacts on local residents. The Government intends that the amendments made in the bill encourage venues to consider later hours of operation. This will create employment opportunities as well as encourage a vibrant economy for the community. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (17:59): I am pleased to support the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. As the Minister noted, the bill is intended to make sure that councils and other consent authorities consider the Government's vibrancy agenda as a critical part of the merit assessment process for applications to extend trading hours. The role of councils will be of particular interest to members of the House. As such, it is worth taking the time to consider how this bill may support councils. Nothing in this bill alters the requirement for a council to conduct a merit assessment of an application to modify a venue's hours of operation. The bill simply adds a new requirement, for those applications to which it applies, that the council must also have regard to the vibrancy guidelines when assessing the application.

The Minister in his second reading speech outlined the types of premises to which this bill applies: premises not located within a special entertainment precinct, as defined in section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993, or within residential zones R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5 and situated on land 500 metres or more away from the nearest residential accommodation. The bill does not extend to premises in residential zones to ensure that there are limited impacts on local residents. It is intended that the bill apply only to either a development application that includes a proposal for extended hours of operation or an application to modify a development consent to allow extended hours of operation.

Failure to have regard to the guidelines in considering a relevant development application would be unlawful. In the event that a council did not have regard to the vibrancy guidelines, a review pathway is available pursuant to section 8.2 (1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. An applicant may make an

application for review under section 8.3 of the Act. After conducting a review of the decision, the council can confirm or change the decision, pursuant to section 8.4. An applicant may also appeal to the Land and Environment Court, under section 8.6, should the applicant be dissatisfied with the outcome of the review. The bill will make sure that vibrancy is a consideration in relevant planning decisions. However, it does so in a way that does not override all other important considerations that are part of the application process.

Applications will continue to be decided on a case-by-case basis, and consent authorities will continue to balance all relevant considerations when coming to a decision. The bill makes the Government's position clear and will assist in delivering better decisions in the future. Our Government is committed to making sure that Sydney is a vibrant city to live in, that places of entertainment are allowed to thrive and that single complaints are overridden. Councils will have the benefit of clear guidance on how to interpret the Government's vibrancy reforms and agenda and what needs to be considered when determining a development application or an application to modify or extend trading hours. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:03): I support the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. The bill is yet another example of this Government's commitment to restoring vibrancy to New South Wales and bringing back fun after dark. This bill was brought about by Northern Beaches Council's decision not to allow a venue to extend its operating hours. The council closed the door on a fantastic opportunity for a beautiful night-time venue and a great economic asset backed by the community. If that council had been required to consider vibrancy when assessing the extension of opening hours, it would have been a no-brainer. It is the perfect venue to stay open into the evening. This bill will ensure that what happened on the northern beaches cannot and will not happen in Newcastle or anywhere else in New South Wales.

When this Government sees a problem, it takes action. The bill will require local councils and other consent authorities to consider vibrancy guidelines when assessing applications to extend hours of operation. Those guidelines will be outlined once this bill is passed but will be developed in consultation with the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, as well as councils, communities and hospitality professionals. This legislation ensures that the guidelines are considered but will not see applications automatically approved or refused, nor will they override any other planning requirements or considerations. This legislation does not step on the toes of councils or other consent authorities. It leaves them with the final say on all decisions.

The night-time economy in my electorate of Newcastle has been on a rollercoaster, going from offering the best night out in all of New South Wales to a city of lockouts and restrictions some years ago. Now the Newcastle night-time economy is back on the rise, and we want to keep it there—no more dips and troughs; we want to ride this high. We have seen the unprecedented Newcastle lockout laws lifted. We are seeing more and more venues expanding their live music capacity. We want to see venues continue to grow, to reach their full social, business and cultural potential. I note that this legislation will not apply to areas within special entertainment precincts. Whilst Newcastle does not currently have any special entertainment precincts, I look forward to working with the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and the local council to see that we do. But, in the meantime, this legislation will open the door of opportunity for Newcastle venues—literally.

This bill goes hand in hand with the 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act, which we passed last year. I take a moment to acknowledge one of the huge wins that has come out of the passage of that legislation—namely, the reforms to noise management. Adamstown Bowling Club is a pillar of the Newcastle community and an iconic venue. But, following a number of noise complaints from a single neighbour, it decided to limit its live music capacity. Liquor and Gaming investigated the situation, found that the bowlo acted lawfully and responsibly, and gave the thumbs up to let the music play. That neighbour was no longer able to shop around at the seven noise complaint regulators, as Liquor and Gaming is now the only regulator. Our vibrancy reforms saved live music at the Adamstown bowlo—of that we should all be proud.

Many of my colleagues have been reminiscing about the good old days, the Sydney night-life of decades ago. But Newcastle was something else. Newcastle is returning to its former glory, and reforms like this bill and the vibrancy reforms of last year are helping us get there. The introduction of this bill demonstrates the Government's ongoing commitment to our 24-hour economy and protecting our venues. I could not be more supportive of this bill. I thank the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for introducing this legislation and for his commitment to building a brighter New South Wales.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (18:08): It gives me great pleasure to contribute to debate on the brilliant Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. I am lucky to be standing next to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to deliver this speech on vibrancy. I was not planning on speaking. I had the thought about 10 minutes ago, as I was listening to my colleagues. I thought:

"How could I give up the chance to speak about such an important piece of legislation?" It is something that I know the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has worked very hard for. It is so close to his heart.

I know that the Minister is a bit of a party animal. He likes to get out and about whenever he possibly can. No-one would imagine that when looking at him. He seems to be a mild-mannered planning person who supports the St George Illawarra Dragons. That got me thinking about the rare occasions when that team wins. Afterwards, I imagine the Minister would want to go out and celebrate. It could be an opportunity to have a hot dog or a kebab or to go to a local establishment for a bit of a dance and a celebration. As I said, it does not happen that often.

Mr Paul Scully: We have to take them when they come.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The team has a few victories under its belt. But, yes, when the opportunities arise, we take them. The great thing about this legislation is that it captures this moment in time. This State used to be a fun place. It was a really great place to visit at any time of the day to be able to explore all sorts of different things. I am sure that people in the gallery are sharing thoughts about going overseas and seeing the variations in different economies. There are really vibrant economies. The member for Cessnock and I shared a special moment in 2016. Ironically, it was in Beirut, where one would not think there would be a vibrant night-time economy. We were walking along the Corniche Beirut and bought two corn cobs. They were a bit expensive at US\$5 each, but that was a bit of vibrancy—and the fact is that it was allowed.

COVID gave us an opportunity to try things that were a little bit different. People in our communities wanted to be out and about to try different things. They did not necessarily want to go to a club or a pub, but they wanted to celebrate being together. A lot of contributions have referred to a certain piece of legislation. Some councils want to say, "No, you can't." But we all deserve a little bit of fun. We all deserve to live life and be able to enjoy the great outdoors, the great indoors and various opportunities. As the member for Newcastle spoke about the great Newcastle scene, he reminded me of the time when I had a long, curly mullet.

Mr Paul Scully: Watching Silverchair.

Mr JIHAD DIB: It was actually even earlier than when Silverchair were around. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces would have been about 15 years old at the time. It was the Screaming Jets—I loved the Screaming Jets and the Baby Animals. We would drive up there—

Mr Paul Scully: Now we know better.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The Minister knows that I know better. See, the Minister really is a disco dancer. It died out for a bit, but that great live music scene was fantastic. Only a few weeks ago I was having dinner in the Central West and I actually texted Minister Graham, the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and said, "Thanks for bringing back live music." I got to listen to a couple of local kids playing covers. It was nice music and just a really nice thing to do. It was all good until I got onto the dance floor, which is when I realised that the music had stopped. But sometimes in life you just have to dance to your own tune. I was dancing to my own tune.

This legislation allows us to have a bit more celebration, but it is also a really sensible approach. In all seriousness, it is a sensible piece of legislation that tries to bring vibrancy back to New South Wales. It is also great for the local economy. I have spoken about the great success of Ramadan Nights in Lakemba, which has become a huge tourist attraction. Families come to enjoy time together and experience different foods and cultures. We are now working on something in Bankstown, using our great Vietnamese community as the ballast. The member for Heffron often refers to "the ballast". That community will be the ballast for night-time noodle markets or Asian markets that will become a tourist attraction. If the council is reluctant to work with that, this legislation encourages it to do so.

Members know that reforms have to be sensible. We cannot go over the top. But we also saw what happened when the lockout laws were introduced. People stopped being around. Businesses closed and the life went out of the city. This city—and this State—has plenty of life in it. I support anything that brings people together and encourages us to be more diverse and celebrate who we are in all sorts of ways. That could be the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces having a kebab after a Dragons win in Wollongong, or going to the old Intersection Tavern at Ramsgate—people of my vintage would remember that quite well—or just sitting around at an establishment listening to live music. The Government is trying to keep people together and let them enjoy themselves. It wants to ensure that everybody can have a good time.

I seriously commend the Minister's work on this bill. I have had a little laugh about some of the different ways it will benefit us, but in the work that the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy are doing, it is clear that the Government is committed to bringing the State back to life. It is committed to allowing people to have a bit of fun in a sensible way, while at the same time ensuring that

the economy is boosted. When tourists visit New South Wales, they should not have to go back to the hotel room because there is nothing to do in the evening after 5.00 p.m. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (18:15): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Bill 2024. In particular I acknowledge the contributions from the member for Blacktown, who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Public Spaces, and members representing the electorates of Manly, Pittwater, Liverpool, Kellyville, Fairfield, Tamworth, Wyong, Gosford, Parramatta, Mount Druitt, Riverstone and Newcastle. And who could ever forget the contribution from the member for Bankstown?

As members are aware, the bill proposes amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 by inserting a new part into schedule 8. It is intended to make sure that councils and other consent authorities will consider vibrancy as an integral part of the merit assessment process for certain applications to extend trading hours. I will briefly deal with matters raised during the debate. Members have questioned why the guidelines apply only to certain types of land. The guide is proposed to apply to food and drink premises in more fringe locations that are situated away from homes, where noise impacts are less likely to be a significant concern and extended hours of operation can be supported. However, councils are not prevented from applying the principles in the guidelines when considering applications for premises in other locations.

Individual premises in those locations are less likely to benefit from the vibrancy reforms the Government introduced last year, which improved the framework for special entertainment precincts and going-out districts. Venues in regional or rural locations—for example, in RU5 zones—may have historically had more conservative hours of operation applied. Food and drink premises in other locations, such as centres and high streets, are already likely to be able to trade later under approvals made in line with council policies to support night-time economies. Food and drink premises in many zones, such as employment and industrial areas, already benefit from later standard hours of operation available as exempt development. As such, a modification application to hours of operation is less likely to be required.

Members have also raised concerns about the application of the guide in the consideration of other environmental factors. The guide will not switch off existing environmental protections or override matters that a consent authority would consider for a specific site. Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act sets out the matters that a consent authority must consider in determining a development application. Those matters include the likely impacts of the proposed development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality. Matters for consideration like the effect of noise or light on the local environment as a result of longer or later operation hours will still need to be considered, as they always have. Councils will have to weigh up those impacts in certain locations as part of their assessment.

The Opposition has foreshadowed an intent to bring forward an amendment in the other place to insert an amendment to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation to give effect to these guidelines. Guidelines can be issued using a regulation, as has occurred previously. Section 61 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation specifies the additional matters that a consent authority must consider for particular sites or development types. That includes guidelines such as the Dark Sky Planning Guideline and the application of relevant Australian standards. I will briefly outline why I have some concerns about the Opposition's foreshadowed amendments. That is not to say the Government will not be supporting them but rather to note that there will be further conversations to make sure that, if there is an amendment, it is the right one. The New South Wales Government is choosing to place those guidelines into the EP&A Act to give more legislative certainty to councils, business owners and the community by requiring a consent authority to have regard to the guideline.

It is important to provide councils, consent authorities, the community and businesses certainty that the late-night economy is a critical part of any local area. It is an industry that has suffered from a lot of uncertainty across the State in recent decades. Making the guidelines or giving them effect through a regulation may add complexity to the planning system at a time when we are seeking to take complexity away. It may be that it adds additional red tape and time to the process of making the guidelines. The Government has been clear on its intent to remove duplication and red tape and to streamline the planning system. Regulations can be disallowed by the Parliament, meaning we could be in a position where the amendments to the EP&A Act say the vibrancy guidelines must be prepared and adopted, but the guidelines may be disallowed via the requirement to make them through regulation. This may contradict the certainty the bill is seeking to provide to a very limited set of circumstances where those guidelines would need to be considered.

As I have already noted, the vibrancy guidelines will apply where the premises that are the subject of the application are not located within a special entertainment precinct as defined in section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993 or within residential zones R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5 and are situated on land that is 500 metres or more away from the nearest residential accommodation. The bill does not extend to premises in residential

zones, to ensure that there are limited impacts on local residents. I thank the Opposition for its consideration of the bill, and the Government looks forward to discussing the amendments in detail in the other place. I commend the bill to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr PAUL SCULLY: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

DELL SAUNDERS

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:21): Dell Saunders is a valued community member, a Newcastle netball icon, and now a Freeman of the City. Having lived in Newcastle her whole life, Ms Saunders has been involved with local netball and other sports for over 70 years. In that time she has been a player, umpire, administrator and adviser. Even now, at 88 years of age, you can find her at National Park Netball Courts every Saturday. Ms Saunders has served on the Newcastle city sports advisory committee, the festival of sport committee, and the Mattara Festival committee, and she also helped form the Hunter Academy of Sport's netball and umpires program. She has umpired internationally and has been awarded the All-Australian Umpires Badge, the Order of Australia Medal and the Australian Sports Medal. Through her dedication, leadership and passion for netball, Ms Saunders has achieved excellence on the court and has had a profound impact on the local sporting community. I congratulate Dell and thank her for being such an inspiration to all Novocastrians.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Congratulations to Dell. She is a wonderful ambassador for netball in Wallsend and Newcastle. We all love Dell.

HOPE SHIRE INITIATIVE

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:23): I recognise the incredible Hope Shire initiative for assisting vulnerable members of our community over the Easter period. By way of background, Hope Shire was formed by over 20 local churches across 10 denominations coming together to offer a practical way to offer connection and care within our local community. With cost-of-living pressures making the Easter period particularly difficult for many families, those in need were able to access services including hampers, mobile pantries and hot meals, along with housing for the homeless and victims of domestic violence. Additionally, Hope Shire also published a free, limited edition called *The Shire Gospel: The Gospel of Luke*, described by the group as "the message of Jesus for the people of the Shire, provided by the churches of the Shire". Of course, none of that would be possible without the leaders of the Hope Shire initiative. I recognise Sean Nolan, Phil Macarthur, Lou Antonius, Mark Soper and Peter Tuck for their efforts. I thank all involved with the Hope Shire initiative for coming together to serve and support those in our community doing it tough and seeking connection.

TRIBUTE TO RON LYNCH

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (18:24): I recognise the loss of rugby league great Ron Lynch. Born in 1939 in Young, New South Wales, Ron, known as "Thirsty", rose to rugby league fame playing for Parramatta in the 1960s. His career highlights include 12 caps for Australia and leading the Parramatta pack during its 1962 to 1965 finals appearances. His adaptability saw him play multiple positions, including coach and captain for Parramatta and Penrith. He received life membership at Parramatta in 1970 and was inducted into its hall of fame in 2003. Ron's legacy extends beyond his on-field prowess. He is remembered for his toughness and affable personality, leaving an indelible mark on the rugby league community. Ron Lynch remains a beloved figure among Parramatta supporters—forever player number 197—and leaves a lasting impression as one of rugby league's genuine characters. Following his retirement, Ron raised his family in Riverstone, spending many hours on the sidelines of the Riverstone football club supporting his sons John, Dan and Ben. On behalf of the Riverstone community I offer my condolences and deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty, and his family. Vale, Ron Lynch.

MARCUS ULRICK

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (18:25): Today I acknowledge the work done by local resident Marcus Ulrick. Leading up to Anzac Day, Marcus took it upon himself to ensure that the Macksville cenotaph was clean and prepared to the standards that reflect the community's expectations. Overlooking the Nambucca River, the

cenotaph had previously been maintained by Marcus' grandfather Joe Ulrick, who served in World War II. Requiring considerable attention, Marcus spent his own time and money to regrout the marble commemorative plaques, resurface the walkways with nonslip concrete and pressure-clean the surrounding surfaces to remove graffiti. Believing in the importance of remembrance, Marcus is working with other volunteers in the Nambucca Valley to highlight the need for the preservation of our local defence memorials. Marcus notes that with vandalism on the rise in the area and insufficient upkeep, it is necessary for concerned individuals and groups to take up the slack and guarantee that the sacred monuments dedicated to those who served are enduring. I thank Marcus for preserving that legacy.

A HISTORY OF CAMDEN CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS 1899-1993

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (18:26): On 6 April I had the privilege of attending the Camden Museum for the launch of the book *A History of Camden Chinese Market Gardeners 1899-1993*, edited by Ian Willis and Julie Wrigley. The book is a brief history of the Chinese market gardeners who first arrived in the Camden district during the late nineteenth century, providing insight into the story of the Camden Chinese market gardeners, a story which is not widely known but deserves to be remembered. The Chinese market gardeners made a positive contribution to the Camden area that will be more well-known and widely told due to the publishing of the book. Sophie Loy-Wilson, a senior lecturer of Australian history at the University of Sydney, attended the event and officially launched the book. Thank you to Ian, Julie and the Camden Historical Society for inviting me to the Camden Museum and hosting the book launch. It was a wonderful afternoon.

FRANCES BODKIN FERRY

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (18:27): I was delighted to join Frances Bodkin, Gawaian and their family and friends, including Aunty Karen Adams, to officially launch and commemorate the first ferry in Sydney's new Parramatta River class fleet. Transport for NSW has announced the name of the ferry in honour of a long-term local resident of Wollondilly. It is called the *Frances Bodkin*. The ferry naming recognises Frances Bodkin's immense contribution to botany, environment education and the preservation of Indigenous knowledge through community engagement. Frances is a D'harawal Elder of the Bidjigal clan, who has worked extensively to scientifically observe and record Indigenous culture and knowledge of flora and fauna. She is a botanist, scientist and educator who has dedicated much of her life to the sharing and preserving of Indigenous knowledge. Ancestral knowledge passed down from her mother, who spoke to her in language, is recorded in Frances' publications, including *Encyclopaedia Botanica: The Essential Reference Guide to Native and Exotic Plants in Australia*, which documents over 11,000 native Australian plants and D'harawal seasons and climatic cycles.

KYLA DANIELS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:28): The Central Coast is full of fabulous female leaders. Today I have the privilege to share a sweet journey of a talented businesswomen in our electorate, Kyla Daniels, the owner of the Central Coast's esteemed Cakes By Kyla. Kyla is a formidable force, a mum, a 10-time award-winning artist and a self-taught cupcake queen who has transformed our community's cake experience for the past 14 years with her scrumptious creations. She was also one of the fabulous runners-up in the Gosford Woman of the Year Awards this year. Kyla's dedication to pleasing her customers with unique cake creations is laudable. Being supported by more than 100,000 social media followers, Kyla has delightfully used that opportunity to showcase her community leadership by donating her delicious cupcakes to our frontline workers during the pandemic and supporting not-for-profit organisations. Moreover, she consistently promotes other local businesses to help boost their online presence and creates a healthy business environment of support within our region. We are fortunate to have such a fabulous female leader in the Gosford electorate, and I thank Kyla for her ongoing efforts to better our community with both her delicious cakes and her kindness.

KURRAJONG DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:29): On 4 May I had the pleasure of joining the Kurrajong District Girl Guides for their annual family campfire. The special occasion brought together the Guides and their families to support the girls on their journey to empowerment and learning a broad range of life skills. The rain we experienced on the night did not dampen the upbeat spirit. I congratulate Diane Williams, who celebrated her forty-sixth year as a Girl Guides leader, and Brian Williams, who received a Girl Guides spouse award for his dedication to maintaining the grounds of the Girl Guides hall. I thank the Kurrajong District Girl Guides for hosting the night and for their exemplary programs that support girls in Hawkesbury.

JAMES BUSBY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (18:30): I commend the Indigenous students of James Busby High School for their participation in the secondary Aboriginal dance workshop at Airs High School. A collaboration between Bangarra Dance Theatre and the NSW Department of Education Arts Unit offers students

a unique opportunity to engage with their culture through contemporary Indigenous dance. I recently had the privilege of visiting James Busby High School and can attest to the remarkable talent and profound cultural connection demonstrated by its students. Their achievements are truly inspiring, and we take immense pride in their accomplishments. I congratulate Shelly DeGabriel on receiving an invitation to audition for the Bangarra Dance Theatre. This achievement underscores James Busby High School's mission to foster a supportive environment for student growth. I commend the students for their dedication and James Busby High School for its ongoing commitment to student excellence and cultural enrichment.

LAURA TURNER

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (18:31): Today I recognise the 2024 Veolia Creative Arts Scholarship recipient, Laura Turner, from the Shoalhaven. Laura Turner is one of 13 people accepted into the National Institute of Dramatic Arts [NIDA] to study a Master of Fine Arts in Cultural Leadership. Laura hopes to advocate for more arts organisations in regional areas and to use her skills and research to help gain more grants and support for local projects. The \$4,000 2024 Veolia Creative Arts Scholarship will support Laura's international placement towards the end of her course. After gaining a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Theory and Practice, Laura trained at NIDA to gain a certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services. Laura has taught drama and entertainment industries at Nowra Anglican College for 20 years, where she co-directs musicals. I have witnessed great thespianism on display in Parliament—Laura could be of great use here. She worked also as a theatre technician at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre. She loves all aspects of theatre, especially directing and stage managing. Laura has co-directed a number of award-winning productions at the Albatross Musical Theatre Company. I congratulate Laura.

VICKY AND JOE NAVARRIA

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (18:32): On 2 April 2024 Joe and Vicky Navarria officially stepped down as licensees of the Port Kembla Post Office, after nearly 30 years. In 1996 the Navarrias opened a new post office in Port Kembla after answering a call from Australia Post for a licensee to replace the old one. Joe and Vicky went on to serve the Port Kembla community with dedication for 27 years, 10 months and 13 days. They leave behind a legacy within the tight-knit Port Kembla community. Vicky and Joe were active members of the local business community and supported many local events and sporting teams over the years. Joe was also involved with the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce, reviving it almost single-handedly. Their presence in the community will be missed by many local customers whom Joe and Vicky consider friends and family. I congratulate Joe and Vicky on their retirement and thank them for their service to the community of Port Kembla over nearly three decades.

JACK BARTLETT

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:33): I extend a heartfelt message of gratitude to Avoca local Jack Bartlett, a remarkable individual whose service to our nation during World War II embodies the true spirit of the Anzac legacy. As a chief petty officer aboard the HMAS *Manoora*, Jack's commitment to defending our freedoms and his selfless sacrifice in the face of adversity have left an incredible mark on our history and continue to inspire generations of Australians. This inspirational 100-year-old World War II veteran signed up to fight when he was only 18. He has not missed an Anzac Day since returning from service. When commemorative services were halted during the pandemic, Avoca Beach locals asked whether they could pay their respects to Mr Bartlett and hold a parade in their local street. Of course, the answer was yes. The parade has become a yearly Anzac tradition. The sight of our community coming together, year after year, to honour Chief Petty Officer Bartlett fills me with immense pride. This year Chapman Crescent was again lined with hundreds of well-wishers paying homage to a centenarian whose resilience and patriotism shine so brightly. I thank Jack Bartlett.

TELUGU NEW YEAR

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:34): It was a pleasure to attend the Sydney Telugu Association's Ugadi Sambarallu celebrations on 11 May 2024. Ugadi, the Telugu New Year, is a time-honoured tradition that symbolises renewal, prosperity and new beginnings. This festive time unites our Telugu community to cherish their traditions. The Sydney Telugu Association enhances our community through initiatives to support youth, women and seniors, including a community language school, radio show and e-magazine. Through these diverse platforms, the association engages Telugu Australians of all ages to connect with their culture and heritage. With more than 20,000 people in New South Wales speaking Telugu at home, Telugu Australians are a pillar of our multicultural community. Contributing hugely to the economic and cultural development of New South Wales, they epitomise the success of the wider Indian diaspora. I thank the association president, Murthy Voleti, and the hardworking team for supporting our community. May the new year bring blessings and happiness to them all. I wish the Telugu community a happy Ugadi.

GRAFTON UNITED HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (18:35): I acknowledge the hard work of the Grafton United Hospital Auxiliary. Last Wednesday it held its annual Mother's Day morning tea. I was in Parliament so, unfortunately, I could not attend, but the results were outstanding. There was a homemade morning tea fit for a queen. The one and only Ray Smith emceed the event. I wish all the mothers who attended a very happy Mother's Day. My mother-in-law, Sue Fisher, Lesley Ross and Jean Winnin, known as AJ, represented me on the day. There were lots of raffles and tombolas to boot. I congratulate the Grafton United Hospital Auxiliary on another wonderful Mother's Day morning tea.

BARRY PORTER

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:36): I congratulate Mr Barry Porter on reaching 50 years of service as a justice of the peace [JP] in 2022. On 10 April a celebration to recognise this significant achievement was held at Parliament House. Mr Porter has provided this important voluntary civic service to the community for half a century. He verifies, witnesses and certifies documents to validate their accuracy. JPs are appointed based on employment or community need and are often hard to come by, given the role's voluntary nature. Our community values people like Mr Porter, who take the time to provide this essential service. I commend Mr Porter for his continued service and dedication to our community.

LILIER LODGE

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (18:37): Last weekend I had the great honour of joining the celebrations that marked the twentieth anniversary of the Riverina's Lilier Lodge, a real home away from home for patients undergoing cancer treatment and their families. The lodge was opened in May 2004 by Joy McKean, the wife of country music legend Slim Dusty. It was great to have Joy and Slim's son, Dr Dave Kirkpatrick, with us for the celebration. Lilier Lodge was one of the first cancer accommodation centres in regional Australia. Over the years it has supported more than 26,000 patients. After a bequest from Rose Lilier, Can Assist and Cancer Council NSW showed the power of partnership and further funds were raised to build the facility. The dedicated staff and supporters continue to be a beacon of hope for more than 1,300 patients every year. I congratulate everyone involved, particularly the current manager, Margaret Dalmau, and her colleagues Alison Casnave, Greg Nolan, Kathy Newcombe and Moya Smith. I thank the first manager, Christine Dolan, and the community volunteers of Can Assist and Cancer Council NSW, who continue to do so much to support Lilier Lodge and cancer patients.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE CYCLING CLUB

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (18:38): The Sutherland Shire Cycling Club is a club for all riders. Last year it celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary with a special book launch for *Sutherland Shire Cycling Club—A Short History*, authored by local historian Dr Garry Darby. The book provides an insight into aspects of the history of Sutherland shire and speaks of not only cycling but also family history and important aspects of the shire's social history, including transport and the development of the Sutherland township. This meticulously crafted book is a testament to the club's enduring impact on our community. Within its 95 pages, adorned with captivating illustrations, the book traces the evolution of the club from its inception in 1908, when bicycle club racing was first introduced to the shire by the pioneering Mr Ted Boyle. Through various name changes and racing formats, the Sutherland Shire Cycling Club has remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering athleticism, camaraderie, and community spirit. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Garry Darby for his dedication to bring this story and history to life.

STEVE WALL

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (18:39): As a kid, Steve Wall was a player for the Hornsby Berowra Junior AFL Club where he played almost 100 games from 1996 until 2000. Steve returned to the club when his son joined Auskick in 2016. He wasted no time getting involved as a volunteer. He commenced coaching and coordinated Auskick and then coached junior teams between 2019 and 2022. For his considerable efforts Steve was awarded the club's prestigious Adrian Browne Leadership Award in 2019. Steve Wall was elected president of the club in 2022, a year in which the club took out the AFL Sydney Juniors (Sydney Harbour) Club of the Year award. His presidency has continued, which has seen record club participation numbers. Steve loves his association with the Eagles and he continues to dedicate enormous amounts of time to the club all year round. Many dedicated volunteers support Steve in his role and I thank them all, particularly Brendan Limbrey, Steve Barton, Hadyn Douglas, Aaron Wallin, Carolyn Higgs, Clare Salke and Belinda Robson. I congratulate Steve Wall on being awarded life member of the Hornsby Berowra Eagles Junior AFL Club in 2023.

ZIMBABWE DELEGATION

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (18:40): I welcome to New South Wales a delegation of 10 from Zimbabwe, led by the Hon. Darlington Dzikamai Chigumbu, the member for Budiriro South. I thank His Excellency Mr Joe Mhishi, Ambassador for Zimbabwe, and Ruth Pacsi, a local community African-Australian leader for their support. A key focus of Mr Chigumbu and his delegation is on positive youth engagement through sports and activities. The Zimbabwe Government is exploring ways to invest in youth facilities and will have important discussions with the PCYC, all stakeholders at Blacktown International Sports Park, the Australian Catholic University, PlayPoint, SydWest Multicultural Services, OzHarvest, Featherdale Sydney Wildlife Park as well many other community leaders and organisations. The Parliament of New South Wales will host a reception tomorrow and Federal Parliament will host one on Thursday. Blacktown City Festival will have an African stage showcase.

ALLAN BORDER OVAL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:41): Over the weekend one of Australia's greatest cricket test captains and Mosman-raised local, Allan Border, was immortalised in bronze alongside the official opening of the new pavilion at Allan Border Oval. I was pleased to join many hundreds of locals who turned out, despite the rain, alongside another former Australian cricketer and captain, Ian Chappell, for the special occasion. For those who do not know, Allan was a middle-order batsman who scored over 11,000 runs across 156 test matches for Australia. His status in the game is recognised by Australia's player of the year being awarded the Allan Border Medal. The new bronze statue captures Allan playing a graceful cover drive. It shares a likeness to the statue that resides at The Gabba and was reproduced with permission of the artist, Linda Klarfeld. The new state-of-the-art pavilion and grandstand form part of a new-look sporting and community facility designed to meet contemporary requirements for sports, while respecting the heritage legacy of Mosman Park. I know Mosman Cricket Club in particular is looking forward to using it next summer for its cricket season. I congratulate Allan, Mosman Council and all involved with this long-awaited project.

BEAUTY POINT RETIREMENT RESORT BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (18:42): I congratulate the Beauty Point Retirement Resort on hosting its annual Biggest Morning Tea. Last week the community were invited to have a cuppa, raise funds for cancer research and meet some of the residents' pampered pets. Resident and organiser, Pamela Pitkeathly held her first morning tea event in 2002 after her daughter, Ann, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Pamela witnessed firsthand how much a new treatment trial made a difference to her daughter's condition. That treatment is now standard for everyone. Pamela was so inspired that she and her other daughter, Kay, began hosting morning teas to raise funds for the Cancer Council. At last week's event community members were invited to enjoy scones, tea and coffee, win prizes and take part in judging the Most Pampered Pets competition, all while raising funds for the Cancer Council's life-saving work. I thank Pamela and the Beauty Point Retirement Resort residents who took part in the heartwarming event to raise important funds for cancer research.

KATHERINE BENNELL-PEGG

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:43): I pay tribute to the achievements of a truly remarkable woman in the Manly electorate Manly, South Curl Curl resident Katherine Bennell-Pegg, who is—quite literally—reaching for the stars with her endeavours. Just recently, after 13 gruelling months of training and preparation, Katherine took a giant leap into a new frontier, graduating from the European Space Agency in April as Australia's first qualified astronaut to represent the Australian flag. In doing so Katherine also became the first Australian female astronaut. Incredibly, among over 20,000 applicants Katherine was only one of six to graduate. It should come as no surprise that Katherine's new-found qualification only scratches the surface of what is a long and impressive list of achievements. Going boldly where no Australian woman has gone before, Katherine is the embodiment of what it means to work hard and dream big. I congratulate Katherine on a truly astronomical achievement.

ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (18:44): Last month I had the pleasure of attending multiple Assyrian New Year celebrations. Celebrated traditionally on 1 April, the celebration holds deep significance for Assyrians in Fairfield and around the world, serving as a celebration of their rich cultural history and identity. This year the Assyrian community welcomed the year 6774. I thank the Assyrian Democratic Movement Sydney Chapter for all its hard work in organising its Assyrian New Year celebration at the Assyrian Sports and Cultural Club. I also thank the Assyrian National Council of Australia for its tireless efforts and dedication in organising their annual Assyrian New Year Festival at Fairfield Showground. Resha d'sheta haweh brikhta al kolokhon. Happy New Year.

DON AND ELLIE DEAN

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:45): I was delighted to read in *The Weekly Times* newspaper that Eastwood residents Don and Ellie Dean celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary in March. There is something to be said for 65 years of marriage. It is a symbol of love, loyalty and, no doubt, triumph over the inevitable adversity that one would encounter in over a decade of partnership. Throughout life's journey they would have seen significant change. We know that communities evolve, technology develops and people come and go from within our respective orbits. To have the steady presence of a life partner—in Don's case, Ellie, and in Ellie's case, Don—is to experience that journey to its fullest. Along the way they have built an important foundation for future generations, exemplified by their two sons, John and Mark; daughter, Jennifer; six grandchildren and most recently, a great-granddaughter. Don and Ellie's example is one that we can all aspire to—a lifetime of partnership and the building of an enriching legacy. I ask the House to join me in congratulating Don and Ellie on their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

GEORGE HUMPHRIES

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (18:46): I recognise a distinguished member of my electorate, Mr George Humphries, the treasurer of St Johns Park Bowling Club. Throughout his 16-year tenure George has played a significant role in advancing the club's community services and championing various initiatives that have profoundly impacted the lives of individuals and enriched our local community. Driven by his passion for lawn bowls, George places a strong focus on investing in bowls, members and facilities. His continuous commitment has been instrumental in providing financial support to local members who proudly represent our community in competitions at State, national and international levels. Furthermore, George has worked tirelessly in order to increase the lawn bowls community by encouraging local residents from all walks of life to partake in and enjoy one of Australia's most loved sports. In acknowledging George's contributions, I extend my deepest thanks for the remarkable services George has provided and will continue to provide to our local community.

NORTHERN BEACHES SURF CLUBS

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater) (18:47): Surf lifesaving clubs are the beating heart of Pittwater. Each summer thousands of volunteer lifesavers give up time on their weekends to help keep all who enjoy our beaches safe. It is so important that our club facilities remain in good condition, and I am excited to announce over \$700,000 of funding for two deserving local surf clubs in Pittwater. Before last year's budget, I advocated for funding for the North Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club and I am pleased to announce that \$632,343 has been awarded to that club to upgrade its old clubhouse and start stage one of important works. The club community has been working towards the upgrade for many years, and with that funding we are one step closer. I also announce \$68,480 for Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club to undertake works that will make the club's operations more environmentally friendly and sustainable. The club plans to install solar panels, a battery and a wastewater management system with the funding. Well done to both clubs.

MAY DAY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:48): On 3 May I attended the annual May Day toast at the Dapto Leagues Club. It was a great night. I congratulate Arthur Rorris from the South Coast Labour Council, who always makes it a fun night with the Electrical Trades Union, the Transport Workers' Union, the United Services Union, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, the nurses and midwives' and many other unions. I make special mention of Narelle Clay, from Southern Youth and Family Services, who always shows up and is a good trade unionist, and Dana Nelse who runs the Albion Park Rail Neighbourhood Centre. Those women are relentless in their work, and I absolutely admire them. It was a great night. We got to watch a movie and had the May Day toast and we reminded ourselves of what is so important about May Day. The next day was the May Day march. Of course, it was pouring rain at seven o'clock when I was there with my husband. Nonetheless, we attended the march and had a great day.

RED SHIELD APPEAL

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:49): Right now people are really struggling with the cost of living, resulting in incredible financial stress in our communities. Now, more than ever, support is needed for the annual Red Shield Appeal. This year there is no physical doorknocking, but one can still contribute by jumping online via a digital doorknock on the Salvation Army website and selecting Tamworth or their local community, or by catching a volunteer at sports games, shopping centres, pubs and clubs from 24 to 26 May. Every dollar raised stays local, supporting essential services like emergency relief and financial counselling. Those funds transform lives, providing a new start for many in our community. Thanks go to our local committee headed by Brian Singh. They are ready to help.

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (18:50): Friday 10 May marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of National Walk Safely to School Day held in conjunction with National Road Safety Week. National Walk Safely to School Day helps kids to stay safe, encourages exercise and healthy living, and is a great opportunity to talk to kids about staying safe on and around our roads. Encouraging kids and families to walk, ride or use public transport to and from school is good for our environment. It reduces pollution and it relieves congestion on our roads. I was proud to join my fantastic colleagues the member for Canterbury and the Minister for Roads, John Graham, at Canterbury South Public School with their brilliant principal, Eliza Frasca, and many enthusiastic kids and parents to celebrate the day. I thank the local area command for participating and promoting road safety around our schools. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

BOYS TO THE BUSH

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (18:51): At a time when communities are worried about our young in the regions, it was great to celebrate some good news at the official opening of the new Boys to the Bush centre in Wagga Wagga this month. The brainchild of three teachers—Adam DeMamiel, Richard Leahy and Tim Sanson—Boys to the Bush is an amazing service that offers hope and help to disengaged young men. With its theme of assisting boys to become good men, the charity helps at-risk boys through early intervention and mentoring. Focusing on role models, it connects boys to work experiences with farmers, tradies and other employers while also providing opportunities to learn and grow through fun activities, such as fishing, riding or paddling. With hubs from Bendigo to Dubbo, the group has already done extraordinary things for young regional men and the location manager of the Wagga Wagga hub, Ben Walsh, is excited by the huge potential to help boys in Wagga Wagga and surrounds. Special thanks should go to Rabobank for its support and to the other sponsors. Congratulations to everyone involved in this terrific service. I look forward to seeing the success of its young charges in the years ahead.

Private Members' Statements

SOUTHERN BEACHES RUGBY CLUB WOMEN'S SIDE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (18:52): "You've got to have your mate's back, on and off the field" is the message that came through when I spent some time with the Southern Beaches Rugby Club women's side on Saturday 13 April. We all know the importance of sport to our local communities. We know the benefits: the obvious health benefits, including exercise and fresh air, and the less immediate but no less important social benefits. That is what I found really inspiring when I went along to the Southern Beaches game at the Ernie Calland fields in Gateshead. I got a chance to chat with the players and supporters, and to hear directly from them what the club has meant for them.

It was a really fantastic afternoon and I immediately felt the friendship, the community and the camaraderie of the women in the team, and the warmth and affection of their supporters. I heard about friendships forged on the field—sometimes sealed with blood, as a bloody nose one player copped that afternoon could attest. Those friendships have lasted a lifetime. One player told me about her university days when she played rugby with a group of women with whom she has stayed friends for nearly two decades, and whom she has supported and been supported by through good times and through bad. I heard from Kirsty Hatchwell, the club's secretary, about the challenges that the club has faced—and overcome—in building its reach and encouraging its players in a sport that is still very male dominated. I heard about how it struggled during the pandemic, as we all did, and how it has built back stronger. I heard about the increase in women interested in the sport over the past year, in particular.

Before 2023, the club could not field a full 15-player side, sometimes struggling to get the minimum 12 players and often playing without a single sub. The exploding interest in women's sport—as Deputy Speaker Hornery would know—has certainly benefited Southern Beaches. According to Kirsty, membership has doubled. The club has 15 players on the field, a full bench of subs—and then some. Unfortunately, Beaches did not win on that Saturday afternoon. Actually, it is fair to say that they got hammered. But that did not put a damper on the spirit in Gateshead that day—far from it. As we caught up after the game, all I heard were positive words and all I felt were good vibes.

As I have said, there has been an explosion of interest in women's sport over the past few years. Women like Sam Kerr and Ash Barty have become household names, as have women like Emily Van Egmond and Clare Wheeler, two Matildas with histories in the local Charlestown region. Across Australia this has been driven by events like the performance of the Matildas at the FIFA Women's World Cup and the victory of the Diamonds at the Netball World Cup in South Africa. In my electorate we have seen the Newcastle Knights claim back-to-back victories in the NRLW finals. Internationally, the Women's National Basketball Association saw

record television ratings and enormous crowds in the United States, reflecting truly fantastic growth in the women's branch of the most valuable sports franchise in the world.

The importance of all this and what the end goal might look like was brought home to me again in the lead-up to International Women's Day when I attended the Lake Macquarie Women in Sport Festival and heard from the legendary Liz Ellis. Liz said that she looks forward to the day when we do not need to say "women's football", "women's rugby", "women's basketball"—when it is not "women's sport" but just "sport". That is a worthy goal and, although we are not quite there yet, as Liz told us all, "If it's meant to be, it's up to me."

Ms Liesl Tesch: Go Liz!

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Absolutely. She is a force to be reckoned with and deserves congratulations on her appointment to the board of Netball Australia. I will continue to support women in sport at all levels, from the mighty Matildas to the Newcastle Knights and the Southern Beaches women's side. I thank Kirsty and the rest of the fantastic women in the club for making me feel so welcome that day. Let's go, Beaches!

TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (18:57): Today is a momentous day for the Tweed. It is with great pride and much joy that I inform the House that at eight o'clock this morning the new \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital opened its doors to patients. Some six years in the making, today marks a significant, incomparable and eagerly anticipated milestone in health care in the Tweed. The brand-new Tweed Valley Hospital will transform healthcare services in our region. This state-of-the-art facility provides 200 more beds than the old Tweed Hospital and an additional 16 emergency department treatment spaces. The new hospital will include two major new services: an interventional cardiology service and an integrated cancer care service with radiotherapy and PET-CT scanner. The new cancer service will ensure that some 5,000 patients no longer need to travel outside the area for treatment. It is a hospital that I am proud to say was made possible by funding provided by the previous New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government.

As many members in this place know, it was not a smooth journey to this point, with many challenges faced and overcome. Unfortunately, my office was subjected to protests instigated by the Federal Labor member and her husband. Numerous threats were made over the phone and through email, but we persevered, and the most amazing state-of-the-art facility is now available to the Tweed and surrounds. I am incredibly proud to have been part of a government that recognised the need for this new hospital and delivered funding for one of the biggest health infrastructure projects in regional New South Wales. And above all else, it has free parking.

With the opening of the new Tweed Valley Hospital comes the closure of the Tweed Hospital, which also occurred at 8.00 a.m. today. I thank all of the doctors, nurses, paramedics, wardies, security personnel, cleaners, caterers, admin and hospital staff who have contributed to the old Tweed Hospital. It is sad to say goodbye to a hospital that holds 50 years of memories. I acknowledge the place that the Tweed Hospital holds in the hearts of many people. As the Tweed grows, so too must our healthcare services. We are fortunate to have such a highly advanced and modern healthcare facility available to us.

The organisation and logistical preparation that goes into transferring patients to the new hospital cannot be understated. Today's move is the biggest hospital move in regional New South Wales history. Accordingly, the move is being supported by NSW Ambulance, the NSW Police Force, Transport for NSW and Tweed Shire Council. I thank everyone at the Northern NSW Local Health District and every agency that contributed its time and effort to make the move possible. I look forward to attending the official opening of Tweed Valley Hospital in the coming days alongside members from the other side of the Chamber to formally recognise the hospital's opening. On behalf of the people of the Tweed, I congratulate and thank the thousands of people who played a role in bringing the new hospital to fruition.

That journey of just over six years was amazing. We held two open days. The first one was held when the hospital was partially constructed. Over 2,500 people came. Recently we held an open day that over 5,000 people attended. It is a major contribution to our local health services. We also allow Queenslanders to come. Last year 27 per cent to 30 per cent of Tweed Hospital patients were Queenslanders. I inform the House that during COVID, the then Queensland Premier, my good friend Anastacia Palaszczuk, said that Queensland hospitals were for Queenslanders. From day one, the former Government set out to build a hospital not just for the people of New South Wales or Queensland but for all Australians.

We are all about delivering first-class health. The doctors and nurses are ecstatic. We have created a legacy. The commitment of free parking is major for regional New South Wales. It is stressful enough to go to hospital, let alone having to fork out money to park or visit people. Finally, Rebecca Wark and her team at Health Infrastructure NSW were outstanding. We had an association with them over many years. I wish them all the best

in the future as they go on to different hospital projects across the State. Once again, I congratulate all of the people who played a significant role in bringing the hospital through for the Tweed.

ELECTORATE OFFICE STAFF

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (19:02): As a member of Parliament, I am acutely aware of the crucial role that electorate officers play in supporting the community and ensuring that the voices of constituents are heard. I know that all members in this place share that sentiment. Those dedicated staff members are the backbone of our offices, tirelessly working behind the scenes to address the concerns and needs of those we serve. Every day, electorate officers are faced with a myriad of challenges, from constituents who are struggling to make ends meet to those who simply need someone to listen to their concerns.

Our staff are on the front lines, dealing with complex and sensitive issues daily. Their dedication and commitment allow us to effectively represent our constituents. Their work is not always easy, as they often deal with complex and sensitive issues. They must be empathetic, knowledgeable and resourceful to effectively assist those in need. I ask that members recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of electorate officers across New South Wales. They play a vital role in the democratic process and deserve our support and gratitude. As elected representatives, it is our duty to listen to constituents and advocate on their behalf. I am lucky and proud to have such a compassionate and dedicated team working alongside me to support my community. They work tirelessly to ensure that every concern is heard and that every issue is addressed.

I represent a community with a lot of complexities. It takes a special and unique person to never give up. That is the thing that continuously inspires me with my electorate staff. It is through their dedication and compassion that we can truly serve the people who have entrusted us with their voices. In the end, the relationships we build with our constituents drive us to do better and be better. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I will continue to work tirelessly to make sure that every voice is heard and that every concern is addressed. The truth is that because of my privilege as a Minister of this State I spend a lot more time out of my electorate than I used to, yet I know that my community's needs are still being met on a daily basis, no matter how complex the situation. That confidence in my team allows me to do other jobs to support people across the State.

Electorate officers help find emergency accommodation, which there has been a need for recently, particularly when addressing the scourge of domestic and family violence and people's struggles with the cost of living. The number of people who come seeking emergency accommodation and support is increasing rapidly. Electorate officers also provide advice or simply lend a listening ear to someone in crisis. Every member would have a person who pops into their electorate office just wanting someone to talk to. Every member would be able to think of an individual who comes in on a regular basis or someone in crisis because they have got nowhere else to go. Electorate staff are always there to offer support and assistance, connect constituents with resources and assist with navigating government services, some of which can be complicated.

Our staff members often find themselves dealing with challenging and emotional situations. Their strength and resilience allow them to support our community with compassion and care. I have used those phrases a number of times in this speech. Compassion and care are the critical elements to this work. There is a saying in my office that we made a difference. We also have a motto that nobody leaves without knowing that we have done everything that we possibly can. It is easy for me to say that standing here, but the people in my office are the ones who make this happen. I am constantly inspired by the dedication and professionalism of my staff, who work tirelessly to address the needs of our constituents. They are often the first point of contact for those seeking assistance, and it is their hard work and commitment that allow me to effectively represent my community in Parliament.

As members of Parliament, we must recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our electorate officers, who are often the unsung heroes of our community. Their tireless efforts and commitment to serving others is truly commendable, and I am proud to work alongside such dedicated individuals. I again express my heartfelt gratitude to my staff and all staff that make this place work, whether they are in electorate offices, in ministerial offices or are part of the teams that operate this Parliament, including the Clerks and others. We are a whole team, and we cannot work unless every single person works. Because of their hard work and commitment, we can make a positive impact on the lives of others. I am grateful for their service and look forward to continuing to work together to support our community and ensure that not one single person is left behind.

WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (19:07): Imagine a continuous tree canopy that stretches over 50 kilometres with gorges, protected lands, mountains and valleys filled with beautiful lakes. Imagine all of that land in the ownership of the State through different departments and agencies. I imagine many members would

think that is something the Government would want to protect. That is the nature of what we have in Wollondilly, and we have a chance to protect it. Wollondilly has a number of parcels of land that are under the jurisdiction of State agencies: from Wilton in the north, which connects the Cataract Dam and the Nepean River, south following the top of the Illawarra escarpment and Bargo River along the Bargo State Conservation Area, continuing south and adjoining Macquarie Pass National Park to include Mount Lindsay, Mount Gibraltar and Mount Alexandria down to the lands at Kangaloon. Animals do not know the boundaries that we studiously keep on computers that ultimately mean nothing. Hypothetically, if a koala can travel through all those lands, should we not treat them all the same and protect them for all of us to enjoy? Do we seriously think the koala will care if it is in a parcel of land that is under assessment by a government agency?

The Government has an opportunity to declare those lands as national park, which I have sought support for from the environment Minister, but she has not shown much imagination for what we could do. Dharawal National Park from Appin to the stretches of Wollongong was declared in 2012, with underground mining banned between the two major roads to the north and south of the area. Another area was to be declared but planning ceased due to the factional change of leadership in the New South Wales Liberal Government between 2017 to 2019. The good work had commenced under the Labor Carr era and continued under the Liberal O'Farrell-Berejiklian period but unfortunately ended too soon.

As the lands in Wollondilly are mostly Crown lands, there is no cost to the declaration. The extra services, regeneration, education and recreational facilities that come with a national park would be an option for the Government. All I ask is for the ball to start rolling and for the Government to study the area for its ultimate declaration. An additional and unexpected benefit of a declaration would be the movement of biodiversity credits from the lands in the Wilton and Appin growth area. Those credits were placed on private landowners without their say by the former Government. Moving those credits by declaring a national park would prevent their land being used for credits for any other development.

The declaration of the new park would connect the lands from the north to the south and would allow the connection of the Hawkesbury and Nepean rivers, which have significance for the local Aboriginal communities of the Dharawal, Dharug and Gundungurra nations. Aboriginal artwork along the Bargo River gorge and Aboriginal stories of the area such as the story of Migadan, the spirit of the river, extend across the landscape of the river catchment beyond the boundaries of the area and over various land tenures. The storylines of the local Aboriginal people centre on the gorge and Bargo River in the north. There are also the Mermaid Pools and the Nepean River. The winding 5.5-kilometre river that flows in the Bargo gorge provides beautiful freshwater swimming areas with over a dozen pools that are surrounded by cliffs, cascades and heavy vegetation. I have enjoyed going on trips with people, stripping off in the hot weather and hopping in and enjoying those beautiful, clear pools.

A good friend of the river system and the Bargo gorge landscape conservation area in particular is Rowland Ware, a Wollondilly local who for many years has come to council community forums and spoken about the gorge. If it were not for Rowland and his fellow bushwalk, nature and conservationist friends, that area would not be protected. According to a letter from the Minister, there is no willingness from the Government to declare the lands due to multiple claims and different landholdings. The same answer was given years ago about Dharawal National Park, but it is now protected. The same answer was also given about the Bargo River gorge area. It is time we become inventive about things and work towards protecting what we have now before it is too late.

GOSFORD ELECTORATE DEVELOPMENT

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:12): Tonight, as the very proud member for Gosford, I will talk about the future of our great city. I really believe we have reached a tipping point of greatness for the capital of the Central Coast. Lots of things are happening in Gosford at the moment that are turning it into the capital city that we dreamed it could be. I thank the ALAND family group and CEO George Tadrosse for believing in Gosford as a fantastic destination and taking on the Archibald development. The Archibald will have 323 residential apartments. It is a \$375 million mixed-use development and includes a not-yet-announced 130-room international hotel. That exciting announcement is coming soon.

It is something that Gosford and the Central Coast need as we move forward. There will be a stylish, world-class food and beverage offering. I cannot wait for the gorgeous rooftop bar. I had the opportunity to go up to the eighth level of the development. There are two towers. It is quite amazing because every week, depending on the rain, one of the towers goes up by one level—one tower one week, the other tower the next week. The construction is really quite amazing. The over 100 people working on the construction is another bonus. I thank ALAND. I hope it brings it on and does more on the Central Coast. It is wonderful.

Another great joy for Gosford is the State Government's investment in the Safer Cities: Her Way project for the Central Coast. Of the \$20 million for the project, \$1 million went to the Central Coast to rejuvenate and

reimagine Gosford as a safe city, in particular for women in our community. There have been laneway and street improvements to enhance the perception of safety, including a gorgeous cobblestone laneway that was previously a boring old brown laneway. Now it has beautiful bright colours with artwork, thanks to a mural artist, and lights and umbrellas hung above it. It is absolutely gorgeous.

Burns Place park, which was quite dreary, closed in and covered with trees, has now been hedged beautifully and opened up. There have been installations, landscaping and lighting improvements to enhance safety and the feeling of security at night. There were also free coffees there for business people for a couple of months. Kibble Park has hosted several events over the summer period and it has improved lighting as well. There has also been a free shuttle bus around the CBD to encourage public transport options. I thank Central Coast Council for the work that it has done there.

In addition, midway through 2025 the University of Newcastle will be opening its Mann Street campus in the old Mitre 10 building. The six-star building coming our way will cost \$63.8 million, with \$27.8 million from the university, \$18 million from the Federal Government and \$18 million from the State Government. That is going to be another game changer in addition to the Central Coast Clinical School and Research Institute, which is a world-class offering for medical students on the Central Coast. It is already changing opportunities for locals, who are now able to attend university in glamorous dignity on their own Central Coast. The new hub will be an innovation of world-class education. I commend the University of Newcastle for the work it does and in particular for the first-in-family and Open Foundation courses it offers. Not only will Central Coast students have an opportunity to attend the university, but it will also bolster the coast's existing workforce. It creates the opportunity to go to university on the coast and stay on the coast to work.

There have also been great announcements from the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy. Michael Rodrigues, the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, visited Gosford last Thursday and brought together live music fans, live music deliverers, artists, people in the cultural community, change-makers and local business owners to discuss the Uptown District Acceleration Program. That program encourages and empowers local businesses to collaborate to form engaging, safe and dynamic going-out precincts. I am confident that Gosford will be a going-out precinct of the future. The community has so many great factors and so many great businesses already operating. Their combined voices will be a great push for revitalising Gosford and making the night-time economy grow in our community. There is also an \$8.5 million commitment to reshaping the Gosford waterfront, which governments have promised for years. I know that the Gosford waterfront will be absolutely spectacular. The concept of Dubai might frighten people from the coast, but I think Gosford has the opportunity to be a game changer into the future. Bring on the future of the fantastic city of Gosford!

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): It is good to see the sponsors of the Parramatta Eels are making such a difference to Gosford.

RYDE HOSPITAL BIRTHING UNIT

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (19:17): The previous Government initiated the single largest investment in health care in Ryde's history when it budgeted \$479 million to rebuild Ryde Hospital. I was born at that hospital, as were many locals who live in Ryde. The rebuild is hotly anticipated. To see construction commencing is enormously encouraging for a community under enormous growth pressures at present. However, an aspect of the endeavour demands urgent attention. The decision threatens to undermine the very fabric of our local healthcare infrastructure. I speak, of course, about the Minns Government's cancellation of the birthing unit restoration following the hospital's reconstruction. The cancellation is a significant blow to the Ryde community, especially considering the immense growth pressures we are currently facing. With the influx of new residents, it is imperative that we bolster our infrastructure and facilities, not diminish them.

The Government's rationale for cutting the birthing unit revolves around low demand. It argues that the number of expectant mothers in the area does not justify the cost of maintaining a birthing unit. However, that narrative only scratches the surface of the issue. Demand is not stagnant; it evolves with population dynamics. As more individuals and families settle in our area, the need for accessible health care, including birthing services, will inevitably rise. The Government's redirection of expectant mothers to Royal North Shore Hospital, while understandable in some contexts, imposes significant logistical challenges. For those preparing to give birth, such a journey, particularly in the hustle and bustle of Sydney traffic, is not just inconvenient but potentially risky for their health and the health of their babies. The stress of a long journey, especially during peak traffic hours, can lead to complications and increased anxiety for expectant mothers.

What exacerbates the situation is the need for more transparency preceding this decision. Before the election, there was no indication of such a significant policy shift. Given the rising inflation and escalating costs of building materials, it was always foreseeable that additional funding might be necessary for the birthing unit's restoration. However, prudent financial planning should have accommodated such contingencies within the

allocated budget. By abruptly scrapping the project altogether, the prospects of securing funding in subsequent budgets now appear bleak. The palpable distress among local mothers upon hearing this news has galvanised our community into action. We have initiated a petition to reinstate the birthing unit—a powerful testament to our shared commitment to safeguarding essential healthcare services.

It is crucial that our collective voice is heard but also respected, and that our concerns addressed with the seriousness that they deserve. Reflecting on the broader context, it is evident that Ryde is at a crossroads. We boast a dynamic economy with Macquarie Park emerging as a pivotal hub for innovation and growth. However, that progress must be complemented by robust infrastructure and public services. We have exceeded housing targets by a significant number, demonstrating our capacity for growth. This rapid growth, while beneficial in many ways, also poses challenges, particularly for the healthcare sector. The cancellation of the birthing unit is just one example of how our healthcare services are struggling to keep up with the increasing demand. Still, such expansion must be accompanied by corresponding investments in health care, education, and transportation.

The recent announcement of additional housing development in Macquarie Park without adequate consultation with local stakeholders underscores this disconnect between government policy and community aspirations. While housing affordability is undoubtedly a vital priority, it cannot be pursued at the expense of essential amenities and green spaces. We saw this lack of understanding on display when the Government considered the North Ryde Common and Macquarie Mental Health Hospital as a solution to housing woes—a lesson quickly learnt. It is heartening to witness the solidarity and activism within our local community, as evidenced by the swift mobilisation against ill-conceived plans. People power has the potential to effect meaningful change. I urge the Government to heed our collective voice. In just a month's time, there will be a budget in this State. It is the time for this Government to step up. Here is why we need this critical birthing unit.

CAMDEN ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (19:21): Today I wish to speak about Anzac Day and its significance to the people of Camden and the people of our State and nation. Anzac Day holds a sacred place in Australia's history. On Anzac Day we commemorate the first landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on the shore of Gallipoli over 100 years ago on 25 April 1915. With this landing Australian and New Zealand forces were brought into the slaughter that was World War I. It is important to remember that the Australian men and women who served during World War I voluntarily enlisted. The raw statistics of World War I tell of a nation whose people were committed and proud to serve, with 416,809 enlisting, representing 38.7 per cent of Australian men aged 18 to 44. But statistics do not tell of the courage of our Anzacs and the sacrifices made. Approximately 59,000 soldiers died, 167,000 were wounded, 4,000 went missing or were made prisoners of war, and 88,000 suffered sickness. These grim statistics serve as a reminder of the horrors of war and why it is so vitally important to continue to commemorate Anzac Day and recognise the courage and sacrifice of our current servicemen and women.

This year I was honoured to be invited to participate in Anzac Day commemorations held in Camden. The dawn service, which was hosted by Camden RSL Sub-Branch, was held at the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park. As a testament to the enduring legacy of our Anzacs, over 23,000 people attended the dawn service, with crowds arriving from 4.30 a.m. on a typically cold Camden morning. It was wonderful to see so many people so early in the morning—and on a public holiday—and it was a privilege to lay a wreath in memory of those who had served and died in combat. We were honoured to have guest speaker Mr Jerry Grayson, AFC, address the crowd. Mr Grayson was a helicopter pilot who served with the Royal Australian Navy from 1972 to 1980. He was the youngest pilot ever to serve in the Royal Australian Navy. Mr Grayson spoke of learning about the spirit of Anzac through the stories told of the Gallipoli campaign—stories of mateship and camaraderie that still define the spirit of Australia. Mr Grayson also thanked First Nations people for their service, many of whom were shamefully never recognised.

The dawn service was followed by a march down Argyle Street, which is the historical main centre of Camden. It was led by the 7th Light Horse Regiment, followed by schoolchildren from every school in the Camden local government area and some beyond, volunteer organisations, former armed services personnel and their families. The dawn service and march were followed by the main ceremony, which commenced at 11.15 a.m. The greatest honour of the day was presenting some long-deserved medals. Joseph Charles Elliot, an Indigenous man who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and Citizen Military Force on 12 January 1942, served in Darwin but never received his service medals. I was proud to be asked to present those medals to his family in a very moving ceremony on the day.

Anzac Day has a special sense of solidarity that unites us as a community—from the volunteers who work behind the scenes to plan the services, to the nearby businesses who kindly sponsor the remembrance, to the thousands of locals who give up their time to join the ceremonies. I acknowledge attendees from the community, including representatives of our first responders, Australian War Widows and local cadets. Finally, I thank the

Camden RSL Sub-Branch and, in particular, president Mr Iain Richard-Evan, a Vietnam veteran, for working to grow the attendance over the past 18 years. They have worked tirelessly to get sponsorship and to coordinate the various community groups involved. I acknowledge that this year several sub-branch members have had a particularly trying year with death and grief within their community. Nevertheless, despite such grief, they still managed to have an incredible impact on the town by organising these events.

People like Iain and the Camden RSL Sub-Branch put a lot of work into making sure all Camden's Anzac Day ceremonies are such an integral part of our town's fabric. I also recognise the contribution of Camden Council staff in making the day run smoothly. Throughout Australia people from all walks of life gather on Anzac Day to attend ceremonies, acknowledging and remembering those who have served and those who continue to serve. We remain forever grateful to the sacrifices made on the battlefield. Lest we forget.

COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE SPORT GRANTS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (19:26): One of the most rewarding aspects of being the member for Coffs Harbour is spending time with local individuals and organisations that are committed to our community. In their own way, they are dedicated to making a positive difference to the lives of Coffs Coast residents and they are helping to make our region an even better place in which to live and work. Recently I had the honour of visiting some of our local organisations to celebrate their successes and to hear about their exciting plans for the future.

One of the groups making waves in our community is the Coffs Coast Outrigger Canoe Club, whose members are all smiles as they continue to make full use of their new OC6 canoe. The club was able to purchase the new outrigger canoe thanks to a \$32,000 grant from the former Coalition Government under the Community Building Partnership Program. I announced the grant in December 2022 as part of \$400,000 in funding for as many as 16 local projects under the program. The Coffs Coast Outrigger Canoe Club asked me to check out their new canoe at Jetty Beach and they extended an open invitation for me to join them for a paddle at one of their regular training sessions.

It was great to be harbourside with club members and their new canoe, which is a wonderful asset for the club. They have always been focused on increased community participation and the arrival of the new canoe is helping the members to achieve this aim. I congratulate them on their new craft and applaud them for promoting healthy lifestyles in our community. I was very happy to support the club's application for the grant and I wish them every success for the future. I know the additional canoe will allow even more of the club's 66 members, who range in age from nine to 76 years old, to be on the water at the same time. Thirty-four of the club's members are female. It was great to spend time with some of the members after one of their recent training sessions, including president Chris Foley, vice-president Gary Vandermaat, head coach Darin Singleton, Roxanne Evans Hickman and Colin Hucker.

Water polo is another water sport that is splashing out on new gear. Coffs Harbour Water Polo Club was among local community sport organisations on the Coffs Coast to benefit recently from the Local Sport Grant Program, with a \$2,164 grant for goal transport frames and an equipment upgrade. I enjoyed catching up with some of the Coffs Harbour Water Polo Club's very happy members—president Kirsten Binnie, Carter Bridgeman, Cheryl Lane, Renata Bridgeman and Fletcher Bridgeman—at Coffs Harbour War Memorial Olympic Pool. They are already putting their new goal transport frames to good use.

I also congratulate our other clubs allocated funding under this round of the Local Sport Grant Program. The Woolgoolga District Netball Association received \$5,170 for the installation of security cameras, the Corindi Pony Club received \$15,776 for the purchase of portable horse yards, the Korora Squash Club received just over \$9,000 for changeroom upgrades and disability access, the Coffs Harbour Crusaders Junior Rugby Union Club received just over \$7,000 for the New South Wales Under 16s boys and girls State rugby union titles being held in Coffs Harbour in 2024, the Coffs Coast Tigers Football Club Inc. received just over \$8,000 for its Achieving Goals project, and the Coffs Harbour Table Tennis Club received \$2,500 for the purchase of new equipment.

At Nana Glen Memorial Hall and Community Centre, April's market day took on extra significance as we celebrated the official opening of a much-needed community project. In 2022 the former Coalition Government announced \$23,525 in Community Building Partnership funding for improvements at the hall and centre focusing on the side entrances and emergency exit landings and wheelchair-compatible walkways. The local community rolled up their sleeves and went to work, with special recognition going to Jeff Nixon, Clinton Bailey, Greg Mills Thom, Joel Walker and committee members Colin Green, Garry Dew and Ian Ellem. Nana Glen Hall Committee president Colin Green and committee secretary Gayl Ellem have emphasised the importance of the improvements, particularly from a safety perspective. I congratulate the entire Nana Glen community on the completion of this vital project.

EAST HILLS ELECTORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (19:31): I take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the thousands of emergency services staff in New South Wales, several of whom recently came together to save the life of my friend and constituent. Tony and Claire Urban spoke to me about a frightening medical emergency their family experienced, which could have been fatal. However, emergency services staff promptly jumped into action, ensuring that Tony lived to tell his story. I am thankful that Tony and his family were able to share that story with me. It is wonderful to have Tony in the gallery tonight.

In February, Tony was in bed asleep when he unexpectedly started convulsing and fell unconscious. Unbeknown to Tony and his wife, he had suffered a catastrophic brain seizure. Claire, his wife of 34 years, and his daughter, Gemma, quickly called 000 and together pulled Tony off the bed so that Claire, a disability worker and one of the heroes of the day, could administer CPR. Tony had turned blue. Thankfully, two paramedics arrived at the Urban's house within six minutes to take over CPR. Only a few minutes later, another ambulance arrived to provide additional support. Four local firefighters from Revesby Fire Station also attended the scene to assist paramedics in getting Tony down the stairs, into the ambulance and off to the emergency department at Liverpool Hospital. Tony remained unconscious and on a ventilator for seven days, being cared for by doctors and nurses who regulated his breathing and ran tests to try to determine what had happened to him.

This is just one example of many that highlights the incredible and vital work of emergency services attending to crises and saving lives in our community. The NSW Ambulance Service delivers care to one in six people in New South Wales every year with more than 6,100 staff, including almost 5,000 paramedics. I join the Urbans in recognising the tireless work of our ambulance services and the paramedics who responded to Claire's call to help Tony that day. The Urban family are also incredibly grateful to the four firies who attended: Jed Kelly, Rory Richardson, Darren Gibson and Daniel Cuskelly. I commend these men and the over 6,000 permanent, on-call and volunteer firefighters who make up NSW Fire and Rescue.

NSW Fire and Rescue firefighters not only protect our communities from devastating bushfires and fires in homes and businesses, often putting their own lives in danger, but also respond to other emergency and rescue situations, including the one that befell Tony and his family. Our first responders attend to some of the most challenging and confronting circumstances, displaying bravery, courage, determination and skill. They are real-life heroes. It is physically demanding and unpredictable work that often involves long hours and can take a toll on workers' mental health as they come face to face with life-and-death situations. They make such a big sacrifice to enhance community safety in New South Wales and deserve our respect, recognition, thanks and admiration. It is also important to recognise the doctors, nurses and other emergency services staff who cared for Tony while he was in Liverpool Hospital, and all healthcare workers in New South Wales, for the incredible job that they do.

After 10 years of empty promises by the previous Government, I am proud that my Labor Government has committed \$1.3 billion to build a new hospital at Bankstown. This will meet the healthcare needs of members of my electorate, and in the future they might avoid the requirement to travel to Liverpool Hospital. I am relieved to report that, following a few shaky days after regaining consciousness, Tony is on the mend—thanks, in no small part, to the hardworking men and women of our emergency services and his loving family. The empathy, care and compassion shown to Tony and his family are echoed in many stories involving our State's emergency personnel. I am immensely grateful to all the staff and volunteers who contribute to our emergency services in New South Wales. It is a sentiment that is strongly felt by the Urbans, as well as many community members across the State. They do a fantastic job helping the community when we need it most. I wish Tony and his family best wishes and good health.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (19:35): As Parliamentary Secretary, I support the comments of the member for East Hills and congratulate Tony. It is great to see him in such good form and looking so healthy. On behalf of the Parliament, I welcome him. Tony, you are welcome here anytime. It is great to see you. I thank all the first responders and healthcare professionals who helped Tony. He is an outstanding individual.

PITTWATER ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FUNDING

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater) (19:36): Pittwater is the most beautiful place—in fact, the best place—to live in the world. It is the best part of the best region, of the best city, of the best State, of the best country, of the best hemisphere on earth. On the eve of his election victory, Premier Minns told the people of New South Wales:

Today we've been elected by the people of this State, but we will govern for everyone in New South Wales.

To date, in the main, the Premier and this Labor Government have failed to live up to that promise. The past 12 months under the Labor Government are in stark contrast to the prior 12 years under the Liberal Government.

The Liberal Government delivered record levels of funding to local schools, providing \$4.9 million in 2022-23. Labor has cut that to \$4.3 million. We delivered \$50 million in upgrades to Mona Vale Public School and so much more. In the meantime, Labor has ripped away \$600,000 in funding from local public schools, meaning support teachers or programs will need to be cut. The Labor Government has delivered previously promised funding for Narrabeen Sports High School, but more is needed for a creative space.

The Liberal Government delivered the \$250 million Mona Vale Road East widening and budgeted \$340 million for Mona Vale Road West, and works had commenced. Labor has now cancelled the \$340 million widening of Mona Vale Road West. The Liberal Government started planning for the Beaches Link Tunnel and invested \$150 million in property acquisitions and planning. The Labor Government has cancelled the Beaches Link Tunnel five or six times. The Liberal Government invested half a billion dollars delivering the B-Line bus service and commuter car parks in Mona Vale, Warriewood and Narrabeen. Meanwhile, the Labor Government has instructed the bus operator to slash timetabled services. The Liberal Government protected Pittwater from overdevelopment, all the while continuing to invest in vital infrastructure. On the other hand, the Labor Government is promising to double the population in Pittwater through its ill-conceived development plans, all whilst slashing infrastructure and services.

Under the Liberal Government, local youth mental health and domestic violence services received a steady stream of support and funding. Incredibly, despite my community's cries for help, funding for youth mental health and domestic violence support services have all but dried up. Despite the disappointment of the past 12 months, the Government can still honour its promises. Over the past 12 months, the Minns Labor Government has failed Pittwater. Since being elected, I have sought to engage with the Government regarding the needs of the community that I serve. In that time, the Government has avoided answering questions properly, ignored requests for meetings about key projects, taken months to respond to correspondence on behalf of constituents and has sometimes not responded at all.

Despite the disappointment of the past 12 months, I am an eternal optimist. Next month's budget will be a critical test of Premier Minns' promise to govern for everyone, and his Government can make progress. In next month's budget, I call for funding to be made available for local domestic violence support services such as the Women's Resilience Centre, the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter, Women and Children First and LocalKind. Domestic violence is a scourge, and our local services need government support. The Government must provide adequate funding for youth mental health services across the northern beaches. I welcome the Government's Northern Beaches Youth Mental Health Roundtable initiative, but the talk must be met with funding to support it. Funding needs to be available to organisations like Youth Up Front, the Burdekin Association, StreetWork and more. Additional funding must be made available Narrabeen Sports High School so it has adequate performance spaces. The Resource Allocation Model funding must be restored and increased from 2022-23 levels, before recent cuts. The preschool promised for Terrey Hills Public School must be funded and delivered.

The Government must fund dialysis chairs at Mona Vale Hospital, which its own local health district says it needs. Scotland Island must be delivered its new fire boat, and water and wastewater infrastructure must also be funded. Mona Vale Road West funding must be restored. Over 15,000 locals have petitioned the Government to restore the project. Sadly, the Minister for Roads will not even visit the project to understand its need. The road network review of pinch points along Pittwater Road, which is due in late 2024, must be funded to alleviate congestion at intersections with Mona Vale Road, Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road.

The Government must compel Northern Beaches Council to finally commence works on flood-proofing the Wakehurst Parkway with the \$31.1 million given to it by the State. It continues to be a serious issue, with houses flooded, businesses impacted and traffic thrown into chaos whenever the road closes. As I informed the House in March this year, funding was provided in 2017. In recent years, the council has been run and controlled by teals and The Greens, and this policy failure falls at their feet. Council must get on with the job or consideration must be given to investigating it, with action taken. I implore the Premier to govern for all.

BLACKTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (19:41): I talk about some of the issues for the Blacktown electorate and the great events around the area. Daisy Ann Gonzalez was recognised with a Paul Harris Fellowship Rotary Award, one of the most prestigious Rotary awards. She has been a painter for numerous decades and has created great artwork relating to Anzac Day, florals and paintings of people. Now in her eighties, she still undertakes magnificent works of art. As part of the fundraising she does from her artwork, she has created the Daisy Ann Foundation, which addresses modern slavery. It had a major fundraiser the other day, which provided not only anti-modern-slavery support for people overseas but also local support for Australians affected by domestic violence and other issues. I thank Daisy Ann Gonzalez for all her help. Only last Saturday she was recognised by an organisation called Megaworld, which identified her community achievements and support.

The Sonata Singers is a choral group comprised of expatriate Filipinos in Sydney. It aims to revive and popularise classic Filipino music. It has been around for about 17 years and is based in the Blacktown area. They believe singing and camaraderie prolong one's life. If we look at the average age of the group, it very much works. Full of life, the senior members of the Filipino-Australian community also participate in a lot of fundraising activities and donate to worthy local and overseas causes. I congratulate Buddy Japon, the president of the Sonata Singers, as well as choirmaster Loy Tagudin on all their wonderful work in bringing 60 or so dancers and singers together. Last weekend, the Harman Foundation celebrated its eleventh anniversary.

Dr Hugh McDermott: An outstanding organisation.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: It is an outstanding organisation. The member for Prospect joined me, with the member for Riverstone and a few others, as well as councillors and the deputy mayor.

Mr Gareth Ward: I know how much you love them.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: They were from different councils. Even the Mayor of the Hills Shire Council, Peter Gangemi, was there. The Harman Foundation delivers a 24/7 helpline and HER House, as it is referred to, which is a refuge that supports women fleeing domestic violence. It has direct peer support, a chaplaincy service, bereavement services and family support services. On Thursday nights the foundation also supports the local area by providing food for the homeless. Noting all those different aspects, on average, the foundation raises about \$300,000 a year. Talk about value for money. Given that it puts in so much for the area and make a lot of referrals, hopefully our Government will continue to look at ways to support this worthy organisation.

A couple of weekends ago was the Sydney Chithirai Festival, also attended by the member for Prospect. The Tamil Arts and Culture Association undertakes many language, music and dance programs. It is an annual event at which many thousands of people turn out, even if it is bad weather as it was that particular day. It is fantastic that they allow the children of Australian-born Tamil people to witness and learn their culture so they are connected with their grandparents. That is a great way to go overseas to visit their family, understand the language and talk to them. That connection is vital. Congratulations to the Tamil Arts and Culture Association.

SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (19:46): I call on the Minister for Local Government to immediately institute performance improvement orders for Shoalhaven City Council, which is in serious trouble and faces an unsustainable financial future without strategic and serious course correction. Whilst the answer from The Greens-Labor alliance was to slug struggling ratepayers and put up rates by 44 per cent to sustain a bloated bureaucracy, bungled projects like Bioelektra and poor financial oversight, what is needed is calm, sensible and rational leadership that addresses the council's structural deficit and ensures that city spending aligns with revenue and that organisational change occurs to reduce the staff profile in a way that maintains services but cuts unnecessary waste.

Help has been offered but has been rejected. In spite of significant efforts from independent ratepayers and financial professionals, the mayor and her voting bloc appear to have ignored proposals to establish a financial advisory committee, which would have included five members of the public with significant financial experience to help council get back in the black and back on track. Without the right corrections and policy controls, Shoalhaven's ratepayers, of which I am one, will need to shoulder poor decisions that will compound to make matters worse for the next generation of residents and civic leaders.

Whilst community action defeated a massive rate increase proposal, it seems that council is trying to raise revenue via the back door, jacking up water prices and increasing fees and charges. For example, revenue from water is budgeted to increase by 75 per cent. Also of concern is a plan to have a fire sale of council property, regardless of its value. My concern is that land will simply be sold to fund recurrent expenditure and not relieve debt or pay for new capital. If that is the case, it is akin to putting more water in a leaky bucket. It is bad public policy and poor financial decision-making.

This set of books has not fallen into disrepair overnight. Employee costs as a percentage of rates, which were 67 per cent in 2020, are projected to increase to 79 per cent by 2025. By 2028, almost all general fund revenue could go towards paying wages. Employee costs and loan repayments together have increased from 83 per cent to 95 per cent. After corrections, employee costs are 82 per cent, and employee costs and loan repayments are 99 per cent. Analysis of cashflows, based on the limited information provided by the council, identifies a potential cumulative shortfall of around \$70 million from general fund operations after loan repayments over a five-year period. The accelerating increase in employee costs and loan repayments, together with a frantic search for cash as the cashflow shortfalls mount, would indicate that the financial viability of Shoalhaven City Council's general fund is unsustainable without immediate, radical changes in operations.

Whilst I appreciate that the Minister is not independent, the State's Auditor-General is, and it can exercise its functions under the Local Government Act to review the council's accounts. Tonight I ask the Auditor-General to do exactly that: examine whether councillors and senior management have used restricted funds for general fund operating expenses and assets, which would indicate a major deficiency in the generation of cashflow from operating activities. Accounting for restricted funds is akin to the operation of a solicitor's trust account, where the funds belonging to the owner of those funds are accounted for on a daily basis and must never be used for the day-to-day running of the firm. The same principles apply to councils' accounting, which is more complicated. Loans and grant funds can be used only for specific purposes. Contributions by developers must be used only on future projects for which they are charged. Water, sewer and waste funds must not be used for general fund expenses such as pools, libraries and wages.

Therefore, the classification of payments—whether it be for wages, water pipes or football grounds—is extremely important, especially when it involves the capitalisation of payments. They must go into the asset register on one side of the ledger and, most likely, also be transferred out of the restricted fund—for example, a grant from the New South Wales State Government. To add to the accounting complexity, the wages costs and equipment used are recorded with a council-calculated mark-up. There is no accounting standard for that calculation, and only the Auditor-General can determine its reasonableness.

I question the interplay of balance sheet and income statement figures. The 2024 financial statements specifically highlighted that internal restricted cash was used. But the accountants who reviewed the financial statements said that the interplay of other line items appears incorrect, and hence the financial position of the general fund may have been worse as at 30 June 2023. The current liquidation of council properties, additional forced property sales in 2024-25 and the redemption of the TCorp Growth Fund investment indicate an immediate budget crisis. The apparent desperate need to replenish cash demonstrates that the accounting systems and the reporting mechanisms are not working. Neither the Minister for Local Government nor the Auditor-General can ignore that situation any longer. I call for immediate action to save the future of Shoalhaven City Council.

TRIBUTE TO BOB BOWER

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (19:51): Recently, the Thirroul branch of the Australian Labor Party lost one of its stalwarts, Bob Bower. Bob joined the Australian Labor Party in February 1988 and, through the 36 years of his membership, his contributions were outstanding. Bob was a branch delegate to both the Cunningham Federal Electorate Council and State Electorate Council forums, and his passion for the ALP saw him elected as vice-president of the Thirroul branch from 2003 to 2006 and secretary from 2010 to 2021.

During his time as secretary, Bob went above and beyond for the older members of the Thirroul branch by making house visits to those who could not travel to branch meetings. By doing that, Bob made sure that those members were up to date on branch affairs and helped keep their registration current—within the rules, of course. With his wife, Anne, Bob helped organise the annual Thirroul branch dinner, which started in 1966. They took great pride in preparing a wonderful three-course, home-cooked meal for about 80 to 90 members who attended each year. That's right—a full three-course meal for nearly a hundred people every year. Many significant Labor luminaries have been guest speakers at those events, including several Labor leaders and Ministers.

I enjoyed helping the Bower power team in the kitchen and watching them coordinate the organised chaos of many volunteers rolling out the three-course meals from the modest Thirroul Railway Institute Preservation Society kitchen, which still has no dishwasher—the team do all the dishes by hand. Bob was pivotal in our election campaigns; he could always be found on pre-poll booths for days, as well as on polling day, typically at the Thirroul Library or St Michael's booths.

Despite his illness, Bob continued to participate in election campaigns as much as he could, spending time on polling booths for both the now Federal member for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes, and more recently the member for Heathcote in this place, Maryanne Stuart. Those election successes add to the long list of people whom he helped to achieve public office to represent the Labor Party and Labor values. But no person is one-dimensional and, while the party and its members were certainly grateful for his involvement, many others were grateful for having known Bob.

In particular, the Illawarra Sailability group recently dedicated a perpetual trophy for the Volunteer of the Year in Bob's name. Bob and Anne's love of sailing was well known. As members of Sailability tell the story, they arrived at the yacht club on Lake Illawarra one day wondering how they could be involved in sailing. Fortunately, they met Bob first, and the door to a new opportunity for Sailability members was opened with his welcome. As one member recently said to me, if it had not been for Bob's welcome and his willingness to help them set it up, Illawarra Sailability probably would not have existed. It certainly would not have started as early as it did. No wonder the Volunteer of the Year trophy and award is named after him.

The yacht club was a passion for Bob. He spent years organising events and was the principal race officer for many Australian titles held at the club. Bob and Anne raced in regattas around the country, including 13 Bay to Bay races inside Fraser Island. Other trips included the yachties' pilgrimage to Middle Percy Island, where a memento is left by each visiting yacht. Their yacht, *Bosun*, is reported by their family to be one of the smallest boats to ever visit.

Longer trips away together to the Whitsundays led to bigger adventures. *Bosun* did a lap around Australia, followed by a lap of Tasmania. Bob was a man of faith, and a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands in 2013 strengthened that faith. He and Anne spent time in Fiji engaged in missionary work with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart seminarians. They did eight trips to volunteer at Chevalier College, the first trip for a three-month stay. At the funeral, his son Martin said:

Dad loved to be in the front row, though never really wanted to captain anybody's ship other than his own. He never wanted to be the frontman or the centre of attention. He went as high as he could in TAFE where he wouldn't lose his holidays and still be able to teach and maintain his contact with students. He was never the Commodore but would give his all to have the success the organisation needed. He did hold Chairman's roles but really felt much happier being the Right Hand Man.

As a teacher, a father, a volunteer in many organisations and a man of faith, Bob was guided by a sense of doing things for the greater good. His funeral service was filled with stories from family and friends of how he had given so freely of himself to benefit others. It was filled with people whom he had helped, whom he had supported and who were incredibly appreciative for having known him. Bob wanted to do all that he could for those in need—to help where he could, always thinking of others.

When Alison and I visited recently, he insisted that Anne put umbrellas at the door in case it was still raining when we left. Bob always went above and beyond for all of us, and we are grateful for it. I extend my deepest condolences to Anne; Martin and Melissa; Lisa and Gerard; Jono and Sharon; Phil and Natalie; and his 13 beloved grandchildren. I thank them for sharing him with us. Bob was an extremely valued member of our community and he will be dearly missed.

TAMWORTH TYRE TORTURE 2

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (19:56): Oakburn Park raceway came alive on 27 April with the Tamworth Tyre Torture 2 event. It was pulled together by Tamworth Motorsports, headed up by Scott Simmonds. The group consists of Tamworth Sporting Car Club, with president Jason Newling and committee; Tamworth Kart Racing Club, with Jason Maxworthy and committee; Tamworth Drag Racing Association, with president Bill Ausling and committee; and the Tamworth Motorcycle Club, with the godfather, Paul Slade, his family and committee.

It was a great weekend, with burnouts, dirt drags, drifting and show-and-shine. It was also great to have Gunnedah Speedway life member Ray Darcey calling all the action. The drifters were on the circuit track and everyone was having a crack. The highlight was the Hi-Tec Oils Drifting Australia team, led by founder and CEO George Gambino, who was at Oakburn Park over the entire weekend. He brought two of his drift cars and I was lucky enough to go for a hot lap with Scott Schembri. It was totally awesome, and the skill he displayed to be able to drive like that sideways, at speed, was incredible. Everyone appreciated the exhibition by those champions.

The burnouts had 50 competitors from all over New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Canberra. It was equivalent to the famous Summernats in Canberra, with high-quality entries burning rubber and popping tyres, powered by engines way too big for their chassis. There was also a show-and-shine, with many appreciating the hours of work that had gone into preparing the owners' pride and joy. Dirt drags also tested the pace of the entries.

Overall, the weekend was a huge success, with several thousand people attending. Organisers are already thinking about Tyre Torture 3. Oakburn Park is Tamworth's premier motor sport complex and plays host to many events. But there is always room for improvement, like a proper drag strip and expansion of the circuit track, which would bring in more events and would lead to driver training as well. Recently I was able to support the complex with a new sound system. I look forward to continuing to support the Tamworth motorsports committee in its effort to secure funding to upgrade Oakburn Park. In the meantime, keep an eye out for the next event, and I encourage everyone to get their backside trackside.

TUGGERAH LAKE FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:59): Tuggerah Lake is a beautiful part of the Central Coast and a beautiful part of my electorate. It is also a lake subject to regular flooding. The highest flood recorded was 2.1 metres, in 1949. The lake usually sits at about 0.3 metres. Over the past four years, we have had four major floods, as well as several minor floods. In the past two months, we had two minor floods, and these impacted

some people in my electorate and around the lake more than others. I will report on those in a moment, but first I will say a little bit about how our response to floods has changed.

To begin that story, I go back to the 2020 flood. That flood reached the height of 1.65 metres. That is now classified as a major flood. It was called a minor flood at the time. That was part of the problem in 2020; our flood classification around Tuggerah Lake was all wrong. The local flood plan was out of date and had not been reviewed by the SES. There was no procedure to open The Entrance channel. The channel is the only opening between the lake and the sea, and it often gets blocked with sand. Having no procedure in place to open the channel can cause floodwaters to be higher and the flood to last longer than need be the case. There was no sandbag collection point located in The Entrance electorate, and there was no regular training and education of the community.

We have addressed all of those issues over the past four years. The three major floods that followed showed the slow improvement in our response to floods in our area. Of particular importance was getting in place a procedure to open the channel. In March this year the council agreed to augment that procedure to ensure that The Entrance channel is maintained in a flood-ready condition with a pilot channel through the sand, which accumulates in the mouth of The Entrance. The pilot channel is cut to make sure that, if there is flooding, it can be opened so water can exit Tuggerah Lake sooner rather than later.

The first minor flood occurred from 4 to 7 April, peaking on 7 April. Even though the channel was opened by the council in accordance with its procedure, because the waters were at a low level, there was no energy behind the water to push through the pilot channel, and it continued to close up at every high tide. However, the council persisted with work on the channel, and I give it credit for that. The water level in the lake tends to stay higher than usual after a flood. It hovered around about 0.7 metres until we had a second flood, which lasted from 5 May to 12 May. On 7 May the floodwaters reached a peak of 1.2 metres. The council again did all it could to maintain the channel opening and, just after 7 May, the floodwaters finally reached a level of energy to burst out. It is pleasing to note that following that the floodwaters have continued to reduce significantly and continuously until, at the moment, the height is around 0.4 metres, and they continue to fall. It is a good outcome.

Some people around the lake, especially those in Chittaway Point, are still concerned about our flood response. We will be having further meetings with the council and the SES to reduce our flood risk. That is the point: Recent flooding reminds us that we live on a flood plain, and the lake and the surrounding tributaries will always be subject to flooding. I thank the council and the SES for their actions and efforts over the recent flooding events. We have improved our flood response over time, but we should not stand still. We should be looking for ways to improve our response. I thank the SES, the council, my colleagues and the local community, who have worked together to look for ways to improve our response and reduce our risk. I will continue to do all I can to make sure that the risk of flooding is reduced around Tuggerah Lake, with the help of my community and the agencies.

OATLEY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FUNDING

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (20:04): As I am sure everyone in this House would know, I have always been a strong advocate for investment in my local community. Since my election to this place, we have worked hard to achieve significant upgrades to local infrastructure, not just in the Oatley electorate but across the St George region. Over \$740 million was delivered to upgrade St George Hospital, including the construction of a new emergency department, birthing suite and ambulatory care facility, with additional parking. This ensures that patients have, for the first time, the best possible health care and support. This \$740 million is record spending over the past 10 years for St George Hospital. The \$411 million stage 3 redevelopment started construction over a year and a half ago and is an important boost to healthcare services in my local community. In addition to that, the soon-to-be-completed King Georges Road widening project, after more than 60 years of waiting, was funded by the previous Liberal-Nationals Government and will be opened over the next 12 months. This will reduce travel times and boost safety along the road, helping to alleviate congestion throughout the St George region.

We also had a strong focus on education infrastructure funding, with significant upgrades to every school in my electorate and a record \$45 million delivered for the redevelopment of Penshurst Public School. Over the past 10 years we funded and delivered three new commuter carparks—in Oatley, Narwee and Riverwood. One for Beverly Hills is currently under construction and will be built over the next year and a half, opening in 2025. These commuter car parks alleviate the pressures of parking on our local roads, ease congestion and make it easier for working families to get to and from work every day. Our rail services were upgraded for local residents, with major enhancements made to Oatley and Narwee railway stations. They were the biggest upgrades those stations have seen for over 90 years. All of this was thanks to the support of the former Liberal-Nationals Government.

We on this side of the House have a proud track record of fighting for and delivering the vital support and infrastructure our community desperately needs. In the face of this year's budget, our local area needs additional

funding to ensure that projects, infrastructure and services that matter most to our community continue. In last year's budget, we received no new funding for the local community—no funding for Glenlee. It is a broken promise by Labor. Before the last election, we committed \$8 million to upgrade the Oatley to Como walkway, but it has now been left languishing with no sign of investment from this Government, which also has provided no new funding for Narwee, Riverwood and Oatley West public schools. In fact, what we have seen over the past six months is a \$150 million cut in funding to public schools across the State.

There has been no funding to upgrade Peakhurst West Swimming Pool, despite sending letters to the Treasurer and the Department of Education last year. A secret document stated that the pool needed a major upgrade and maintenance. The only thing this Government seems to be good at doing when handing down budgets is cutting and more cutting across our local community. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, we have seen significant cuts to the Active Kids program, the Back to School vouchers, and innovation, science and technology.

Dr Hugh McDermott: Point of order: This is a private member's statement. It is meant to be about the member's electorate, not about attacking the Government. Mr Temporary Speaker, I ask that you direct the member for Oatley to speak about his electorate.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I thank the member for Prospect for the point of order. The member for Oatley will return to speaking about his electorate.

Mr MARK COURE: These cuts in my electorate—bingo—are being felt by working families across my electorate. In fact, many of the cuts were to cost-of-living support measures aimed at helping families who were doing it tough. The next State budget is approaching, so I will lay out some of the things my community would like to see from this Government. Cost-of-living support must be top of mind for the next budget. Local families want and need the Active Kids, Creative Kids, First Lap and Back to School vouchers reinstated. In my electorate, 650 people have signed my petition calling on the Government to restore the Back to School vouchers.

NSW SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (20:09): Seniors have contributed so much to New South Wales and my local community in Fairfield. It is important that we do what we can to help older people stay connected. They deserve to live life to the fullest, to socialise and to have fun. That is especially the case given the impact of the COVID pandemic and its isolating effects within the community. In keeping with that, I thank the New South Wales Government for its rollout of the Connecting Seniors Grant Program. In my area, the NSW Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance, a not-for-profit community organisation serving the community since 1978, was recently awarded funding to establish a culturally and linguistically diverse seniors club.

The club has been meeting two to three days a week to enable seniors to socialise and participate in a variety of activities such as excursions, dancing classes and digital classes. Furthermore, the club encourages and facilitates senior participation in other activities available within the Fairfield and Liverpool local government areas. I sincerely thank the association for everything it does, which includes broader work in the women's and youth spaces. I make special mention of president Jose Vasquez, vice-president Tairyn Vergara, secretary Miguel Ferrero, treasurer Estela Torredimare, member Lina Gutierrez and manager Carlos Encina. I thank them for all the work they do.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (20:11): I once again address the House on the tragic and senseless domestic homicide of Molly Ticehurst at Forbes last month. Just a few days ago, I joined with community members and leaders at the "Molly Mattered" walk around Lake Forbes on Mother's Day. It was a poignant tribute to a young mother's life lost too soon. The outpouring of grief and solidarity at the event underscored the deep impact Molly's death has had on Forbes and the wider community. I acknowledge Forbes Shire Mayor Phyllis Miller; Parkes Mayor Neil Westcott; Parkes Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee; the Hon. Stephen Lawrence, MLC; and the member for Granville. They joined me in attending and supporting that grieving community and are counted among those who remembered Molly and stood up to say no to domestic violence.

As we grapple with the aftermath of this tragedy, it is crucial to acknowledge the vital role of programs like the Staying Home Leaving Violence initiative, which is administered by the Department of Communities and Justice. I commend the Government for its recent increase in funding for that program and for recognising its importance in supporting and protecting victims of domestic violence. Despite those efforts, challenges persist, particularly in rural and regional areas like Forbes. It is imperative that we overcome those challenges and expedite the installation of home security upgrades for those in need of protection. Those measures are necessary and are potentially life-saving. I urge the Government to prioritise that protection measure and ensure swift and certain action.

Having spoken directly with Molly's parents, Tony and Kate, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of her murder on her family and friends and the broader community. The need for psychological support and counselling for Molly's loved ones and colleagues cannot be overstated. I have reached out to the Minister for Mental Health to ensure that those affected receive the care and support they desperately need. Molly's tragic death has also left her six-year-old son without the unique love, support and guidance that only a mother can provide. The loss of his mother is a profound tragedy that will affect him for the rest of his life.

The shock and grief felt by the community in the wake of Molly's murder are palpable. Molly's passing unleashed the collective outrage of the nation, initiating the tipping point for change. There is now an expectation for swift government intervention not only to protect women from domestic violence but also to prevent further tragedies like this one from occurring again. In response to that outcry, I join with the community in calling for the introduction of what is colloquially referred to as "Molly's law". The proposed legislation includes electronic monitoring of accused domestic violence offenders on bail. It has the potential to save lives and prevent future tragedies. I have urged the Government to heed the call and take decisive action to protect the vulnerable and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their actions.

I thank the Premier, who has listened to what I had to say about the changes I see as necessary to protect victims of domestic violence from suffering the same fate as Molly. Earlier today I was pleased to hear about the Government's announced reforms to protect victims of domestic violence. The reforms include reversing the presumption of bail for certain domestic violence offences and expanding the category of "show cause" offences, requiring offenders to demonstrate why they should be allowed bail. That test will be applied to serious domestic violence offences committed by intimate partners, including sexual assault, strangulation with intent to commit another offence, and kidnapping—all with a maximum penalty of 14 or more years jail—and coercive control, which will be a criminal offence from 1 July 2024.

The electronic monitoring of people charged with a serious domestic violence offence who are on conditional bail, or "Molly's law", is something I have reinforced as necessary for the Government to implement. I appreciate its incorporation into the reforms, albeit as a trial. For all other domestic violence-related offences, those considering bail will be required to consider domestic abuse risk factors and red flags, including behaviour that is physically abusive or violent or behaviour that is sexually abusive, coercive or violent. That also includes stalking, animal abuse, verbal abuse or intimidation. The views of victims and their family members will be taken into consideration.

I understand that changes will be made to make it easier to prosecute domestic violence offenders who use tracking and surveillance devices as a tactic to maintain control over their victims. Pleasingly, the Government will also ensure access to bail court from across the State. Bail will be determined by a magistrate, which is something I have called on the Government to ensure. Let us see this through. I call on all members to support this legislative reform. Molly's death has shaken our community to its core. But out of that tragedy, let us honour Molly's memory by coming together, speaking out and always standing up against domestic violence to ensure that no more lives are lost.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (20:16): Domestic violence must stop. We all know it. We all say it. Molly should not have died, and her death cannot be in vain. There is a willingness and mobilisation on behalf of the whole community that I have not seen in the more than 40 years I have been involved in advocacy around domestic violence. I thought when I came back to this place that I could do some other things—but I cannot. I absolutely have to re-engage with everyone on trying to stop domestic violence, which is more than the physical act of violence. It is a spectrum of behaviour. In sociological terms, the spectrum extends from circumlocution—the derogatory comments, the bad words, the put-downs—to extermination, which is murder.

Women experience domestic violence right across that whole spectrum. It is not just being a little bit scared; it is living with terror. That absolute terror dominates those women's lives at the hands of someone who is supposed to be a loving partner—someone they love. It is "What do I wear? What do I think? What do I do? Who do I talk to? Who do I text, because my phone will be monitored?" Family and friends are moved away, but the perpetrator makes it look like the woman is doing that. Every act is under subjugation. For women in that situation, it is like living with a sometimes benevolent dictator. Everything they do is circumscribed. It is hard to imagine raising children in that environment. These things have happened for a long time. I set up the Far North Coast Domestic Violence Liaison Committee. I worked in a refuge for years. Earlier, I have been at the forefront of changes, including changes to the laws. There was a Crimes Act, but women were not seen as worthy of protection under that law.

I was looking at the headlines and I thought, I hope they do not disappear quickly like they often do on this issue. I will read some of those headlines. "We're sick of living in terror", "This has to stop", "How many more

women have to die?", "It was murder waiting to happen", "Get tough on DV offences". I am glad we are getting tougher. Every member acknowledges that. "The number of women seeking my help is terrifying", writes lawyer Pia Birac. "Batty urges", "Domestic violence action", "Women plead for help", "Bold action ... needed on DV crisis", "How teenage boys' brutal games crush girls' self-esteem", "Armed, dangerous, not above the law", "Where does this debate leave good men we know and love?", "Women at the frontline of 'sexually transmitted debt'", which is part of that coercive control. "Time to tackle this crisis in our community", "You get ostracised in a small town if you speak out"—if you are the domestic violence victim. We know that it can happen anywhere, but it happens to a greater degree in some of those smaller country towns. "Why country women are sitting ducks", "Misogyny driving violence", "It's time for men to get uncomfortable", and, "Bush in plea for more DV support".

The headlines go on and on. This is predominantly male violence. I acknowledge that some men are subjected to domestic violence too, but this is about male violence. It is a problem right across society and we have to change it. I will be looking really carefully at the South Australian royal commission and listening to Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja, because one of its terms of reference will be to look at just that. I note that in the package the Government has introduced we are looking at perpetrator behaviour. We have to do that. I wish I had 50 minutes to talk about this, not five minutes.

Dr Hugh McDermott: Five hours.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: Yes, five hours. We need to open up. On International Women's Day I said, "We're so sedate. It's so polite. We're having these wonderful lunches. Aren't we lovely?" I said, "We need to be on the street screaming." That is what I am doing here.

CARLENE YORK, APM

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (20:21): I acknowledge the service of retiring New South Wales State Emergency Services Commissioner Carlene York, APM. The Commissioner has been an enormous asset to the Hawkesbury community over the past four years as we faced seven floods. The SES has had our back for those disruptive, destructive and stressful events. The volunteers and staff of the SES have been absolutely integral to the response and recovery through those natural disasters. The latest flood was in April. I again thank the NSW Police Force, NSW Reconstruction Authority, Hawkesbury City Council, the Hills Shire Council, Department of Communities and Justice and all responding agencies for their exemplary support. I was particularly heartened to have Commissioner York recently visit Windsor to witness the flood and talk to her SES team and the community.

Commissioner York has led the New South Wales State Emergency Services since 2019, when she became the first female leader of that organisation. Carlene has taken the SES through some of the State's worst natural disasters, including the 2019-20 bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a natural leader with almost 40 years in the NSW Police Force, where she served as director of the Forensic Services Group, Commander of Northern Region, Human Resources Commander and led the strike force that captured convicted murderer Malcolm Naden in 2012. Her professionalism and work ethic have seen her receive numerous awards, including the Australian Police Medal and the Commissioner's Commendation for Service.

I have appreciated her accessibility and commitment to help the Hawkesbury community in its time of need. I believe she has built a stronger, more cohesive organisation that is even better placed to help the State in times of emergency. As emergency services Minister Jihad Dib said, "the Commissioner has driven change to improve workforce welfare, community preparedness and our emergency response." I wholeheartedly echo those words. It is not easy leading a statewide organisation comprised of volunteers and professionals. Resources and manpower are always at a premium. Tough decisions and prioritisation are incredibly challenging in times of emergency. I have seen the Commissioner's leadership firsthand. I can say that her cool head and experience in managing a large response agency meant help and support always went where it was most needed.

The Hawkesbury region is a flood plain, and we have a bushfire-prone environment as well. Emergency services are always going to be part of our lives. It is absolutely critical we have confidence in the New South Wales State Emergency Service and all first responders. Commissioner York led the SES to be a highly effective, focused organisation that the Hawkesbury community knows will be ready to serve when the next disaster comes along—I am sure there will be one. We should not underestimate how important it is for our community to know we have competent, hardworking emergency responders ready to act. I encourage those in the Hawkesbury region with the time to do so, to think about joining the SES. They will serve the community and gain valuable skills. I wish Commissioner Carlene York, APM, the very best for her retirement, effective May this year. She has served the people of New South Wales commendably in the NSW Police Force and the SES. We in the Hawkesbury will forever be appreciative of your courage, leadership and effectiveness in times of emergency.

FAIRFIELD WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (20:25): Women deserve the best access to specialised health services. Women's health centres are vital in providing a safe place for women who might otherwise fall through the cracks of the healthcare system. I thank the New South Wales Government for delivering the much-needed \$34.3 million boost to women's health centres across New South Wales. The Women's Health Program provides face-to-face support to an average of 50,000 women across this State each year. Women from low-income and other priority backgrounds, including women who have experienced domestic violence, make up the majority of women's health centre clients. In my area, that equates to additional funding of more than \$1.6 million over four years to the Fairfield Women's Health Service.

The Fairfield service provides free health and wellbeing support to women in the Fairfield local government area. That includes case management, counselling, dietetics, health and wellbeing group activities, health education, legal advice by Legal Aid, and outreach services. With Fairfield being one of the most diverse electorates in the State, the centre is catered to our culturally and linguistically diverse community. The Fairfield Women's Health Service is comprised of a multilingual, passionate and dedicated team. They work diligently to provide a free service supporting the health and wellbeing of women living in my area, with particular emphasis on the local migrant, refugee and socially or financially disadvantaged communities. I sincerely thank the dedicated team at the Fairfield Women's Health Service for everything they do in supporting women through their health and wellbeing challenges.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:27 until
Wednesday 15 May at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

ROCK THE DILLY

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Youth Week was celebrated in an exciting series of events in Wollondilly, culminating with the Rock the Dilly Youth Week Festival 2024. On Saturday April 20th, the Picton Botanic Gardens was buzzing as local performers and bands entertained the crowds. Local business, youth services and food stalls joined in the fun and added to the atmosphere. The event was sponsored by the NSW Government, Wollondilly Shire Council and local business River Road Creative Academy, whose director Patrick Nellestein was nominated as Citizen of the Year for the Wollondilly Australia Day Awards for his work with youth. Events such as these are vital in giving the youth of Wollondilly and their families a chance to connect in a safe and supportive environment. Local businesses such as River Road Creative Academy offer a space for creativity and individual expression, and the extension of their important work in an event such as Rock the Dilly allows even more members of the community to be reached through the power of music. The community spirit was strong at this event and the positive attitude of the younger members of our community present on the day gave me a great sense of pride.

BUXTON RFS CELEBRATES 85 YEARS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—I had the pleasure of attending the 85th celebration of the Buxton Rural Fire Brigade with attendees including RFS Deputy Commissioner Kyle Stewart APM, Mayor Matt Gould and many present and past members at Picton Bowling Club in April. Presentations were made for outstanding contributions including the Bill Marsh Award for Senior Deputy Captain Russell Hill, and a posthumous award to Peter Fenning for 43 years of dedicated service. From its establishment in 1939, the Brigade has grown to 45 members today and has played an important role in the ongoing safety and security of the residents and areas around Buxton. Major fires it has recently attended include Gospers, Green Wattle, St Ivans and Craigs Road fires during the 2019/20 fire season. The Buxton RFS is active in attending a broad range of incidents and activities including bushfires, grass fires, motor vehicle accidents, search and rescue, structural fires, hazard reduction, and providing support to the NSW SES with flood and storm clean up. The shed is undergoing extensions currently and I look forward to seeing the result of this project as Buxton RFS continues their invaluable service to the community well into the future.

COMMUNITY UNITES AFTER FLOOD

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—In a demonstration of community giving and strength, our wonderful Wollondilly community showed up to lend a helping hand to those businesses inundated in the flash flood on Friday 5th April 2024. The result of a single heavy rain event, the downpour inundated Stonequarry Creek at Picton, causing flooding and damage to stores and properties located on the main street. My heartfelt

thank you to all the volunteers and SES and RFS who have worked tirelessly overnight without sleep, including the members of the SES Wollondilly Unit and RFS Southern Highlands. Staff of the Wollondilly Shire Council were out in force also helping with the recovery, working very hard with cleanup to get the Main Street open again in no time. The rain also affected nearby suburbs including Tahmoor. Pastor Clayton Ryan of Tahmoor Baptist Church kindly offered the church as a safe haven welcoming anyone affected by the current power outages in Tahmoor. Weather events such as this show the strength of our community under pressure, and I am heartened by the selfless efforts of everyone involved in helping those affected get back on their feet.

CHARLIE BUBB

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, World Champion is a lofty goal to set and I would like to congratulate Orange's Charlie Bubb on achieving just that in the grueling theatre of Muay Thai fighting. Charlie brought home the Muay Thai League WBC light heavyweight world belt after defeating Swedish fighter Marcus Sundin Liljedorff in a highly anticipated bout on the Gold Coast in April. The League 10 fight was described as a captivating spectacle with Charlie stealing the card's spotlight with an uncompromising performance. The 15-minute fight was the culmination of 14 years of training for the Orange carpenter and a just reward for the hours of intense training, lead-up fights and sacrifices he has made to earn the shot at the world crown. Charlie went into the fight ranked Australia's number one light heavyweight. He credits the sport with giving him direction and discipline after drifting towards trouble in his younger days. Charlie is expecting the challengers to come after his belt, stating 'nothing is truly yours until you are forced to defend it'. I congratulate Charlie Bubb on winning a world title and wish him every success in its defence.

VIRGINNIA WYKES

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—'Legend' is a term thrown around liberally these days but the achievements of Parkes' Virginnia Wykes OAM have earned her the status. Mrs Wykes, a nurse by profession, was Australia's first indigenous woman to gain a pilot's license while she was also the first indigenous woman to compete in the Centenary of Federation Sydney to London Air race in 2001, with Australia's first aboriginal pilot Steve Hirvonen. As is usually the way in the bush, Mrs Wykes' flying skills came about through pragmatic means – she and husband Lyle own properties some distance apart and flying was the quickest way to visit the second parcel of land approximately 90kms away. Mrs Wykes earned her pilots license in Parkes in 1982 and the couple made the trip regularly, with two dogs, to their property between Yeoval and Wellington, often home before lunch after checking stock. Her achievements were further recognized with the parking of her 1964 Cessna 150 in the HARS Museum at Parkes Airport. She also counted Australian aviation pioneer the late Nancy Bird Walton among her friends. I congratulate Virginnia Wykes on her ground-breaking achievements for indigenous people in not just aviation, but within her community.

SIMON ATKINSON

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Heart Week has just passed and on that note, I wish to give a belated shout-out to my constituent, Simon Atkinson. For Samantha Webster, Mr Atkinson was in the right place at the right time to save her life by performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR]. During a visit to her parents, Ms Webster had a cardiac arrest. As fate would have it, Mr Atkinson had also dropped in and when she collapsed, the training from his days as captain of a rural fire brigade kicked in. As Samantha's parents called triple 0, Mr Atkinson set about doing a job 'which had to be done', effectively keeping her alive until the arrival of paramedics. Ms Webster was described as 'essentially dead on the ground' but thanks to the efforts of those around her, woke up at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital several days later. Thanks to Mr Atkinson's efforts, this story ended well but for other cardiac arrest and heart attack victims, that is not always the case, being at the mercy of the knowledge, or lack thereof, of the people around them. I encourage everyone to learn the basics of CPR and thank Mr Atkinson for doing just that.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - MANOHAR GARG

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Manohar Garg a happy 66th birthday! It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday in a community like Ryde, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making his day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday, Monohar!

BIRTHDAY - WENYIN LI

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Wenyin Li a happy 38th Birthday! It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday in a community like Ryde, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Wenyin's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and

cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday, Wenyin!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - JOAN GILBERT

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Joan Gilbert a joyous 95th birthday! Her daughter, Cathy, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Wishing you a most spectacular 95th Birthday year, Mum. Yours is a well-lived life, and you have travelled so many roads! Much love, Cathy & Helen." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Joan's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Joan!

GRAFTON DISTRICT SERVICES CLUB PIPE BAND CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations to the Grafton District Services Club Pipe Band on celebrating 50 years of musical excellence and camaraderie. The Band's rich history and longevity are a testament to the dedication and passion of its members over the past five decades. Formed in December 1973, with a modest ensemble of 5 pipers, 3 side drummers and 1 bass drummer, the Grafton District Services Club Pipe Band has grown and thrived, becoming an integral part of the community. The Band's commitment to not solely relying on competition but focusing on social outings and performances has allowed for strong bonds and friendships, fostering a sense of unity and enjoyment among its players. Well done to the Grafton District Services Club Pipe Band and to the next 50 years of harmonious tunes, cherished memories and lasting friendships. May the band continue to inspire and uplift audiences with its melodies for many years to come.

GRAFTON GIRL GUIDES CENTENARY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—It is my honour to congratulate the Grafton Girl Guides on their Centenary, a significant and momentous occasion. Celebrating 100 years, the Girl Guides in Grafton have been a pillar of strength and guidance for generations of young women, developing their skills in a safe environment while having fun and finding friends. February this year saw past and present Guides, Leaders and supporters of Grafton Girl Guides gathered to commemorate 100 years of empowering, building leaders, and inspiring girls in the community, helping young women to discover their potential as leaders of their world. Girl Guides is the largest worldwide voluntary organisation for girls, it has been developing leadership skills and building confidence in young women for decades. Congratulations to the Grafton Girl Guides on 100 years. May the next century bring even more growth, inspiration and empowerment of the young women of Grafton.

MACLEAN'S HIGHLAND GATHERING

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to congratulate Maclean's Highland Gathering, on their 119th year of piped band music, Highland dancing and traditional Scottish sports. The event was held over two days with a spectacular and traditional street parade featuring 23 bands and drawing enthusiastic spectators to River Street, Maclean. The local entry, Maclean and District Pipe Band was proudly announced as the winner, adding to the excitement of the day. Local talent shone brightly in the Highland dancing competitions, with Annabelle Hourigan claiming the aggregate points victory in the Intermediate Section. The Maclean District Pipe Band continued their success by securing third place in the Grade 4B competition, showcasing their skill and dedication. The Highland sports delivered thrilling entertainment throughout the entire event with the Lower Clarence Scottish Association awarding six scholarships based on the judges' recommendations. The event was once again hailed as a tremendous success, delighting attendees with its rich display of Scottish culture and talent. Congratulations and well done to all involved.

HILLS KELLYVILLE ROTARY CLUB, PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I recently had the honour of attending the Hills Kellyville Rotary Club Pride of Workmanship Awards. The Awards aims to foster awareness of the importance of taking pride in one's work. The theme of the Awards, is 'DO IS ONCE, DO IT WELL.' I congratulate the recipients who received a Pride of Workmanship Award: Deepinder Singh for his work with Turbans 4 Australia; Suzanna Almeida and Christina Klaricich for work with the St Joseph's Conference Centre, Norwest. I congratulate the recipients who received Customer Service Recognition Awards: Yatish Vadher for service handing out hampers on Sunday mornings with Turbans 4 Australia; Dimitri Desliva for his invaluable assistance to Hills Kellyville Rotary selling Christmas trees at the Ettamogah Hotel Car Park; and finally the Management Team of Groves Square for assistance with placing a 'Giving Tree' within Groves Square the last decade to enable the community to leave a gift. I thank Hills Kellyville Rotary and in particular John Colligan who was the Master of Ceremony and Ian Pascoe who is the Present of the Club. Pascoe, to the recipients of the awards and to all involved in the awards night.

ALLAN AND JANICE WALKER, PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS AWARD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I acknowledge Allan Walker and Janice Walker who were recently honoured by the Hills Kellyville Rotary Club with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition. The Paul Harris Fellow program, established by Rotary International, acknowledges individuals who exemplify the organisation's motto of "Service Above Self." Allan started his Rotary service fifty years ago in Kempsey where he still has family connections. When Allan and Janice moved to Bathurst, he continued his Rotary service there holding several positions including that of Club President. At this stage Allan was in business as a funeral director, which is an essential service for the community, especially in a country town. On Allan's retirement they moved to Baulkham Hills where Allan joined the Baulkham Hills Rotary Club in 1998. That Club merged with the Kellyville Club in 2009 and the Winston Hills Club in 2015 to become Hills Kellyville Rotary. Janice has served for many years as a member of the Baulkham Hills Inner Wheel Club including serving as the Club President. Janice is well known for her cooking, sewing, and knitting skills and has used such skills for many Inner Wheel projects. Thank you, Allan, and Janice.

HILLS YOUTH FALL FESTIVAL, CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND, 18 APRIL 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—Youth Week is held each year in April with activities organised by and for young people. This year Youth Week was held between 11 and 21 April 2024. On 18 April 2024 I attended a fantastic Youth Week event, Hills Youth Fall Festival, at the Castle Hill Showground. This year's theme encouraged those attending to get involved and to try new things and to explore new interest. The Castle Hill Showground was alive stage events, workshops, exhibitions, and information sessions. There were stalls provided by Youth Action; Carers Gateway; NDIS Providers; Hills Shire Council Youth Army; Youth Resolutions; many fabulous Food Trucks; The Hills State Emergency Services, The Lions Club of Parramatta; and Domestic Violence NSW and many more. I congratulate the events team at The Hills Shire Council for organising a great Youth Week for our community.

CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY – BUDDHIST BLESSING CEREMONY 2024

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 2nd March 2024, I was privileged to represent the Honourable Chris Minns Premier of NSW at the 2024 Lunar New Year "Year of the Dragon" Buddhist Blessing Ceremony, held at Freedom Plaza in Cabramatta. It was an honour to be at this significant event, steeped in cultural tradition and spiritual reverence. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese Association of Greater Western Sydney for extending this gracious invitation, allowing me to partake in this meaningful ceremony that holds deep significance for our community. Among the distinguished guests in attendance were our Federal and State MPs including: Hon Jason Clare, Hon Chris Bowen, Ms Anne Stanley, Hon Anoulack Chanthivong, Mr Hugh McDermott, Mr Nathan Hagarty, Ms Charishma Kaliyanda and Mr David Saliba. As we gathered to receive blessings for prosperity, good fortune, and harmony in the year ahead, the spirit of camaraderie and goodwill enveloped us, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and solidarity that bind us together as a community. May the blessings bestowed upon us during this ceremony inspire hope, resilience, and collective prosperity for all in the Year of the Dragon.

WESTERN SYDNEY YOUNG LABOR ASSOCIATION 2024

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I express my sincere gratitude to the Western Sydney Young Labor Association for extending an invitation to join them at the meeting in Cabramatta on the 26th February 2024. It was a pleasure to engage with the young members, and I thoroughly enjoyed our enriching exchanges of stories, perspectives and ideas. Interacting with passionate and driven young leaders reaffirms my belief in the bright future of Western Sydney. The dedication to shaping positive change and the commitment to community empowerment are truly commendable. The energy and enthusiasm the members brought to the table are inspiring, and I have no doubt that with young individuals like these at the centre of the Young Labor movement, Western Sydney is in capable hands. The camaraderie and friendship that filled the gathering underscored the strength of the collective vision and the shared commitment to advancing the interests of our community. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to meet and connect. I look forward to our future meetings.

PHUOC HUE TEMPLE'S 2024 LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Lunar New Year is one of the grandest cultural celebrations in my Electorate of Cabramatta. It holds a special place in the hearts of my constituents across East Asian backgrounds. Celebrations begin on the eve of the first day of the first lunar month. The Eve is significant for those who observe lunar new year. It traditionally signifies a sacred transitional moment, marking the new beginnings of all the positives as the new year starts. I had the immense pleasure of joining many thousands of individuals to celebrate this significant occasion at Phuoc Hue Temple on 9 February 2024. This celebration was made vibrant through a

showcase of fireworks and firecrackers, live music, lion dance and Buddhist rituals and ceremonies. I would like to acknowledge and extend my gratitude to Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan, Venerable Thich Phuoc Quang, the organising committee, and the many volunteers for all their hard work that went into making this special event. I wish everyone an excellent year filled with happiness, health and prosperity, and look forward to next year's celebrations.

REBECCA SCHMIDT-LACHLAN

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—Congratulations to Berkeley resident, Rebecca Schmidt-Lachlan who has been named winner of the Courage Award at the 2024 Stroke Awards. The Courage award recognises the courage and hope shown by survivors and carers in stroke recovery. After suffering a devastating double stroke at the age of 26, Rebecca, spent seven months in rehab learning how to talk, walk, swallow, and write again. Rebecca has written a book about her experience to help break down some of the misconceptions around people with a disability. I have long been impressed by Rebecca's commitment to improving stroke awareness, improving recovery support for people who have suffered a stroke and for improving access to every aspect of our community for people with disability. Rebecca also played a pivotal role in the successful community campaign to get lifts installed at Unanderra Station, so that people of all abilities could have access to the station. That project was completed in 2023 and has made a real and practical difference in the ability of so many people to access public transport. Congratulations to Rebecca on all that she has achieved so far, this win is well-deserved.

GREATER HUNTER COAST U18 CRUSHERS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Greater Hunter Coast Under-18 Crushers for their formidable performance in the Brewer Shield grand final. The Brewer Shield competition is the premier female (U18) competition in Australia provides our female cricketers with the excellent opportunity to transition into grade cricket. I had the privilege to attend the match at Townson Oval, Merewether where the Greater Hunter Coast side convincingly outplayed Manly Warringah to secure their maiden Brewer Shield title. The Crushers posted an unreachable 8-295, and bowled Manly out for 96 in 41.2 overs, showcasing strength on the field and with the ball. From the home side, Caoimhe Bray was awarded Player of the Match after her unparalleled effort with the bat. The 14-year-old cricketer dominated the game in scoring a double century striking 22 fours and 11 sixes from 134 balls. Congratulations Crushers on your remarkable effort and dedication to the game. You are a credit to your club and community, and I am excited to follow your journey into professional cricket.

JENNIFER ENDERBY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Jennifer Enderby for being awarded Lake Macquarie City Council's Sport Star of the Year and her outstanding performance in her chosen sport of orienteering. Jennifer has demonstrated formidable skill and talent in international and national orienteering events, claiming three gold medals at the Oceania Orienteering Championships in Tasmania, and seven medals at the Australian Championships. She additionally attained an overall third position in the Orienteering Australia Silva Medal where Jennifer was awarded the best performing orienteer for their age in national events and in 2023, she placed first in the non-elite national rankings. Jennifer further shows exceptional prowess across numerous other sports including triathlon, duathlon, mountain biking and mountain bike orienteering. She has represented Australia for more than 35 years at the top level. Her expertise is moreover seen in her coaching capabilities as Jennifer has helped her daughters Erika and Mikayla achieve national and international success. Congratulations Jennifer, you are a deserving recipient of the Sport Star of the Year Award and I look forward to following your continued achievements across all your fields of sport.

LANI WALLER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Lani Waller and her remarkable performance at the 2024 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the NSW Championships encouraged thousands of competitors, spectators, and volunteers to travel to the Northern Beaches to compete in a diverse range of water and land surf lifesaving activities. Lani was a clear force to be reckoned with at this year's event, winning the U19s female board, swim and Iron Person events. She further took out the open mixed Taplin, Open Iron Person and U19s board relay alongside her Redhead Surf Life Saving Club teammates. Lani overall won six gold medals at the competition cementing her place on the leader board and demonstrating her tremendous skill and prowess in the sport. Overall, Lani was instrumental to Redhead Surf Life Saving's success at the competition, claiming third place on the podium. Congratulations Lani on your well-deserved victory at the championships. I always enjoy hearing of your achievements in surf life saving competitions.

KINCUMBER HIGH SCHOOL ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Mister Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending an Anzac Commemorative Assembly at Kincumber High School. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Kincumber High School for inviting me to attend the poignant Anzac Commemorative Assembly. It was truly an honour to be present and witness the heartfelt speeches delivered by the student leaders, reflecting on the enduring significance of the Anzac legacy. The solemnity of the occasion was further emphasized by the moving rendition of the Last Post, reminding us of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women. I commend Ms Lawler for coordinating and overseeing this important assembly and the students who participated, acknowledging those who donned military uniforms as part of their cadet training, and those who contributed to the musical performances and assisted with the technical aspects of the event. Your dedication and respect for our nation's history are commendable. Everyone's efforts ensure that the Anzac legacy continues to be honoured and remembered within our community.

LOCAL HARDING MILLER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to congratulate high school students Abby Peterson-Hampshire from Terrigal High School and Bella Vallelonga from Kincumber High School, who have been awarded life-changing Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarships. Harding Miller scholarships are provided to female students who show high academic potential and are awarded to students at the start of Year 9, and at the end of Year 10 the recipients are invited to reapply for another two years of support. The four years of scholarship provides vital support to help promising young girls reach their full potential and take advantage of tertiary opportunities. Each scholarship recipient receives a new laptop, high-speed internet, face-to-face and online tutoring, online homework assistance, prepaid expense cards to cover school essentials such as textbooks and excursions, as well as study skills resources and a personal coach to guide them over the four years of the scholarship. Congratulations Abby and Bella on this wonderful opportunity and all the best for your future academic endeavours.

EMILY FALCONI

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Mister Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to a young surfer, Emily Falconi, for her recent outstanding achievement in winning the under 16s Ride the Wave Surf Pro in Port Macquarie. Emily your dedication, skill, and perseverance have truly paid off, and your community is incredibly proud of your success. Competing under tough conditions, you displayed remarkable talent and determination, dominating every heat and ultimately emerging victorious in the final. Your ability to excel under pressure is a testament to your hard work, commitment, and passion for surfing. I have no doubt that this is just the beginning of a bright future ahead for you in surfing. Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement and I sincerely wish you continued success in all your future endeavours.

TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Tweed Regional Museum this year is marking its 20th anniversary since three historical societies – Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki & South Arm – signed a Memorandum of Understanding to amalgamate under Tweed Shire Council's management. In those two decades, Tweed Regional Museum at 2 Queensland Road, Murwillumbah, has grown exponentially into one of Australia's leading regional museums. I wish to pay tribute to the professionalism and passion of Museum Director Molly Green and Curator Erika Taylor, and their dedicated support staff. Molly is blessed by having a 30-strong team of volunteers, known as museum ambassadors. Tweed Regional Museum has amassed a collection of more than 100,000 objects housed in the former Tweed Shire Council Chambers, built in 1915, and extended with a contemporary space in 2014. While the collection can also be viewed online, it is the high standard of rotating exhibitions for which the museum is renowned. Omnia: all and everything is a new major exhibition celebrating the 20-year milestone and will run until 23 November 2024. Curated to redefine the traditional museum experience, Omnia invites visitors on an immersive journey through the vibrant history, dynamic present and promising future of the Tweed Shire.

WORLD-RENOWNED PERFORMERS PLAY LISTON HALL

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—A Liston Community Hall audience at the weekend was treated to some world-renowned performers for the premiere of TIN!, an exploration of the history of tin mining in the Granite Belt. That history is told through the poetry of local tin miner poet Bill Prentice, set to music with influences from bush balladry to contemporary jazz. Pianist Erik Griswold is the orchestrator, arranger and co-band leader for this unique show in the bush. Griswold and his partner music maker/percussionist Vanessa Tomlinson are known worldwide as the duo 'Clocked Out', having recorded albums together, wowed crowds at international festivals and won numerous awards. For TIN!, they co-lead fellow band members Shenzo Gregorio (violin), Glenn Barry (yidaki) and Helen Svoboda (bass). The musicians are joined by Eugene Gilfedder

(narrator/voice), Merinda Dias Jayasinha (voice). The music is composed by Joce Wolfe. Born, raised and educated in California, Erik Griswold is now based in Brisbane, where he has released several albums on Australian record label Room40. In 2020, ABC Classics commissioned a new 15-minute work from him, *How Strange the Change*, which had its premiere at the 2021 Brisbane Music Festival. The work was inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHARITY DONATES \$1,200 TO BARKERS VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Barkers Vale Public School hosted some special visitors recently when members and friends of Just 4 Kids Children's Charity made a generous donation. As part of the students' project-based learning, the children are studying biodiversity in the school grounds and food security for animals, Principal Danielle Haywood told *The Northern Rivers Talking Turkey* newspaper. Students Aria and Cleo, together with their fellow students, set up cameras and collected scats to see what animals lived in the grounds and what foods they ate. "We planted some natives, created a frog pond and put a hole in the fence for the koalas," they told the charity representatives during their March 15 visit. Just 4 Kids Children's Charity donated \$1,200 to Barkers Vale Public School towards its irrigation system, as well as garden supplies, and gift bags for all students. Just 4 Kids was established in 2003 to assist children under 18 years and their families with financial support for medical care or specialised equipment. This year, the charity is focusing on paediatric dental care, which is an Australian first for charities. You can find out more about Just 4 Kids' great work at www.just4kids.org.au

HARRY STEPHENS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge the 2023 Under 12's State champion in surfing - Harry Stephens. Eleven-year-old Harry Stephens completed 2023 as the highest ranked, Under 12's surfer in NSW, with consistent results achieved throughout the surfing season. Harry claimed two seconds at the Billabong Oz Grom Cup in Coffs Harbour and Newcastle's Rip Curl GromSearch in 2023. That same year, Harry shone at the Urbansurf National Finals in Melbourne against 72 of the best junior surfers, finishing an outstanding sixth in Australia and securing the number one spot on the leader board in NSW. Harry attributes his rising success in the surfing world to the unwavering support offered by parents and friends, along with a local business in Port Macquarie called Soul Surfing Surf School. This valuable combination, plus the luxury of living close to the beach is producing some incredible results for Harry in his pursuit to turn professional. Now in the Under 14s, Harry hopes to retain his dominance on the board against an older age bracket of experienced competitors and continues to set his sights on the Billabong Pipe Pro, Bells Beach and maybe the Olympics - the cream of all surfing competitions. Congratulations Harry!

PORT MACQUARIE CHEERLEADERS WIN GOLD

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Congratulations to the Port Macquarie's First State Allstars [FSC] athletes who recently won Gold at the International Cheerleading Union [ICU] World Championships in Florida. During the February sitting I announced the successful, Port Macquarie cheerleaders selected for the ICU World Championships. Our local athletes handpicked were Jett and Scout Hodgson, Logan Sculthorpe, Anabelle Hicks, Bonnie Russell and Ruby Revell. Today, I am excited to report that Australia has won Gold at the ICU World Championships - a Championship Ring in the Junior Coed Division and a Silver in the Youth Coed Division. It is by no means an easy task to be selected and compete, even in the junior and youth divisions. The rigorous national selection process was undertaken by video submission before hopeful competitors received a call-up to participate in a live audition for shortlisting. I proudly note that Jett, Scout, Logan, Anabelle, Bonnie and Ruby auditioned against the finest athletes from Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Our young athletes were part of the first team ever to represent Australia at the championships and you they should all be extremely proud of their achievements. Congratulations!

SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM [SBAT]

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I take this opportunity to recognise a wonderful, training initiative in school-based apprenticeships through Hastings Secondary College which is kicking goals and achieving a pathway to career success. The School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship [SBAT] program offers students the opportunity to commence their career journey in a chosen trade, while continuing their High School Certificate [HSC]. This dual approach to learning embraces on-the-job training while creating a smooth transition to employment after a student completes their secondary schooling. Students already benefiting from SBAT are Quinn Archibald from Port Macquarie Campus and Troy Sibley from Westport Campus. Quinn is enrolled in a Certificate II in Work Skills and undertakes work placement, one day per week at Coastline Credit Union. Branch Manager Mitch Van Der Veer has praised Quinn for his swift adaption to the job and his outstanding customer service delivery. Troy is pursuing an apprenticeship at Supalook Smash Repairs as a panel beater and spray-painter. The SBAT program allows Troy to partake in two days of on-the-job training. Troy will have

completed one year of his apprenticeship at the completion of Years 11 and 12. Commendations to Hastings Secondary College for establishing the SBAT program.

ST PAULS STUDENTS HIT THE WATER

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—The students of St Pauls catholic collage Kempsey were well represented at the NSWCCC swimming championships. The team put on an outstanding performance and achieved some amazing results. Sienna, Chelsea, Cruze, Cleo, Tessa and Keeley showed up at the carnival with determination and a burning desire to succeed. The incredible dedication and hard work that our young swimmers put into their training is admirable. The carnival is not just about the medals and trophies. It is also about the friendships that were forged, the memories that were made and the personal growth that each swimmer experiences. Its about the sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that they had given their all. Achieving great results at the NSWCCC swimming championships is not only a testament to our swimmer's talent and skill but also a celebration of their hard work, dedication and the unwavering support from their teammates and school community. I commend St Paul catholic collage on their commitment to making the children the best they can be and a big congratulations to the students for their amazing results and ask Dory once said, "Just keep swimming".

SUNDANCE TAVERNA BRINGS A TASTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—The culinary landscape of Urunga has welcomed a new gem, the Sundance Taverna, and this restaurant promises an exciting journey through Mediterranean cuisine. The family-oriented eatery opened on Good Friday and has quickly become a local sensation, attracting diners with a unique blend of fresh Greek flavours and delicious wood-fired pizzas. Owner Nicole is eager to introduce Sundance Taverna to the Urunga area and brings with her a plethora of experience and unique recipes. With its vibrant atmosphere and mouth-watering cuisine, Sundance Taverna is not just a restaurant; it's a destination for those seeking to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of Greek culinary tradition, in the Oxley electorate. This new and exciting business brings many economic benefits to the community with job opportunities for locals both in the restraint itself and through food supplies etc. The attraction of this restraint will be of great benefit to tourism and local spending. Urunga is a charming township with a friendly and welcoming community. This wonderful business is the perfect addition to the thriving community. I hope the business succeeds greatly.

TAKING HOME THE BRONZE MEDAL

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—I stand today to congratulate the Oxley electorate surf lifesaving teams on their display at the 2024 Australian Surf Life Saving Champions. The 2024 Australian Surf Life Saving Champions were held on the sunshine coast from 17th of April to the 21st. The Aussies is an annual event where members from Australia's 314 Surf Clubs come together to compete in more than 480 beach and ocean events. It is the largest event of its kind, only comparing the likes of the Commonwealth Games. The Oxley electorate was well represented at the titles with teams from the surf lifesaving clubs of, crescent head- Kempsey, Macksville-Scott's head and South West rocks. I give all teams a well-deserved congratulations for their participation and commitment to tackling such tough conditions in the water on the day. A special mention must go to the South West Rocks Men's 180s team who took home the bronze medal, they were able to fight through the swell and chop and come away with a fantastic result. This is the clubs first Aussie medal in over 15 years. Kudos to Oxley for representing us at the championships.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I acknowledge Kate Jolly, Arne Castles, Dominic Batten and Georgia Went who have been named as the 2024 Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts leadership team. Being named as a school leader after being elected by their peers is a testament to their dedication, hard work and demonstrated ability to lead by example. Each of these students works exceptionally hard and have been highly involved within their school community throughout their time at the school. I am confident that they always strive to do their best with their studies and extra curricula activities. Each of them will spend 2024 acting as role models for their peers and I have confidence that they will carry out their new leadership roles exceptionally. I congratulate Kate, Arne, Dominic and Georgia on their achievement and wish them all the best for their final year at school.

DICE RUN A SUCCESS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Sixty-four bikes of all descriptions, along with their riders, pillion passengers, and cars, gathered on April 11 2024, to participate in this year's charity bike ride, raising money for CanAssist. Officially called the Charity Ride Dice Run, the West Wyalong Bike Community has been organising charity rides for over ten years, each year raising money for a different charity. The mystery ride means riders only find out where they are going on the day of the ride. Each of the 78 riders rolls two dice at the five (5)

rest stops along the way, with the highest total from the dice rolled winning \$300. The dice rolling is also a chance for the organisers to ensure each rider is present at each step and no one gets left behind. Thanks to the collective effort of the Bland community, the Charity Ride Dice Run raised over \$13,000 for West Wyalong CanAssist. Congratulations are extended to the committee members, local businesses, donors, and riders on this successful event.

BREAKING IN NEW IMPROVED ARENA

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I was delighted to recently attend the Marrar Campdraft and to see first-hand the arena's makeover providing a fantastic experience for competitors and spectators. Local contractors and suppliers helped with the large overhaul, bringing in over 400 Tons of sand to provide a safe 100 metre x 100 metre arena. The resurfacing works at the arena puts Marrar on the map as a premier campdraft and rodeo destination. This fantastic three-day event, with over 1000 entries, was busting with energy. Thanks to committee member Brendon Halden, I learned the ins and outs of how the campdraft runs and the rules of the competition. The hard work and dedication are a credit to the committee of Marrar Campdraft, who have been working tirelessly to have the arena ready for not only this campdraft but also for future significant events such as the Marrar Madness Rodeo, which sees many top riders within Australia competing in Marrar.

HARDEN HORSE TRIALS – 40 YEAR CELEBRATION

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Harden Horse Festival is a vibrant celebration held annually in Harden, New South Wales. Rooted in the region's rich agricultural heritage, the festival pays homage to the vital role horses have played in shaping the community's identity and economy. This year it celebrates its 40th year. Each year, locals and visitors alike gather to partake in a variety of equestrian events, including thrilling horse races, elegant dressage displays, and captivating show jumping competitions. The festival also showcases the talents of skilled riders in events such as barrel racing and pole bending, adding an element of excitement and competitiveness to the festivities. Beyond the equestrian competitions, the Harden Horse Festival offers a diverse range of family-friendly activities, including live music performances, carnival rides, delicious food stalls serving up local delicacies, and artisan markets featuring handmade crafts and goods. The festival serves as a cherished tradition that brings the community together, fostering a sense of camaraderie and pride in their rural heritage. With its lively atmosphere and array of entertainment options, the Harden Horse Festival continues to enchant attendees year after year, leaving lasting memories and strengthening the bonds of the community.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – WOONONA EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I acknowledge Finnigan Rorke, Jack Grant, Eden Gannon and Fred Harbidge who have been named as the 2024 Woonona East Public School leadership team. Being named as a school leader after being elected by their peers is a testament to their dedication, hard work and demonstrated ability to lead by example. Each of these students works exceptionally hard and have been highly involved within their school community throughout their time at the school. I am confident that they always strive to do their best with their studies and extra curricula activities. Each of them will spend 2024 acting as role models for their peers and I have confidence that they will carry out their new leadership roles exceptionally. I congratulate Finnigan, Jack, Eden and Fred on their achievement and wish them all the best for their final year at primary school.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – WOONONA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I acknowledge PJ Schofield, Marley Larkin, Andy Moller and Finn Keifer who have been named as the 2024 Woonona High School leadership team. Being named as a school leader after being elected by their peers is a testament to their dedication, hard work and demonstrated ability to lead by example. Each of these students works exceptionally hard and have been highly involved within their school community throughout their time at the school. I am confident that they always strive to do their best with their studies and extra curricula activities. Each of them will spend 2024 acting as role models for their peers and I have confidence that they will carry out their new leadership roles exceptionally. I congratulate PJ, Marley, Andy and Finn on their achievement and wish them all the best for their final year at school.

INNER WEST FILM FEST

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—Congratulations to Dov Kornits, Dr. Greg Dolgoplov and Inner West Council on the successful second year of the Inner West Film Fest! From 11 to 21 April this vibrant festival celebrated cinema through an array of engaging historical, and culturally significant film-related events. In just its second year the festivities more than doubled in size! The official opening night took place on Friday 12 April in Steel Park Marrickville with a free one-off open-air screening of the breakout 2004 indie hit Napoleon Dynamite. This picturesque location was one of three screening venues alongside Palace

Norton St and Dendy Cinemas Newtown. A big congratulations to all the recipients of the Short Film Gold Star Awards in both the Comedy and Drama Sections, as well as the winners of the Pitching Competition! Congratulations Dov Kornits and Dr. Greg Dolgoplov and Inner West Council, Mayor Darcy Byrne, General Manager Peter Gainsford and all involved on putting on such a wonderful event. I can't wait to see the Inner West Film Fest back again next year!

BREAD AND BUTTER PROJECT 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—Congratulations to local Marrickville business Bread and Butter Project on their 10-year anniversary. Bread and Butter Project is Australia's first social enterprise bakery, and was founded by Paul Allam, David McGuinness and Jessica Gryberg. The Bread & Butter Project is not just a bakery, but a community that provides support, education, and a pathway to a brighter future for its graduates. The bakery offers full-time traineeships that include baking skills, work experience, TAFE accreditation, English as a second language tutoring, and career counselling. Since their established they have provided over 81,000 training hours and helped 65 people graduate as professional artisan bakers. After 10 years in operation, their success is a testament to the power of social enterprise and the positive impact it can have on marginalised communities. This program has been shown to have lasting intergenerational impact and helps boost trainees' prospects of successful resettlement and employment, while building a strong sense of belonging in the Australian community. Congratulations Paul, David and Jessica and all the team at Bread and Butter Project.

WOLLI CREEK ECO-PADDLE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I would like to congratulate the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, in partnership with the River Canoe Club of NSW for once again hosting the popular Wolli Creek Eco Paddle on Sunday 5 May 2024. This event started and finished at the River Canoe Club clubhouse in Marrickville and catered to all paddling abilities as well as children over 10 accompanied by an adult. This successful partnership saw the canoe club provide the necessary gear and paddling guidance, supported by an informative guided tour allowing participants to get a different view of the Wolli Creek Valley from the water. As well as being a gentle introduction to paddling, participants learned about local wildlife, history and the local environment. These tours have been highly successful in recent years and are often booked out. Thank you to Peter Stevens of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society and Murray Waldron of the River Canoe Club for coordinating and hosting such an exciting event! With the next eco-paddle coming up on Sunday 19 May I encourage everyone to get involved and enjoy seeing the wonderful Inner West from a unique new perspective.

BADGERYS CREEK SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I thank and commend the Badgerys Creek senior school leaders for their appreciation and enthusiasm to my annual Badgerys Creek Senior School Leadership Forum held in NSW Parliament House last Wednesday. The forum was comprised of student leaders from schools across my electorate, under the supervision of a staff member from each of the respective schools. The students enjoyed a tour of NSW Parliament House, as well as discussions with guest speakers Tim James MP, Member for Willoughby, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building; and The Hon. Rachel Merton MLC. I extend my gratitude to Tim James MP and The Hon. Rachel Merton MLC for sharing their insights and knowledge with the students. I also thank the Parliamentary staff for their work and expertise in assisting with the logistics required for the day. I was very pleased to see the great interest shown by the students and their strong desire to learn, and I wish them success in their academic endeavours.

HEART WEEK 2024

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I had the pleasure of joining the Heart Foundation in the Fountain Court last Wednesday to celebrate Heart Week 2024. It was wonderful to see the vital work of the Heart Foundation in improving heart health and preventing cardiovascular disease. I take the opportunity to urge everyone in my electorate of Badgerys Creek and beyond to focus on never missing a beat when it comes to their health and to book a Medicare-subsidised Heart Health Check with their GP to know their risk and understand the steps they can take to lower their risk. I also encourage all to be active and eat healthy by taking part in the Heart Foundation Walking Program and exploring heart-healthy meal options available on their website. I commend the Heart Foundation for working hard to improve heart health across the nation for the past 60 years and I am proud to support their initiatives and raise awareness for improving heart health.

WALLACIA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I thank and commend the Wallacia Christian Community Church and charitable organisation 'Hands and Feet Community and Disability Services' for their charitable initiative of providing free food every Friday to people in an around the community. This assistance occurs at the Church each Friday morning, excluding public holidays, and includes fresh food items and a limited amount of

meat and pantry items. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available to visitors as they await. People are encouraged to bring their own bag and take what they need, with some items limited to one per person. I thank all volunteers who contribute to this important initiative for their charitable work. I'm proud and our community is fortunate to have these people for their generosity serving others in need. I wish the Wallacia Christian Community Church and the charitable organisation 'Hands and Feet Community and Disability Services' the very best in all their missions and endeavours.

ADRIAN CAREY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker, I would like to congratulate Adrian Carey on his outstanding results at the NSW Weightlifting Association Masters recently. Adrian, known as "Red" has long been involved in sports, particularly rugby union and cricket, a familiar face within the Dubbo Roos and RSL Colts clubs. However, in recent years, he has shifted focus and discovered a new passion for the sport of weightlifting. As head of the RAW Barbell Regional Team, he is rapidly building a strong reputation as competitor and a coach. This Masters Competition saw Adrian achieve a Gold Medal, with a National Record for his weight category and age in the Snatch. As a physiotherapist, Adrian is passionate about positive effects that weightlifting can have by strengthening the body with correct techniques. With no time to bask in the glory of his success, Adrian now prepares for the Masters Nationals and World Masters being held in Finland in September. It is inspiring to see Adrian achieving such success and continuing to push himself to new heights. I wish him all the best for his upcoming competitions.

WESTERN PLAINS JAZZ ASSOCIATION

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to recognise the Western Plains Jazz Association and congratulate them on the success of their inaugural Jazz Festival. In years past, Dubbo was host to a jazz festival that many of the local community and visitors enjoyed, but sadly, that had come to an end nearly a decade ago. Having formed only a little over twelve months ago, the Western Plains Jazz Association vowed to bring back an annual jazz event for Dubbo and captivate audiences once more! With over 10 different groups performing over the course of the weekend, the festival that was held at the Dubbo Golf Club was attended by hundreds of music lovers from near and far. Musicians performing at the event came from as far as Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Wollongong and did so simply to support a great event, not to be paid to perform! Two local bands, The Chalkies and The Tin Roof Big Band also hit the stage and had a great time performing the genre they love! With plans in the works to host the festival again in 2025, I'm excited to see what the next event will bring! Well done!

ZAC SETTERFIELD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Zac Setterfield on winning a gold medal at the Australian Dragon Boat Championships in Perth recently. Zac's participation in the Championships held at the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre marked an exciting chapter in his dragon boat racing journey. Despite being one of the youngest members of the Orana Dragon Boat Club, his exceptional performances at both Country and State titles, earned him a coveted spot on the NSW Under 24 Mixed 200-meter team. His selection in the team is testament to his talent and dedication to the sport. Alongside fellow athletes selected from around NSW, Zac had the opportunity to compete against some of the country's finest competitors. Zac's remarkable achievement representing his club and community at such a young age is a source of pride to all who know him. His presence in a prestigious competition at just 22 years of age speaks volumes to his talent, dedication, and hard work. Not only does it underscore Zac's potential as a dragon boat racer but sets the stage for his continued success and growth in the sport. Congratulations Zac!

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Justices of the Peace play such an important role in our community. They come from all sections of our community and all walks of life, providing an invaluable service—you never know how important a JP is until you can't find one. As many in this place could tell you, lots of people need JPs for all sorts of reasons! Some people maintain their dedication to the role for decades, and recently we acknowledged people from all around the state who have served fifty years as Justices of the Peace. In April, I joined in the celebration here at Parliament House congratulating those JPs on their five decades of service, and was particularly pleased to see the commemoration included two fantastic locals from my electorate of Charlestown: Peter Cunningham from Kotara and Adrian Voormeulen from Charlestown. It was wonderful to meet Peter and Adrian and talk with them about what the role has meant to them personally, to our broader community, and how it has changed over time. Congratulations to Peter and Adrian, and thanks for fifty years of service to the community!

LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—The Australian Small Business Champion Awards are the Australia's premier small business awards program. Offering a unique opportunity to highlight Australia's most outstanding small businesses, the awards seek to recognise the hard work that business owners contribute to the local community, generating employment across our communities and their contribution to the local, NSW and nation-wide economy. This year, the program has expanded with the introduction of a hundred industry categories to enable more small business to get involved. The Awards' night-of-nights, the National Presentation Evening, was this year held over two nights, Friday 12 April and Saturday 13 April, at the Star here in Sydney. I am pleased to report that two Charlestown-based businesses have been honoured in the 2024 round of the Small Business Champion Awards. Adamstown-based Lifestyle Pilates & Rehabilitation Studio was awarded the Yoga and Pilates Services award, while Hunter Plastic Surgery in Charlestown came away with the Cosmetic Specialist award. Congratulations to these Lifestyle Pilates and Hunter Plastic Surgery on their recognition.

LAKE MACQUARIE ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—On 6 April, Warners Bay Theatre in the Charlestown electorate played host to a very special showcase of creativity and performance—the Lake Macquarie One Act Play Festival! Returning to the Theatre after a successful 2023 debut, the Festival was a theatre competition showcasing short, sharp and original one-act plays, with the goal of encouraging and fostering local and regional playwrights and performers. Making creative use of limited sets, small casts and a short timeframe, the plays ran the gamut from postmodern examinations of the medium of theatre itself, to funny-yet-thoughtful looks at relationship dynamics, to the lingering effects of trauma in all its forms. By all reports the plays were fantastic, and I want to thank all those involved in putting on the Festival, including festival director Charlotte de Wit, judges Victor Kalka, Jo Bloom and Charles Mayer, and all the playwrights and actors who trod the boards to bring this showcase to the Charlestown electorate. It is fantastic to see this sort of creativity in our local area, and I look forward to the 2025 Festival!

LAKE ILLAWARRA HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate students from Lake Illawarra High School who have spent months working together, under the supervision of agricultural teacher Michelle Atkinson, to create a hand constructed picture utilising seeds and grains, along with other local produce. They received First Place in the Schools Districts Exhibits Display Competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This is the school's third time presenting this style of work, which will be on display at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Their previous displays won the school accolades and judging by the fine detail and craftsmanship displayed here. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate the students at Lake Illawarra High School on this wonderful achievement.

WARILLA HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate Warilla High School for receiving a Recognition of Excellence Award from the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Murat Dizdar. This is worthy recognition of the hard work and determination of their students, the dedication and professionalism of their teachers and the support and encouragement from parents, guardians and the community to help their students achieve their very best, in whatever pathway they choose. Warilla High School saw an uplift of 16.4% from 2017-18 in 2023 and continued improvement from 2022 to 2023 in their top three band results. This improvement represented one of the highest improvements in the state. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate the Warilla High School on this remarkable achievement.

VALE BORDER DANCE TEACHER

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to extend my condolences and pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Ms Annette Challis of Albury. Ms Challis was not only a well-respected member of the local theatre community, but also a passionate ballroom dancer whose graceful movements enchanted all who knew her. Her contributions to the Border performing arts scene were immense, including her efforts as co-founder of Revolution Theatre Productions (Albury/Wodonga). Annette's dedication and vision shaped countless productions, leaving an incredible mark on the theatre, music and dance communities. As a ballroom dancer, Strictly Ballroom The Musical was a fitting tribute to her enduring love for the arts here in Albury. Beyond the stage she was a beloved dance teacher, choreographer and mentor, always ready to lend a hand to those in need or in pursuit of artistic excellence. To her beloved husband Peter and son Jesse, may Annette's spirit and dedication continue to resonate within our hearts and community. Vale Annette Challis.

THE PURPLE CHICKEN CAFE & WORLD GYM ALBURY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Albury Café, The Purple Chicken and World Gym Albury for their outstanding achievements in winning the 'Best Breakfast' and 'Best Gym' categories, respectively, in Triple MMM's Best of the Border 2024 competition. The Purple Chicken, not just a café but also a hospitality training program for young adults with disabilities, has been recognised for its exceptional breakfast offerings and dedication to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment. Whilst World Gym Albury, known for its rapid growth and global recognition, stands out as our best gym this year, offering opportunities for individuals to redefine themselves through fitness, strength and discipline. I further extend gratitude to Triple MMM for celebrating the best of our community as voted by the people and for bringing attention to local businesses. Well done, The Purple Chicken and World Gym Albury, as well as all the other Border winners and finalists of the Triple MMM's Best of the Border 2024. Your contribution to our community is greatly appreciated.

ALBURY ARTIST STEPHANIE JAKOVAC TO SHARE HER WORK IN SLOVENIA

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Stephanie Jakovac, an Albury-based artist, who is set to showcase her remarkable talent and passion for Australian native flora in an upcoming exhibition in her birth country, Slovenia. Since arriving in Australia in 1973, Stephanie has immersed herself capturing the beauty of the High Country landscapes and native flora through her art. Ms Jakovac's meticulous attention to detail in her sketches and paintings vividly depicts the intricate features of native orchards, flowers and the diverse Australia bush. Her dedication to exploring and documenting the natural wonders of the region, alongside her involvement with the Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists, reflects a deep appreciation for the Australian landscape. Stephanie's invitation to exhibit at Slovenia's annual festival is a testament to her artistic craft and the universal appeal of her work. As the sole Australian artist invited to this prestigious event, Ms Jakovac takes pride in representing Australia and taking our native flora to an international audience, fostering cultural exchange and appreciation for Australia's unique biodiversity. Stephanie, I commend you for your artistic achievements and for sharing the beauty of Australia flora with the world.

YASS ROOS LIGHTS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise the Yass Roos and the recent work undertaken to upgrade their lights. The Yass Roos were established in 2002, with the AFL enthusiasts getting together to form a team. Driven by their passion for the sport and after securing financial sponsorship, the team took to the field in Canberra District's Division 2 competition, finishing in seventh place on the ladder in their first year. Today the Yass Roos continue at their home ground of Joe O'Connor Park in Yass, supplemented by after-game meals and drinks at the Clubhouse Hotel. Thanks to the committee's dedication, ongoing and new memberships and the continuous development of players, an application for funding through the Stronger Country Communities Fund was successful and the Roos got new lights. I was honoured to officially turn on the new and first-time lights just in time for the first round of the 2024 season for the Yass Roos AFL Football Club. I congratulate the Club on this success, particularly in pursuit of funding. Well done to Jenene, Tash and the Committee, led by President Jarrad Forlonge. I wish the Club and Yass Roos all the best in the coming seasons.

MOSS VALE COURTHOUSE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—The Moss Vale Courthouse celebrated 100 years on 12th February 2024. A momentous achievement in delivering justice for the Southern Highlands community since 1924, with origins dating back to the 19th century. The Courthouse was originally built in 1880, close to the Moss Vale Post Office and train station, however was demolished in 1915 due to the expansion of the railway yards. Construction of the new Courthouse was undertaken in 1923 and completed in January 1924. Government Architect George McRae designed the building, and the foundation stone was inscribed to the Minister for Justice of the day. Over the years, renovations have been undertaken - the latest being the installation of modern audio-visual equipment and a new witness room in support of vulnerable people and victims of domestic violence. I was honoured to attend the milestone celebrations at the Courthouse and delighted to present an NSW State Flag, which was raised and flown for the first time to mark the celebrations. I acknowledge and thank those who have undertaken any one of the many roles in the Courthouse, over the many years, in operation and the delivery of justice for the Southern Highlands.

ERIC HURN

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to today to recognise the late Eric Hurn. Mr Hurn, a fat lamb, and potato farmer from Crookwell, was awarded as the Individual Landcarer at the 2013 Landcare Awards. Mr Hurn actively demonstrated true regenerative and conservation practices across his paddocks through tree plantings (which could easily be as many as fifty thousand) improving pastures and protecting wetlands. Mr Hurn was co-founder of the Roslyn Landcare Group. Which improved the environment within the Southern

Tablelands, seeing bird species return and platypus, water rats and amphibians within the waterways. The group worked tirelessly to protect rare, threatened ecosystems and wildlife habitat. I am advised that Mr Hurn was always keen to impart his knowledge and host the younger generation by hosting planting days each year with local primary school students. Mr Hurn also served as a Councillor on the Crookwell Shire Council between the late 1980' to the early 1990's. It is with admiration that I reflect upon the life and accomplishments of Mr Hurn and his passion for the local native environment, our flora, and our fauna. Vale, Mr Eric Hurn.

CHRISTINE SPEER

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Since 1955 residents of New South Wales have been able to turn to the State Emergency Service in times of need, whether it's during or after devastating storms, floods or other natural disasters, we all rest a little easier knowing their help is at hand when we need it. I would like to acknowledge the lifetime of dedication the Local Commander of the NSW SES Lake Macquarie City Cluster Christine Speer has given to our community. 67-year-old Christine joined the organisation 42-years ago and has served on the front line during some of our most devastating emergency events, including the 2007 Pasha Bulker storm and the 2017 Lismore Floods. Her unwavering and outstanding service over a prolonged period was recently recognised at the Lake Macquarie and Hunter Coast Cluster Awards, where she was awarded lifetime membership of the NSW SES, and was also presented with her 40-year-service clasp during the ceremony. It's not the first time her efforts have been recognised in 2021, she was named Lake Mac Volunteer of the Year. I thank Christine for everything she has done and continues to do, to keep our community safe.

TAMMIN LAMPRET

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate sprinter and hurdler Tammin Lampret on her selection to represent Australia at the Oceania Athletics Championships in Fiji next month. Tammin has been described by Endeavour Sports High School as their 'golden girl'[1] and although only in year 11 she already has an impressive list of state and national titles to her name.[2] Tammin has been chosen to compete in the 100 metre hurdles after outstanding performances at the Australian Athletics Championships held last month in Adelaide. She won gold convincingly in the under 17 100 metre hurdles clocking a quick time running into a solid headwind. She was also part of the silver medal winning 4 x 100 metres under 18 girls relay team and won bronze in the under 17 girls 200 metres. Tammin is also the current Australian all schools under 16 90 metre hurdles champion. I wish Tammin success in Fiji next month and also in the future as she continues to build on her outstanding junior career.

VALE PAUL DOBSON

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I join with the Kurnell Stingrays Junior Rugby League Football Club in paying tribute to one of the club's founding and life members Paul Dobson who passed away earlier this month. Paul was on the Foundation Committee in 1992, a Junior League Delegate from 1993-1997, Vice President of the Stingrays from 1995-1998, a member of the General Committee in 1999, and Registrar 2000-2001. Paul was recognised for his impact on the club by being awarded Life Membership in 2002. In honouring Paul, people have said how he was a true gentleman and tireless worker, always welcoming new families and fighting for the club. Paul was described as part of the backbone of the Kurnell Stingrays. Volunteers like Paul make a huge difference to local sporting clubs and I recognise his influence on local junior sport as a true legend of the Kurnell Stingrays.

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL 2024

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—This year the NSW Seniors Festival ran from 4 to the 28 March with a full program tailored to our valued community seniors. This year's theme – "Reach Beyond" – is a call to action for seniors to try something new within their community, whether it be attending a movie screening, line dancing, playing golf or bingo, taking a local bus tour and joining in exercise or craft activities. Our society becomes more valuable with the presence of our seniors participating in community engagement and local events. The NSW Seniors Festival provides the perfect opportunity for our seniors from all cultures to take part in new and fun activities that can contribute to improving their physical, social and mental health. The NSW Seniors Festival also connects our diverse population to each other and brings our local community together in extraordinary ways. I would like to give my special acknowledgement to our senior citizens who have raised us and have helped shape our wonderful community over the years. We appreciate your guidance and wisdom and hope you enjoy the NSW Seniors Festival this year!

LENA NAHLOUS WINS 2024 CARLA ZAMPATTI ARTS & CULTURE MEDAL

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to offer my profound congratulations to

Lena Nahlous, CEO of Diversity Arts Australia and former Arab Council Bankstown Youth program manager for receiving the 2024 Carla Zampatti Arts and Culture Medal as part of the NSW Premier's Multicultural Community Honours. This award honours individuals who go above and beyond in fostering cultural and artistic expression among diverse communities. Lena has been acknowledged for dedicating herself to decades of pioneering in the arts and creative sectors in our community. It is inspiring to see a migrant pioneer from our diverse community advocating for social change and fostering inclusive leadership through music, performance, theatre, writing and screen. She provides unique opportunities for migrant, refugee and culturally diverse communities, to participate and thrive through creative programs and training. Previously winning the Churchill Fellowship Award 2023 and the Western Sydney Woman Leader of Change Award 2020, Lena is a pioneering leader in advocating for marginalised multicultural communities in the creative industry. Congratulations Lena for cultivating the richness of different cultures through creative pursuits, whilst also inspiring women in leadership and other talented individuals within our diverse community.

BANKSTOWN TAFE HELPS TO KICKSTART CAREERS FOR STUDENTS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge Bankstown TAFE for assisting local high school students, including those who attend Wiley Park Girls High School, to gain crucial retail experience through the TVET Access Program. This program specifically provides employment opportunities for students to kickstart a career in retail through skills development and training. Western Sydney is considered as the third largest economic region in the country, and there are currently increased career opportunities in retail, and Bankstown TAFE has responded to this demand with programs such as the TVET Access Program. By specifically targeting schools within our diverse and skilled community to join the workforce, Bankstown TAFE is providing unique opportunities for students to build their knowledge and skills to be active members of our community. I am immensely proud of the efforts of Bankstown TAFE and schools in our community, such as Wiley Park Girls High and the incredible efforts of the students who are a part of the program in participating in addressing retail demand, whilst also cultivating personal, social, and developmental growth to contribute to our wonderful community.

KATH DUNKLEY-JONES - UNIFORMS 4 KIDS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Manning Great Lakes Police officer, Leading Senior Constable Kath Dunkley-Jones for bringing not-for-profit charity Uniforms 4 Kids to Taree. Uniforms 4 Kids re-purposes old police and emergency services uniforms to make unique clothes and other items for children in need. The not-for-profit charity began in Queensland eight years ago, and only recently came to Taree. Kath partnered up with Robyen Gibney, who owns the Country Pickins Sewing Centre in Taree. Kath provided the uniforms, everything from t-shirts and cargo pants to dress uniforms, while Robyen gathered community members to work on unpicking the uniforms and remaking them. The sewing group at Country Pickins also makes little cuddly toys as part of the project, which are put into bags along with items such as colouring books and pencils, which police keep in their cars to give to children at the scene of an accident or a domestic violence situation. Thank you, Kath, Robyen and all the wonderful volunteers for donating your time for such a great cause.

SAFFRON GRASS - MANNING RIVER TIMES SPORTSTAR OF THE YEAR

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Saffron Grass, who was announced as the winner of the Manning River Times Sportstar of the Year award at club Taree. This marks the first time a footballer has won the award in its 63-year history! Saffron's journey in football is remarkable. At 18 years old, she is a rising star in the sport. Having recently returned from a 16-day tour of the US with the Australian Schoolgirls team, where they emerged as winners in the Dallas Cup, Saffron's accomplishments on the field speak volumes about her skill. For the past seven years, Saffron has been an integral part of the Newcastle Jets system, showing her abilities in the National Women's Premier League. Now, as she embarks on a new chapter of her footballing journey with the Northern Tigers in the premier league, Saffron's aspirations remain high - with dreams of competing in the A-League Women's competition. Congratulations Saffron, on this well-deserved recognition. Keep chasing your dreams, and I wish you continued success in your future endeavours.

WALLAMBA COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise and congratulate the Wallamba Country Women's Association [CWA] Branch on their recent 60th anniversary. First formed in 1964, sadly none of the members present at the first meeting are still alive. However, 30 members who joined over the years celebrated this milestone at the current meeting place of the branch – the Uniting Church Hall in Nabic. Special guest included Mid North Coast CWA Group Vice President Vivienne Beaumont of the Wingham Branch, along with representatives from Wingham, Bulahdelah, Lake Cathie-Hastings, Forster, Gloucester Day and Gloucester

Evening Branches. The hall displayed photo albums, compiled by member Pam, of events that had taken place over the years and a birthday cake that was decorated in the CWA colours of blue, gold and white, which had been made by Nabiak Bakery. Congratulations on this wonderful milestone, Wallamba CWA, and thank you for your contributions to our community over the years. I hope your legacy will continue for generations.

BUSBY FIRE STATION

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On 16th April, I was thrilled to tour the ongoing upgrade to Fire and Rescue NSW Station 031 Busby with Charishma Kaliyanda, Member for Liverpool. Witnessing the transformation of a facility that was empty and in disrepair just a year ago was truly inspiring. This significant investment in our local emergency services not only enhances our community's safety but also reinstates a crucial asset in our area. Having a fully operational fire station nearby greatly reduces response times in emergencies, potentially saving lives and properties. Moreover, it strengthens community resilience and preparedness, ensuring that residents have immediate access to essential services during critical times. It's uplifting to see our community's safety infrastructure being revitalised, which will undoubtedly serve and protect the people of Busby for many years to come.

CAMDEN SHOW SPONSOR NIGHT

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—I had the pleasure of attending the Camden Show Sponsor Night on 1 March. This event provides an opportunity for local businesses and sponsors to engage with the community and are integral to making the show possible. The annual Camden Show, a cornerstone of regional tradition, continues to weave generations of fond memories for attendees from the Macarthur Region and beyond. Set at the vibrant Camden Showground, it is a celebration of agricultural, horticultural, and industrial achievements of the local area, providing a true country show experience. For the 2024 event, the Camden Show spanned two days in March, featuring a range of activities from wood-chopping and equestrian events to arts and crafts exhibitions. As one of the largest community gatherings in South-West Sydney it is a must-visit event that beautifully encapsulates the spirit of both the country and the city.

RAMADAN SHOPPING FESTIVAL

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)— On 30 March, I had the opportunity to attend the Ramadan Shopping Festival. Initially conceived during the COVID-19 pandemic, it served as a vital platform for small businesses that found themselves with stocked products and nowhere to market them due to the pandemic restrictions. Recognizing the challenge, the festival was launched to offer these businesses an opportunity to showcase their diverse offerings at minimal cost. This event is a vibrant multicultural community festival that facilitates small businesses in expanding their audience and entering new markets more easily, making it an essential event for economic recovery and growth in these challenging times. The market-like atmosphere presents an extensive range of items including women's fashion, children's clothing, various accessories, gifts, souvenirs, and gadgets. Each year the festival aims to be bigger and better, making it a must-visit event for anyone interested in unique finds and supporting local small businesses.

ANDREW 'REIDY' REID

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to recognise the actions of Andrew Reid on the 13th April during the Bondi Junction attacks. 'Reidy' is a household name in the eastern suburbs. Having worked as a Lifeguard on Bondi Beach for over 15 years, he has served our community with distinction. Importantly, Reidy's lifeguard training means he is equipped with the skills and knowledge to manage emergency situations. It was this training that kicked into place on April 13. After alarms had been raised, many were locked inside stores, including Reidy. However, he knew he had the skills and training to help. With a total disregard for his own safety, Reidy requested the store owner to lift the shutters so he could provide assistance. Reidy, along with many others, tended to a number of victims on that day, providing first aid before paramedics arrived. This innate desire to help others is commendable. But we should not be surprised because he has been doing this his whole life. Reidy, our community is grateful and so proud of you. This Parliament recognises and commends your actions on that day. Thank you.

BONDI ICEBERGS SEASON OPENING

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate President Lynne Fitzsimons and Bondi Icebergs on a successful launch of the 2024 winter season. Bondi Icebergs is Australia's oldest winter swimming club. This year marks the 95th year of winter swimming at Icebergs. As with every year, brave swimmers mark the opening by plunging into the ocean pool with a piece of ice. Behind the iconic building and breathtaking view is a proud club that is dedicated to contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community. Congratulations Bondi Icebergs and good luck for the 2024 season.

RANDWICK NETBALL ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate President Jenny Morrissey and the Randwick Netball Association on a successful 2024 season launch. Netball is the biggest female sport in the eastern suburbs, and it is the biggest sport in Australia with more than 1 million participants. With more than 30 clubs and close to 5000 members, Randwick is looking to build on a very successful 2023 season. Last year all of their representative teams finished in the top four of the state and they received five awards at the Netball NSW awards. Congratulations Jenny and the entire Randwick Netball Association. Good luck for 2024!

JUNIOR THEATRE FESTIVAL

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—I would like to recognise Erica Loizou and Kaylie Camilleri who have been selected to represent Australia in the US as 'Aussie All Stars' at next year's Junior Theatre Festival. The Junior Theatre Festival is the world's biggest and best celebration of young people performing musical theatre, bringing together musical theatre troupes from all over the world. These two Penrith students will travel to the US in January, first heading to New York for a series of auditions and workshops with industry professionals before flying to Atlanta to perform their given musical, competing against other companies from all over the world. I congratulate Erica and Kaylie for this amazing achievement. I cannot wait to hear about Erica and Kaylie's achievements in the US and know that they have made their community proud.

AVALON SAILING CLUB

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge the Avalon Sailing Club for their longstanding service of our local sailing community. Located at Clareville, on the beautiful waters of Pittwater, Avalon Sailing Club is known for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The Club's commitment to nurturing locals love for sailing is evident in their diverse offerings, including local races, competitive competitions, social activities and learn to sail programs. When kids learn to sail at Avalon, they learn more than just boat handling and sailing skills, they also learn about the weather, environment, how to be resilient and help others. Many sailors who began at Avalon have gone on to world class events like the Sydney to Hobart. I am so pleased that soon the Club will have upgraded bathroom and changeroom amenities thanks to a grant secured for the Club. Thank you to Club Commodore – Ralf Moller, Secretary – James George, and the whole committee for your work to see Avalon succeed. I am pleased that acknowledgement of the Avalon Sailing Club is now preserved for all time in the records of the oldest parliament in our nation.

MANLY WARRINGAH DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge the Manly Warringah District Baseball Association [MWDBA] for their amazing work supporting local baseball players, teams, and clubs. The Manly Warringah District Baseball Club [MWDBC] was formed in 1950 and has been a voice for the Northern Beaches baseball community ever since. From advocating for a ground to develop a local centre for baseball in the 1970s, to fielding teams in the NSWBL Major League competition, our local baseball community has gone from strength to strength. In 2011, MWDBC joined with Manly Warringah Winter Baseball and Manly Warringah Junior Baseball League to form Manly Warringah District Baseball Association [MWDBA] as the Regional Sporting Association to manage and promote the game within the Manly, Warringah, Pittwater and Northern Sydney areas. I am so pleased that soon the MWDBA will have upgraded batting nets at Rat Park in Warriewood, thanks to a grant secured for the Club. Thank you to Association President – Brook Russell, and the whole executive for your work to ensure MWDBA is always improving. I am pleased that acknowledgement of the MWDBA is now preserved for all time in the records of the oldest parliament in our nation.

MANLY WARRINGAH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge the Manly Warringah Basketball Association for their commitment to helping locals enjoy basketball. Since its inception in 1950, MWBA has produced empowered and talented players, many of whom have gone on to represent NSW and Australia and play in the National Basketball League and Women's National Basketball League. Based in one of the top basketball venues in Sydney, the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre in Warriewood, MWBA games of all age groups and levels never fail to have an electric atmosphere. Beyond its home base in Warriewood, MWBA also runs competitions and training out of Dee Why, Terrey Hills and other satellite venues across the Northern Beaches. I congratulate MWBA on their success. Over 250 local competition games are now conducted each week, with over 4500 players participating. The MWBA also runs a very successful wheelchair basketball program, offering the opportunity for people with physical disabilities a chance to develop their skills, play in a team and enjoy a fun game. I am so pleased that soon the MWBA will now have the resources to strengthen their Wheelchair Basketball Program thanks to a grant secured for the Club.

DAVID MARKS – 50 YEARS SERVICE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to David Marks who received a Certificate of Appreciation for 50 years of service as a Justice of the Peace, on 10th April 2024. Presented by the Honourable Michael Daley, Attorney General in the Parliament of NSW, this award marked a rare milestone. Celebrating 50 years of Service, this award recognised outstanding JPs who have demonstrated great loyalty and longevity. David has generously volunteered his time, serving our community as a Justice of the Peace for 50 years. Since becoming a JP in 1972, David has been instrumental to many significant moments in our community. Justices of the Peace perform an integral role in our community, providing accurate and trusted verification services. Entrusted independent and impartial witnesses, Justices of the Peace certify legal documents, like powers of attorney, statutory declarations and affidavits. They are key to the functions of our legal system, assisting courts and governing bodies to provide timely and fair outcomes. Congratulations David on this significant award. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community. I also thank NSW Department of Communities and Justice for your considered advocacy and ongoing support for JPs in our community.

LIONS CLUB OF TOONGABBIE & SEVEN HILLS – PACKS FOR SHELTERS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to the Lions Club of Toongabbie & Seven Hills on their successful "Packs for Shelters" initiative, which helped support women experiencing homelessness or domestic and family violence across Western Sydney. The Lions Club of Toongabbie & Seven Hills unites a team of compassionate individuals, one act of kindness at a time. Through environmental projects, disaster support, fundraising and youth engagement initiatives, they are truly making a difference in our community. Recognising the struggle many in our community currently face to meet the demands of housing, bills and necessities amidst the cost-of-living crisis, the Lions Club worked to deliver essentials to people in need. Packing clothing and toiletries, they distributed backpacks to women and their children, experiencing homelessness or domestic and family violence in our community. Thank you to Lions Club of Toongabbie & Seven Hills President, Sudhakar Ethirajulu, Secretary PDG Jennifer Touzel, Parramatta Club President Graham Estreich, and Secretary Sue Veen, Harris Park Club Secretary Kamini Datta and all our dedicated Lions and Leos for your collaborative efforts to help others. I applaud you all for this compassionate example of how our community cares for one another.

MARY AZAR – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I wish to sincerely thank Mary Azar for her service to the Prospect Electorate. Mary has been an integral member of my team for two years, working tirelessly to support the people of Prospect. A natural advocate, Mary tenaciously worked to resolve issues for individuals and community groups. With faith as her compass, Mary embraced every interaction with genuine empathy and care. She became a familiar face, giving comfort and guidance during some of the most vulnerable moments of our communities' lives. Taking time to actively listen and understand the diverse challenges they faced, Mary helped to reach meaningful solutions and foster greater cohesion across our Western Sydney community. Acting as my Senior Electorate Officer, Mary's compassion inspired others. By her own initiative, she offered multilingual services in Arabic and English, helping to connect our residents to vital services. Mary continues to go above and beyond for our community, generously volunteering her time to local charities. Mary will continue to support our diverse community as she begins her new role as Student Learning Support Officer. Mary, I thank you for your years of hard work and wish you every success in your next endeavour.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR LOCAL SES VOLUNTEERS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the great work of each and every single State Emergency Service volunteer in the St George community. I know that they do an absolutely incredible job, however they often do not receive the recognition they deserve. Our community has been impacted by storms, floods and other destructive events, especially over the last few years. However, our wonderful SES volunteers have always been there, ready to jump in and assist wherever they can. I know of countless examples where the SES in our community have not only saved properties, but also lives and livelihoods. The Hurstville SES volunteers are the ones to thank – truly the unsung heroes of our local area. WOW Day is coming up on Wednesday 22 May and I would like to encourage everyone in the local community to wear something orange, to show your support and appreciation for our local SES volunteers. I would like to thank the entire team of volunteers from the Hurstville SES Unit for the hard work you do. Your contribution to our community is invaluable and I wish you all the best.

ALAN WILLIAMS – OVER 50 YEARS SERVICE AS A JP

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an incredibly hard-working member of my local community, Mr Alan Williams. Alan has been a Justice of the Peace in our community for 58 years – what an achievement! Justices of the Peace play such an important role within our community and

communities throughout New South Wales. They must be honest and impartial individuals - qualities that Alan has exemplified throughout his long and dedicated service. Beyond his duties at a Justice of the Peace, Alan's broader willingness to serve in the community has left an incredibly positive impact. He has dedicated much of his life to helping others. He was elected to Kogarah Council in 1968 at the age of 23 – the youngest to ever be elected to a NSW Council at the time. He later went on to become the Deputy Mayor in 1974. Alan's 50 years of service as a Justice of the Peace is such an honourable milestone to reach, and I would like to thank him for his continued dedication to providing this trusted service in our community.

GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE PEAKHURST – FISHTANK COMPETITION FINALISTS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to congratulate year 10 students from Georges River College Peakhurst. These exceptional young minds have been recognised as finalists in the FishTank Competition, as a part of the Volvo Ocean Lovers Festival. These students are paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future, coming up with a 'Mechanically Driven Artificial Upwelling' system. This is where colder and more nutrient-rich water is drawn up from the depths of the ocean to the surface. This artificially simulates the process of upwelling, attracting nutrient-rich water, which is important to sustain marine life. I'd like to congratulate students Lillian King, Abigail McKenzie, Amelia Wilson, Tahlia Coulton, Abbie Clay and Mya Wong, as well as Principal Diane Wilson and teacher Ahmad Bousaleh for their hard work. These are the future leaders of tomorrow and without this type of innovation, we would not have the resources or ingenuity to tackle pressing ecological issues, such as preserving our oceans and combating climate change. Congratulations again to all the finalists! I look forward to seeing what these young people achieve over the next few years.

BATHURST HEALTH SERVICE MEDICAL WARD

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the achievements of Bathurst Health Service Medical Ward winning Nursing/Midwifery Team of the Year at the Western NSW Local Health District 2024 Nursing and Midwifery Awards. The Awards acknowledge the passion, dedication and significant contribution nurses and midwives provide to patients and communities across Western NSW. This team consisting of nurses, doctors, ward clerks and allied health staff led by Nursing Unit Managers and the Director of Nursing and Midwifery have played an integral role in the functioning of Bathurst Health Service. The field of health is a selfless yet rewarding career choice. The Medical Ward see us at our worst and mend us back to health. They provide care and a friendly face when we need it most. Congratulations to the whole team. This is a well-deserved accolade, and the Bathurst community wishes them all the best moving forward to the 2024 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

PHIL AND MARGARET DOWNEY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—The Portland Newsagency has been like a second home for Phil and Margaret Downey for the past 18 years. Now the husband and wife are preparing to move into their next phase of life. Over the past two decades the pair have adapted with the times moving into a digital age of online newspapers and digital magazines. They have expanded their offerings into giftware and learnt the way of the lotto machine. In small towns such as Portland, places like the newsagency are more than just where you buy the paper every day. Owners and customers become friends having a chat each morning and going the extra mile for elderly community members becomes the norm. Phil and Margaret have just that, witnessing local kids grow into adults and now bring their own kids in store. The Portland community thank Phil and Margaret for their years of service, stellar customer service and reliability. We wish them well on their next adventure.

WOMBAT - COLEAMBALLY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to congratulate the Coleambally trio known as "Wombat" for their remarkable achievement at the Deniliquin Show. The team successfully broke all the records at the Giant Atlantic Pumpkin competition in Deniliquin. Their pumpkin, weighing in at a massive 131.2 kg, smashed the 2015 record of 105kg. A testament to their agricultural skills. This achievement sets a high expectation for all future competitors. Referred to as a "friendly war", the infamous Deniliquin Giant Atlantic pumpkin competition brings to life the competitive, fun and intriguing nature of the traditional Deniliquin Show. Their dedication to the craft of gardening and their contribution to the agricultural community are truly exemplary. Congratulations again to the team on this impressive accomplishment, and I look forward to seeing what next year's pumpkin weighs!

PATE AGRICULTURAL PTY LTD

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today, I commend Pate Agricultural Pty Ltd for their groundbreaking achievement in maize crop production. Under the watchful eyes of Nathan Pate and Daniel Phelan, and with expert advice from James Murray of AGnVET Cobram, they achieved a record-breaking yield of 23.27 tonnes per hectare on their Tocumwal property. This yield not only surpasses the previous national record

but also showcases sustainable and innovative agricultural practices. The crop, a Pioneer Hybrid P0937, was optimally nurtured with a pivoting lateral irrigation system, which efficiently utilized 6.5 megalitres of water per hectare. Their approach exemplifies the potential of precision agriculture in enhancing productivity and resource use efficiency. Congratulations to the team at Pate Agricultural for your dedication and for setting a new benchmark in the agriculture sector. Your hard work and innovative methods serve as an inspiration to all.

MATT GLEESON

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—Matthew Gleeson was elected as a committee member at Northern Districts Little Athletics Centre in 2016. Over the years he covered the roles of Championships Officer, Track and Field Officer and, since 2018, President. He embraces change even if it means more work for himself, which has seen Northern Districts successfully evolve. Matt actively encourages all athletes to do their personal best, not just the elite, making everyone feel valued. Due to his example parents readily volunteer to support the centre, creating an enjoyable environment for everyone. Matt secures grants, sources new equipment, all while balancing a tight budget. He spends much of his time gaining qualifications to volunteer at zone, region and state championships, while maintaining his role as President. He also volunteers as an official at school athletics events. Matt recently officiated at the National All Schools Championships in Perth and is a member of Athletics Australia's Officials Operating Committee. Recently awarded Volunteer of the Year by Little Athletics NSW for his contribution to the sport. He represents the very best of our Hornsby community. It was my pleasure to award Matt Gleeson a NSW Government, Community Service Award.

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—National Walk Safely to School Day was held last Friday 10th May 2024, and Shellharbour schools are gearing up to embrace the initiative with open arms. This program is all about encouraging children and their parents or carers to ditch the car and lace up their walking shoes and also to highlight that walking can be a source of learning too – about road safety, health and the environment around us. This initiative also aims to highlight the numerous benefits of regular walking, particularly to and from school. I am extremely pleased that Tullimbar Public School in my electorate is participating. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful and dedicated Principal Bel Wallace. The annual National Walk Safely to School Day is in its 25th year of promoting physical health, the importance of road safety and environmental consciousness due to decreased car dependency that causes air pollution. The initiative is championed by the Pedestrian Council of Australia. As a local community, we all have a responsibility to ensure that our children are healthy, active and engaged in order to reach their potential and to achieve a bright future.

TRENT HILAIRE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Trent Hilaire who is the President of the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association. The Association's aim is to attract, maintain and foster professionals in our Shoalhaven region and under Trent's leadership, the Association is re-launching its mentoring program. The Association will be holding its next breakfast meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at the RSL LifeCare Facility in East Nowra. This breakfast will feature a special segment on how RSL Lifecare supports businesses and facilitates the integration of veterans into the civilian workforce and a presentation from Sonder Youth founder Avalon Bourne, who will provide insight into their ability to maintain young professionals and hiring young professionals in the post COVID work climate. The Shoalhaven Young Professional Mentor Program, a collaboration with the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association, is a dynamic 6-week intensive that offers young professionals a comprehensive growth experience. Alongside the core element of weekly mentor meetings with seasoned business leaders, the program includes weekly sessions led by program facilitators. I know that Trent is passionate about increasing the visibility of our Shoalhaven region and I applaud the efforts of the Association and I look forward to attending future events.

ARCHIE WEIR

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises local resident Mr Archie Weir from the Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club. Archie Weir was recently named as one the Ingenia Holiday Parks Junior Lifesavers of the Year. Formally recognised on Friday, 26th April 2024, after a three-day team building and leadership development program, Archie represented the South Coast with excellence and distinction, proving that our region is fortunately blessed with some very talented young lifesavers. Archie has several years of club experience having been heavily involved in surf lifesaving since he was just a nipper. The panel noticed his desire to constantly improve his skills and his understanding of the important role lifesavers play along our coastline. It was important to Archie to showcase his leadership qualities and the different ways that we can show compassion to the community through lifesaving and assisting others. Lifesavers are that sense of safety for the community and by being a lifesaver, Archie says he also gets a really strong sense of belonging

doing what he does for our local community which is terrific. A huge congratulations and well done to Mr Archie Weir.

MASON MCGRODER

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Caringbah's Mason McGroder who has been named as the youngest member of the Australian team for the 2024 World Under 20 Athletics Championships in August. Described by his school Trinity Grammar as 'long jump sensation' the 15-year-old has been selected after his outstanding performances at the Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide last month. Competing in the under 20 men's long jump event, Mason put in a personal best jump of 7.73 metres to take the title, 16 centimetres ahead of the rest of the field. In the boys' events, he won gold medals in the under 17 long jump and the under 17 400 metres, as well as silver in the under 18 4 x 400 metres relay. Trinity Grammar says Mason's performances showed he is undaunted competing against athletes older than him. Year after year Mason has won national titles in both long jump and triple jump, posting state and national meet records along the way. All this while being one of the best up-and-coming stars of AFL, having been selected in the boys all Australian team last year. I wish Mason success as he jumps for Australia in Peru.

JUANITA MCLAUHLAN

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Congratulations to Indigenous artist Juanita McLauchlan who showcased her enormous talents to a new audience at a special exhibition within Sydney's Parliament House in April this year. Ms McLauchlan's Standing at the Heart of Seven Generations is an exploration of the meeting of cultures and how the past should shape the future. It featured large scale sculptural necklaces made from woollen blankets and possum skins as well as eco-printed blankets marked by direct contact with branches, bark and leaves from trees and shrubs around Wagga Wagga. An artist of Gamilaraay descent living on Wiradjuri Country, Ms McLauchlan's works are built upon an understanding that our history, inheritances, loves and relationships are shaped by Country and by family. The exhibition showcased the artist's unique storytelling to a new audience in parliament's Fountain Garden, providing her with new knowledge and exposure as she continues to hone her craft. I was honoured to have helped organise the exhibition. but the works spoke for themselves to many appreciative visitors. The exhibition followed Ms McLauchlan's appointment earlier this year as artist-in-residence at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, further establishing her as one of Wagga's best-loved artists and illustrating her exciting future.

PUMPKIN POWER

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—A big idea by the Peacock family of Tumut flourished into an award-winning success story, thanks to a 407kg pumpkin which won a prestigious blue ribbon at this year's Royal Easter Show. Showing biggest is best, horticultural scientist Mark Peacock used his professional expertise and the enthusiastic support of wife Rachel and children Daniel and Hannah to grow their monster pumpkin from seed and it was such a success that the children could almost see the fruit of their labour growing in front of their eyes. It was a fun family exercise that Mark hopes might inspire other children to become interested in gardening. Nicknamed Tormund after a Game of Thrones character, the victorious vegie measured 1.2 metres across and weighed more than the average cow. Tormund came to a spectacular end when it was recently scooped out and sailed down the Tumut River with a person on board, as hundreds lined the banks to watch. Fittingly, Tormund proved to be both titanic and tasty, with many locals grabbing a piece of history-making pumpkin for the dinner table. The Peacocks roasted their share with cumin and according to Mark, it was delicious! Congratulations to the green-thumbed Peacock family.

HURSTVILLE SALVATION ARMY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge the Hurstville Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal 2024 as it marks 60 years supporting communities. The annual campaign that raises money for people in need and in a cost-of-living crisis, the appeal is particularly crucial this year. The Salvo's are aiming to raise \$38 million for the Red Shield Appeal, which is Australia's largest and longest running door-knock appeal. All funds raised locally will remain in the community, enabling the Salvos to meet the specific needs of the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of the region. I commend the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal for the immense positive impact on the community.

RESIDENTS OF FOREST ROAD BEXLEY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to commemorate and recognise the heroic work of four Kogarah residents, James Ronfeldt, Andrew Ronfeldt, Abbas Mousselmani and Swastic Sharma. During a wild and severe thunderstorm in February last year, these four young men put their own safety at risk to help clear out dirt and foliage from metal gutters that was causing a complete flood on Forest Road. The four young men worked through continual thunder and rain for almost four hours before the storm settled. I praise and applaud

these young men as local heroes. Their courage and determination in such dangerous conditions is truly inspirational. Our local community is lucky to have such selfless people that put the needs of the community above their own. I want to thank James, Andrew, Abbas and Swastic on behalf of myself and the residents of Bexley for their heroic actions.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Rockdale Ilinden for a wonderful 2023 season winning overall Club Champions and 2023 NPL Men's NSW runners up. The club are looking to go one better and I wish them the all the best for the 2024 season which is now underway. Rockdale Ilinden is run like a big family and everyone is welcomed. President of the club Dennis Loether and the many volunteers put in countless hours each week, to ensure the club and the players have everything they need to be a successful club. They also continue to make inroads in promoting the game for aspiring young girls, an area where they have enjoyed tremendous success. The Club continues to grow and is always looking to improve and develop its facilities to provide its members with the best possible chance at succeeding. The St George community and myself are very proud of Rockdale Ilinden and all of their wonderful achievements over the years. I want to thank Rockdale Ilinden for providing our local community with a friendly, warm and competitive place to play football for more than 50 years.

LITTLE WINGS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—Following what I hope was a joyful and happy Mother's Day for all of the mums in my electorate of East Hills, across NSW and Australia, I would like to highlight the work of Little Wings this past Mother's Day in raising funds to ensure its important work can continue. Last Saturday community members were invited to the Little Wings Hangar at Bankstown Aerodrome enjoying a traditional high tea and bouquet arranging. The celebration sought to raise funds for Little Wings' work providing air and ground transportation for families and sick children requiring treatment. Little Wings have completed over 2000 missions in the last financial year, operating out of three hangars in conjunction with 4 partner hospitals and medical services, and 90 volunteers. Its Medical Wings program has reached over 4,000 families in rural Queensland and NSW delivering clinics in partnership with local hospitals, Aboriginal medical centres, primary health clinics and immigration centres ensuring that families can access support in a culturally safe and welcoming environment. Thank you, Little Wings, for all you do to support families throughout Australia during one of the most difficult and overwhelming times in their lives.

GRAHAM TOMKINSON

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—Congratulations and thank you to my constituent, Graham Tomkinson who recently celebrated 50 years of service as a Justice of the Peace. Justices of the Peace play an important and vital role in our communities. Appointed by the Governor of New South Wales, the seemingly simple act of witnessing a declaration or affidavit or certifying copies of original documents comes with a great deal of responsibility, a good eye and strength of character. Through witnessing and certifying documents, JPs often provide an important pathway for people's major life events. Last month, Mr Tomkinson attended a celebration of his 50 years of service at Parliament House with other JP veterans hosted by the Department of Communities and Justice and NSW Attorney General, Michael Daley. While I unfortunately could not attend, I hope Mr Tomkinson was duly celebrated for his commitment and service to the people of my electorate and NSW. I thank Mr Tomkinson for his remarkable 50 years of service, volunteering his JP services to our East Hills community!

CHAD O'DONNELL'S 100TH FIRST GRADE GAME

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Chad O'Donnell who celebrated his 100th first grade game for the Maitland Pickers last weekend. The team certainly did their part to contribute to the celebrations with a 34-12 win against Lakes United at Maitland Sportsground. Chad scored a try and delivered a typically strong performance in both attack and defence. Chad joined the club in 2020 from Western Suburbs and Pickers coach Matt Lantry said it was great to get the win in O'Donnell's milestone game. Matt commented that "Loyalty can be something that's few and far between these days as players chase a little bit more money or a better opportunity and are prepared to sacrifice relationships and experiences with the group they have been with. 100 first grade games is something pretty special and a significant milestone." Chad has signed with the team to the end of 2026 so he will probably crack the 150 as well. Congratulations.

RUTHERFORD TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY 7S

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to the Rutherford Technology High School Under 16s girls' rugby 7s team. The team recently won the school's

first ever rugby union title, named Hunter champions at the HSSA tournament held at Speers Point. Rugby has not previously been a big sport at the school, but the team was brought together as a few girls were very keen to compete. Coach and Talented Sports Program Rugby League coordinator Luke Miller held two or three training sessions leading into the day which built their confidence. The team is made up of only 9 players so they only had 2 reserves for the games. They were undefeated on the day beating out Mount View, Singleton, Hunter River and Whitebridge High School teams. Chloe Boundy was named most valuable player for her outstanding effort in every game. Even more impressive is that Chloe has never played rugby union before, however she has been part of the rugby league TSP program since she was in year seven. As Hunter champions the girls will now go on to represent the Hunter at the NSW Combined High Schools carnival in Sydney this August. Well done, girls!

KUPAKWASHE MATANGIRA

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Kupakwashe Matangira who recently won the NSW Multicultural Youth Medal, and was nominated for the NSW Young Woman of the Year Award. Ms Matangira moved to Maitland from Zimbabwe as a five year old. As a teenager, disillusioned with the state of the world, she decided to become the change she wanted to see. Ms Matangira is now an accomplished human rights activist and social entrepreneur. Working as a policy and research officer at the Australian Human Rights Commission, she is also a committee member for the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, and part of the Plan International Youth Activist Series. Ms Matangira also spoke at the 2023 United Nations COP28 Climate Summit. Ms Matangira said the young have ideas to alleviate social issues and they need to be heard. She is passionate about social issues including anti-racism, climate change, gender justice, and youth justice reform. Ms Matangira is about amplifying voices who are often shut out of decisions that shape our world, politically and socially. Congratulations Kupakwashe for your advocacy and passion to create change.

CAROLINE ADAMS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Wallsend football aficionado, historian and author Caroline Adams has been collecting and recording Wallsend football history for many years. She has written two substantial books - both now housed in the National Library of Australia - covering juniors, seniors, men and women. In her own words, Caroline brings together as many facts, events, stories and memories as possible to reflect the Wallsend team spirit. Wallsend Soccer Football Club was established in 1887. Caroline, using her own and borrowing others' treasured family keepsakes, curated the Wallsend Soccer Heritage Display on Saturday 9 March 2024 at the Masonic Hall in Wallsend. She interviewed football folk, recounting their stories across fourteen tables of memorabilia - including team photos, trophies, display cabinets and historical items, a ball used by the Socceroos in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics to the sad demise of the Crystal Palace ground. Caroline and her sister were involved in the local women's football movement both as players and in support roles, starting with a 1984 milestone match involving the Wallsend Junior Soccer Club Ladies Team. Thankyou, Caroline. You are truly red and white, the chronicler of the Wallsend FC legacy.

IAN KIDD

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Ian Kidd from Wallsend arrived home on 19 April, after cycling 1800km, for fourteen days, from Wilsons Promontory in Victoria to Newcastle to raise funds for Lifeline Hunter. He has suffered mental illness for 20 years, sometimes being admitted to mental health facilities, and sought help six years ago. Ian feels he owes Lifeline for their support and care. Ian rides not just for himself but for those, he says, who continue to fight their battles in the shadows, not wanting them to suffer in silence. For Ian, cycling is therapy. He is hoping to raise \$10,000 for Lifeline Hunter with his cycling fundraiser, Riding for Connection, covering the cost of 256 crisis support calls. Each call answered costs Lifeline \$39. How does he do it? By taking it one day at a time. There were steep sections, busy city roads to navigate. In 2022, he rode solo from Lake Eyre to Mount Kosciuszko for Newcastle anti-domestic violence charity Got Your Back Sista and has ridden in groups from Broome to Newcastle, Cairns to Darwin and Darwin to Port Augusta. Very well done, Ian - a true champion!

TREVOR DICKINSON

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Trevor, from England, studied art and textile design in London, but has lived in New Lambton since 2002. He has worked as a designer in fashion and on licenced brands such as Star Wars, The Simpsons and Thomas the Tank Engine. Trevor has illustrated Kitty Princess for Orchard Books, designed clothes for many UK high street stores, children's wear and even t-shirts for the Rolling Stones! Through the muses of both Canberra and Newcastle, Trevor captures the changes, whimsy and inherent beauty in his local community in quirky murals and his outsider's vision - the fun to be found in the everyday life of the city. With an obsession for the underappreciated urban environment, Trevor creates idiosyncratic images of iconic Wallsend landmarks. His April 2024 mural adorns a large space in Wallsend Village. Trevor draws everything by hand in permanent black, accommodating his mistakes and wonky lines, colouring his illustrations using photoshop (as

many as sixty layers, sometimes taking weeks to finish) - odd little details, different perspectives, making the ordinary look so unique, something that will connect to the locals. Thankyou, Trevor, for appreciating our Wallsend.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden)—On May 12 we celebrated International Nurses Day. I recognise the invaluable contributions of our all our nurses both in Camden and across New South Wales. Across our state Nurses serve as the bedrock of our healthcare system, providing compassionate care and unwavering support to patients and communities alike. Their dedication, professionalism, and selflessness have never been more evident than in recent times, as they have tirelessly worked during exceptionally challenging circumstances. From the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic to the daily care they provide in hospitals, clinics, and homes, nurses exemplify the very best of us. Having visited Camden Hospital, I know the nurses there do a fantastic job caring for patients. On this day, let us express our deepest gratitude to all nurses for their tireless efforts in their work.

FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden)—Last Saturday the 11th of May, I was privileged to attend Fire & Rescue NSW's annual open day. This year firefighters have encouraged the community to consider the fire dangers present in their homes, raising awareness about the dangers of heaters, electric blankets, and other appliances as we head into winter. The key focus was on working smoke alarms and lithium-ion batteries. In attending Camden and Narellan fire stations I was able to see firsthand the equipment firefighters use to be able to carry out their work effectively, including fire hoses, aerial ladders and of course the fire truck itself. It was also insightful to have a chat to the crews who work tirelessly to protect our community.

TALEEN MARCARIAN – NSW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to congratulate Taleen Marcarian on being awarded the NSW Government Community Service Award for her passionate dedication and commitment to serving the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Holy Resurrection. Located in Chatswood, this Armenian Orthodox Church serves as a spiritual and cultural home for the large Armenian community of Willoughby. Annually, the Armenian Apostolic Church holds a moving service to commemorate the Armenian Genocide on 24 April, as well as the Armenian Kermesse festival of cuisine, culture and community. Having visited this Church on several occasions, it is a wonderful place of worship, fellowship, and community where I have always been made to feel most welcome. I applaud the contribution Taleen has made to the life of her local parish Church, it attests to her faith, character, and selfless desire to serve others. Together with my colleague, the Hon Mark Speakman, I had the honour of presenting Taleen with her Award. She is a credit to her parish and has done our community proud.

MARK MACQUAIM-QUARRELL – NSW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to congratulate Mark MacQuaim-Quarrell on being awarded the NSW Government Community Service Award for his longstanding contribution to NSW Fire and Rescue. Our firefighters and emergency service workers do an amazing job to keep our community safe from fires and other hazards. Mark has served as a dedicated firefighter at Willoughby Fire Station and for his services, the Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner awarded him the 1st Clasp of the National Medal in 2019. Willoughby is home to many hectares of native bushland and every bushfire season, firefighters like Mark are indispensable to protecting property and saving lives. Around the entire year, our firefighters are busy either training for the next bushfire season or attending to fire emergencies typically occurring at residential properties or commercial premises. I applaud the contribution Mark has made to fire fighting in Willoughby, sacrificing so much to keep our residents safe. Together with my colleague, the Hon Mark Speakman, I had the honour of presenting Mark with his Award in recognition of his distinguished service.

BOOK FACE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—In a retail age where we are sadly accustomed to seeing far more bookshops close rather than open, it was gratifying to celebrate the opening of the Book Face store in Northbridge Plaza on 13 April 2024. It was a joy and honour to assist with the official ribbon cutting. This bookstore will be a welcome presence for the local community. Online book retailers will simply never replace the delight of browsing a real-life bookstore. There is something atmospheric about venturing into a bookstore to thumb through numerous tomes, smelling the pages and seeking guidance from the friendly storekeeper. For all these reasons the opening of Book Face is a welcome addition and I commend and thank store manager Amy. It was also very fortunate that the opening of Book Face coincided with the launch of Harry Russell's eighth spy novel, Dark Chicanery. I congratulate Harry and our local community is proud of him. To the Northbridge and wider Willoughby community, I say 'happy reading'!

TARONGA'S NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, congratulations to Taronga Zoo Sydney who recently unveiled two new members of the Taronga family, Lololi the eight-week-old pygmy hippo calf and three-month-old long-nosed fur seal pup Eve. Lololi is a welcome addition to Taronga's breeding program as the Pygmy Hippo is an endangered species in West Africa. She has recently been undertaking diving lessons with mum Kambiri close by and was born earlier this year in January weighing just four kilos. Born late last year on Christmas Eve, Eve the long-nosed fur seal pup is also ready to make a splash. She has been learning her swimming skills by her expert mum Keke because surprisingly seal pups are born not knowing how to swim. The keepers at Taronga have been gradually introducing Eve to greater depths of water before she takes to the larger habitat pool. Taronga do incredible work in conservation and education and so I want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of their workers, from the keepers, vets, research team, and conservation team. Thank you.

NEW MARINE RESCUE BASE MIDDLE HARBOUR

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, I want to acknowledge opening of the new Marine Rescue Middle Harbour base in my local community. It is now fully operational after a major upgrade thanks to the former Liberal Government, who supported and invested in this project. Earlier this month, I was fortunate enough to attend the official opening of the new building. The new base reflects its surroundings, the stunning Middle Harbour shoreline, with the striking design drawing its inspiration from the contours of a ship. The interiors are framed by walls of glass, giving visitors a front-row view of the harbour. The new Marine Rescue Base serves as a token of gratitude to the wonderful volunteers at the Middle Harbour Base, who play a vital role in keeping locals and visitors safe in our waterways. I want to personally thank Unit Commander Peter Steigrad, for his immense contribution to our local community. Sadly, we will soon be saying farewell to Peter at the end of this month. Thank you Peter for all you have done.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 50 YEARS COMMEMORATION

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, I want to recognise the achievements of a few dedicated North Shore constituents who recently attained 50 years of service as a Justice of the Peace. I was recently able to join with some local JPs here at Parliament for an event honouring their commitment and service to our local community. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr Noel McKenzie, Mr Michael Morton-Evens OAM, and Mr Robert Riches, who were there to receive their certificate on the day. I would also like to congratulate the North Shore locals who were unfortunately not present on the day; Mr Edwin Maltby, Mr William Peel, Mr Robert Macdonald, Mr Ian Jagger, Mr Phillip Cave AM, and Mr Anthony Debenham. Congratulations to all these recipients for your service to our local community, fifty years as a Justice of the Peace is an outstanding achievement. Thank you on behalf of the north shore community for your decades of dedication to serving our local area, we are truly grateful.

OPENING OF GLADESVILLE RESERVE

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – Gladesville Reserve is now officially open after extensive renovation. Despite the rain, I was grateful to join All Saints Hunters Hill Football Club for the ribbon cutting on the 20th of April. This project is a culmination of years of hard work from the All-Saints leadership and Hunters Hill Council Staff. I want to specifically thank Club volunteers Euan MacLeod and Michael Clayton, Hunters Hill General Manager Mitchell Murphy, Hunters Hill Mayor Zac Miles and Hunters Hill Councillors Julia Preiston and Tatyana Virgara.

2RRR – SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITIES

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker -I would like to thank Cate Sinclair for helping to shine a light on the challenges facing domestic violence. Cate, the CEO of The Northern Centre, a community support service, recently joined Gladesville based radio station 2RRR for an in-depth discussion about the struggles some charities are facing to address the growing need for support. It is essential that as we work together to solve this domestic violence crisis, we have an open and honest conversation about the needs of frontline charities, like the Northern Centre, and I want to thank 2RRR and Cate for drawing our attention to these issues.

GREENWICH FLYING SQUADRON

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – I would like to celebrate the Centenary Year of the Greenwich Flying Squadron. It was founded 100 years ago in 1924 and was originally a 12ft Skiff Club. Over the years it has been overtaken by dinghies and skiffs and junior training programs have been added. Currently, they participate in twilight yacht racing and one of their major events is the Australia Day Regatta. They show what it means to be truly Australian by racing as teams across the Harbour and up and down the east

coast. Greenwich Flying Squadron is committed to training juniors and extend this to the less fortunate with their Youth off the Streets program. This year, around 35 children from complex backgrounds were offered an opportunity to sail on a yacht, receive a free meal and gift from the club. Congratulations to this fine club!

FRANK GRAY OVAL

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise the Parliament that Frank Gray Oval at North Curl Curl, in my electorate of Manly, has been named by Cricket NSW as the best in the state for lower grade matches. Competition for the title was hotly contested with 12 other ovals also vying for the top spot. The ovals were judged by umpires, taking account of pitch performance, condition and outfield, as well as markings and maintenance. Congratulations to all those involved in maintaining the Frank Gray Oval to such an award-winning standard, including those from Northern Beaches Council. Special mention should also be made of Mr Roselio Dias from Green Options for producing such high-quality wickets all season. Warringah Cricket Club has also expressed its appreciation for all the hard work and dedication to ensure the grounds are playable to such a high standard. An official presentation of the award will be made at the Sydney Shires Cricket presentation night on 10 May. Well done to all involved.

STRAWKLING

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to highlight the contribution 'Strawklings' is making to improve our environment. The initiative involves donning goggles and snorkel to clean up our underwater coastline with a focus on removing single-use plastic items like straws. Operation Straw began as a volunteer led organisation, with a focus on tackling the alarming amount of plastic found in Manly Cove. Since its inception in December 2017, the volunteer group has hosted over 50 events with over 200 participants and collected five thousand straws and other plastics. The group is now encouraging others to strawkling in their local areas and empower their local communities, individuals, families and businesses, to make the switch away from single-use plastics. Operation Straw claims more than eight million tonnes of plastic makes its way into the ocean every year and invites others to join the Strawkling Squad through its 'Operation Straw' website and consider additional ways to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment.

STELLA MARIS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to highlight one of the community service projects undertaken by students of Stella Maris College, in my electorate of Manly. During this year, some of the senior students have been generously volunteering their time at the Women and Children First Refuge to help support primary-aged school children in a homework club. Not only are they supporting the children academically, but also with peer relations at a time of transition and upheaval. Student, Ava Nicolson wrote: "Participating in the homework club has been a rewarding and truly special experience that I believe is making a difference in the community and to individuals. At the program, I have formed connections with a few of the kids and I look forward to seeing them each week and spending time helping with their homework and bonding over our favourite chip flavours." 'Crunching' through the homework sound like a great plan. Special mention should also be made of Jasmine Kovel, Caitlin Turnbull and Millie O'Sullivan for their involvement in this important work.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—I recently attended a celebration of Women in Leadership hosted by the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce. The evening was a recognition of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in south-west Sydney. It was valuable to appreciate the contribution and importance of many local women to south-west Sydney's regional economy through their own contributions as business owners, managers and leaders. A panel discussion featured insightful contributions from speakers across business, government and health, which spoke to a theme of encouraging women to get involved. I want to highlight that one in three small businesses in Australia are now run by women. Between 2006 and 2021, the number of female small business owners increased by 24 percent, more than three times that of their male counterparts. I commend the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce for organising the event, with particular thanks to CEO Wally Mehanna, the board of directors and the event sponsors.

BIGGE PARK ANZAC DAY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—On the 25th of April 1915, soldiers from Australia and New Zealand formed part of the expedition to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula. In remembrance of Australians killed in Gallipoli, April 25th was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916. Since then, ANZAC Day has sought to remember the sacrifice of all Australians killed in military operations. I joined many members of our community for Liverpool's moving ANZAC Day dawn service in Bigge Park, organized by the City of Liverpool RSL Sub Branch. The ANZAC spirit was on full display, with Army personnel leading Liverpool's Catafalque party, and members of Moorebank Squadron of the Australian Air League and Liverpool City Brass Band participating the

commemorations. I extend my appreciation to the Liverpool RSL Sub Branch for their efforts in organising the ANZAC Day dawn service and march.

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I want to acknowledge Layla, Francesca, Destin and Floyd, four wonderful student leaders at Ultimo Public School. When I recently had the pleasure of visiting the school along with the Deputy Premier, senior Department of Education officials, and a media entourage in tow, we were greeted by Layla, Francesca, Destin and Floyd. These four young leaders took this all in their stride, welcomed us and put us all at ease with their wonderful conversation skills. They took us on a short tour of the school and looked after us all before a short media announcement was made. I would like to thank Layla, Francesca, Destin and Floyd for being such wonderful student leaders and such fine representatives for your school.

BARBARA HOWES

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)—Barbara Howes a true Central Coast local who currently resides in Wyong, has positively impacted the Community in many ways. Barbara and her sister Irene Mott donated knitted blankets for Dr, Hamlin's Hospital in Ethiopia, knitted woollen caps for the soldiers in Afghanistan, knitted children's jumpers for the Guardian Angel Project. The pair also knitted blankets for the future Palliative Care Unit at Wyong Hospital and knitted beanies for the sailors who come to the Mission to Seafarers in Newcastle. We Care Connect charity receive toys and clothing collected by Barbara who genuinely goes out of her way to make a difference in the community. Barbara and Irene have been preparing Shoe Boxes for around 15 years for Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes with a little help from Irene's grandchildren, Jessica who's been helping since 4-years old and Noah. At the Wyong Anglican Church Mothers Union Barbara wrapped baby booties, prepared baby bundles for the Maternity Unit at Wyong Hospital, premature baby clothing and knitting for Gosford Hospital and baby knitting for the Aboriginal Birthing Unit at Tuggerah. For over 40 years Barbara's organised weekly social tennis groups at Wyong Tennis Club and currently a Life Member.

KANE NORRIS

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)—Sergeant Kane Norris from Wyong Police Station officially retired from his duties after 36 years on Friday 3, May 2024. The celebration involved his family, friends, and colleagues as he marched out of Wyong Police Station sharing his lifelong goal and dedication to policing. Sergeant Norris, also known as 'Chuck' to his peers began his journey in 1987 graduating from the Police Academy and started his career as a probationary constable stationed at Gosford Police Station. Mr Norris served the Central Coast community for 16 years in both general duties and as a detective. He was then transferred to NSW North Coast at Kingscliff and in 1996 secured a permanent position at Toukley Police Station. Climbing through the ranks, promoted to Sergeant at Gilgandra in 2008, before again returning to his home ground at Tuggerah Lakes Police District in 2013 and served the Central Coast onwards. During Mr Norris's career he has guided and developed many junior police of all ranks and provided invaluable service, particularly to the Central Coast community. I would like to thank Mr Norris for his service in keeping the community safe across the Central Coast.

VICTORIA JOHNSON

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—I rise to acknowledge and congratulate Victoria Johnson, a student from Freeman Catholic College in Bonnyrigg, who was recently selected to play with the AFL NSW/ACT Indigenous U14 AFL team. On the 20th of April, Victoria played against a multicultural heritage team through the Sydney Academy of Sport at Blacktown International Sports Park. Victoria has also been asked to represent Australia and travel to Ireland, the UK and France as part of a junior girls' AFL tour and receive elite developmental coaching. This a fabulous opportunity for Victoria to represent Australia, her region and other girls in AFL on the world stage. I wish Victoria all the best as she embarks on her tour of Europe, and I look forward to seeing other students similarly realize their sporting aspirations. I acknowledge all those who have been part of Victoria's journey to achieving this significant milestone – coaches, parents, family, teammates, and friends. Our elite athletes are so often supported by a legion of people, which in turn makes our community a better place. Victoria's sporting success is a testament to south-west Sydney's formidable sporting tradition and the immense talent and potential of our young people.

OCEAN FOODS, DRUMMOYNE

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate Mr George Nittis, the Nittis family and the entire Ocean Foods staff on their outstanding win taking out the Most Outstanding Fast Food/Takeaway

category at the Inner West Local Business Awards. With over 100 years of experience in the fish and chips business, Ocean Foods has cemented its place as a Drummoyne institution. George and his team's dedication to serving only the freshest, highest-quality seafood, combined with his commitment to customer service, has earned the loyalty of generations of customers in our community. This well-deserved award is a testament to the hard work and passion of the Nittis family, who have consistently delivered exceptional food and service to the community. From their humble beginnings to their current success, Ocean Foods has remained true to its values of quality, tradition, and community. It was a pleasure to present this award to the team and I am proud to see this beloved business receive the recognition it deserves. I sincerely congratulate George and the Ocean Foods team on this wonderful achievement and wish them all the very best in future

SONG NGUYEN – SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, HARDING MILLER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury)—Mr Speaker, I attended the Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarship awarding ceremony on the 6th May 2024. The Harding Miller Foundation is an Australian charity that supports high potential girls who may not have access to the resources they need to make the most of their education. It provides a \$20,000 scholarship over four years of high school. The Foundation has awarded over 1,200 scholarships since 2016. It was established by Kim Harding and Irene Miller in 2015 to provide economic and social opportunities for young women. I was pleased to present a scholarship certificate on behalf of the Foundation to Song Nguyen who attends the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, Richmond. Congratulations to Song and all 22 scholars from across Australia who will benefit from this scholarship program. These girls are our future leaders. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HAWKESBURY CITY NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2024 SEASON

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury)—Mr Speaker, the Hawkesbury City Netball Association launched their 2024 season on the 4th May 2024. The Association is growing from strength to strength with over 1300 registered players in 10 clubs. It was an honour to witness the launch with Association patron, Beatrice Bessell, who first played in 1965. The success of Hawkesbury netballers is attributable to the sponsors, volunteers, club officials, coaches and umpires. Congratulations to Glossodia Netball Club, who have reached their 40th anniversary. Glossodia was awarded parade trophy for the best small club. The Hawkesbury district has produced many representative players, including Liz Ellis, former captain of Australian Diamonds and most capped international player for Australia. I wish all players and the volunteers the best for the 2024 netball season. Thank you Mr Speaker.

NORTHERN BEACHES LIFEGUARDS SAVE 100-YEAR-OLD TURTLE

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst)—I would like to commend Northern Beaches lifeguards, David Hooper and Tiaan Cronje, who on the 17th March this year, rescued an endangered leatherback turtle a kilometre off the coast of Dee Why Beach. Alerted by The Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans [ORRCA] about an entangled marine creature, lifeguards Hooper and Cronje wasted no time reaching the distressed turtle, which was ensnared in a loose shark net. Launching into action, the two men freed the turtle after around 20 minutes of work, releasing it back into the ocean. Their swift and professional action saved this amazing animal, which was later estimated to be almost 100 years old. Thank you David and Tiaan for your courage and care for our local wildlife.

THE LITTLE DOG CLUB DOGGY DAY CARE

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to sincerely congratulate Kirstie Sullivan and The Little Dog Club Doggy Day Care in Concord West on the well-deserved win at the Inner West Local Business Awards in the Most Outstanding Pet Care category. Kirstie's journey as a young woman in business is truly inspiring, having founded The Little Dog Club Doggy Day Care during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her dedication to providing a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for furry friends has resonated with pet owners across the Inner West. The Little Dog Club's commitment to customer service and care is to be commended. Kirstie's passion for dogs, combined with her entrepreneurial spirit to have a go, has created a thriving business that brings joy to many across our community. This award is a testament to Kirstie's hard work, innovative thinking, and love for our four-legged companions, who are our family members. I congratulate Kirstie once again on this outstanding achievement and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

UNDER 17'S AUSTRALIAN SUBWAY SOCCEROOS JOEY'S SQUAD

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge local footballers, Jordan Graorski and Jai Ajanovic on being named in the under 17 Australian Subway Socceroos Joeys Squad ("Joeys") ahead of October's Asian Cup Qualifiers. As a result of their selection in the Joeys squad, Jordan and Jai joined some of Australia's best young footballers at an intensive two-week training camp in Italy. The goal of the training camp was not just to develop their own skills but to also see how they worked as a playing group by introducing them to the philosophy

and principles of the Joeys team. Whilst in Europe, they also competed against the Under-16 Switzerland and Under-17 Inter Milan FC teams. These talented footballers have grown and developed together locally. From humble beginnings, these best mates have played together since the under-10s competition which saw Jordan with the Gwawley Bay Gladiators and Jai with Gynea United. More recently, they were both chosen for the NSW team in the Australian Championships, as Sutherland Sharks Football Club juniors and the Central Coas Mariners Under-20's squads. I commend Jordan and Jai on being selected for the Under-17 Australian Subway Socceroos Joeys Squad and wish them every success.

REG SYMONS

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Reg Symons of Miranda on his milestone 100th birthday which he celebrated on 23 April 2024. By way of background, Mr Symons has been a resident of the Sutherland Shire for decades, buying his first piece of land and building his home on it in Sutherland. He now resides at St Basil's Miranda where he held his centenary celebrations alongside his cherished family and friends, and other residents. One of Mr Symons' blessings in reaching 100 years of age is sharing his life and memories with his two children and 12 grandchildren. During his retirement, Mr Symons gave back to our community through volunteering at the Sutherland Toy Restoration Centre in Jannali. The Centre is much loved by our community and specialises in the production, repair, and restoration of used toys as a way of supporting underprivileged families in our local area. This spirit of volunteering held by Mr Symons' highlights his character and his desire to help others. I wish Mr Symons a very happy 100th birthday and many more years of good health, joy and laughter.

KAELAH AUSTIN

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate Kaelah Austin, from Dapto, who has been selected as club captain of the Illawarra Stingrays for 2024. Starting her football journey in Dapto Junior FC, in the Under 6's Kaelah instantly took to the sport. At 13 she debuted in First Grade for the Stingrays. Kaelah has represented Stingrays in State Titles, winning 2 State Titles. She has also played in 2 Grand Final Wins for Stingrays in Youth WNPL Under 14's and Under 17's. Kaelah still plays in the Senior Squad today. Her passion for football and love of Stingrays has driven her to "give back" and now she coaches for our Youth teams in Under 14's to 15's WNPL Youth and is assistant Coach to Under 16's this year. She has worked so hard and embodies all that you could ask from a club person. Through the highs and lows of her football career, she is an excellent mentor who can be a voice of experience for the next generation female footballers coming through. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Kaelah on this wonderful achievement and wish her well in all her future sporting endeavours.
