

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday 21 June 2024

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2024

ELECTORAL FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2024

RESIDENTIAL (LAND LEASE) COMMUNITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendment.

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

ENERGY SECURITY CORPORATION BILL 2024

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA TRUST BILL 2024

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills with amendments. I set down consideration of the amendments as an order of the day for a later hour.

[Notices of motions given.]

DAVID BERRY HOSPITAL AMENDMENT (PROHIBITION OF SALE) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Gareth Ward, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:19): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today I introduce a bill, for and on behalf of the people of Berry and the Kiama electorate, to amend the David Berry Hospital Act 1906 to prohibit the sale or disposal of the lands on which David Berry Hospital stands. This Labor Government, when elected, declared that the victory was a "vote against privatisation", as reported by the Financial Review on 25 March 2023. Whilst the anti-privatisation agenda has seen the prevention of the privatisation of Sydney Water and Hunter Water, there is no protection for humble but historically significant David Berry Hospital and the lands on which it stands. "A sphere of protection," the Premier said, in his joint media release with the Minister for Water, "ensuring these essential assets will always belong to the people of New South Wales."

David Berry Hospital and its lands are also an essential asset. In fact, it was a gift to the people of Berry by the Berry family, and my community wants to see it stay that way. We should not be closing any medical facilities, particularly given the Government's agenda of big development and growth. This humble bill puts a stop to the sale of David Berry Hospital. Indeed, I would be pleased to withdraw this bill today if the Minister for Health, who is absent from the Chamber, could come into this place and rule out the sale of David Berry Hospital. It is simple. In fact, a whole bunch of members could have walked into the Chamber and said it was not on the cards. But it is on the cards.

As this Government has not bothered to properly consult with my community and has treated it like dirt, I am left with no other option than to bring this bill before the House. It is not often you get a public interest debate

priming legislation in this place, and I refer to the debate on 15 May 2024 and the arguments by both sides on that day in considering this bill. I will return to some of that in due course. The people are against the sale of this special site, as they were when Bob Harrison, a former member for Kiama, expressed total opposition to the closure or sale in 1994. Mr Harrison was a great member for Kiama, and he remains a good Labor man.

Labor members should be ashamed of themselves for voting against a motion ruling out the sale of David Berry Hospital. As I said during the public interest debate, the motion I proposed was exactly the same as the one proposed by the former member opposing the sale of the site, almost 30 years ago to the day, in this very Chamber. David Berry's 1889 will expressly provided a bequest of £100,000 for the erection and endowment of a hospital. However, governance of the hospital is under the terms of the David Berry Hospital Act 1906, which overrides the will and includes a provision for the Government to sell the site if it not required as a hospital.

The site provides nine beds in Karinya Palliative Care Unit and a 17-bed rehab unit. The State Heritage buildings are situated on 11.6 hectares. In addition to being listed in the State Heritage Register, the hospital adjoins the Illawarra subtropical rainforest, officially recognised as the Illawarra lowland subtropical rainforest, an ecological endangered community. It is a special place for conservationists and community groups. These are areas with endangered species, such as the greater glider.

There are many reasons to ensure this site is not sold off for development. But I fear this is exactly what the Minns Labor Government is priming the community to do. Whether it is from a health perspective of a tranquil place to receive treatment, be it palliative care, end-of-life care, rehabilitation or counselling, or whether it is through a conservationist lens, there is no good reason to sell the site and not back my bill. This Government is keen to talk up its position on koalas and buy land for national parks to protect our environment, and I support that, but this bill also protects an important community asset as well as incredibly delicate and precious environmental assets.

It is important to preserve this site also for its historical value. Over time, the hospital has seen changes, from its temporary cottage on the banks of Broughton Creek, expansion and construction of an Aboriginal ward, a maternity ward, a women's ward, an isolation ward and a men's ward, through to its current rehabilitation and palliative care services. This goes to the heart of preserving heritage and history, not just for the site but for many families around Berry and our community. A passion for the community and what makes Berry so special is why it keeps getting voted a top tourism town. We do not want to see this history lost. For the benefit of those opposite, I refer to the speech of the former member for Kiama on 21 April 1994, in *Hansard*, for a full and complete history of this particular site. I will not go over that speech again today.

Sadly, we have recently seen endangered rainforest on the site being cleared. This Government should stop playing games with its consultation and secret legal advice to determine any future options for the site. The member for the South Coast noted that I was being an alarmist when I raised her Government's desecration of the environment on the hospital site. I say two things to that. The matter is currently being investigated by the New South Wales Government and its agencies and the Federal Government. One ancient tree cut down is one too many. Whilst I was concerned by the comments from the member for South Coast, I was even more concerned about comments from The Greens in this place.

The Greens voted against the motion to oppose the privatisation—the sell-off—of the building and the site. I was absolutely appalled to see members of The Greens line up with the Labor Government and support the sale. For evermore *Hansard* will show that members of The Greens voted to sell off a hospital. The Greens should be ashamed of themselves. I know that local members of The Greens in my electorate are appalled by their so-called Macquarie Street standard-bearers for voting to flog off a hospital. It is bad enough that the Labor Party talks out of both sides of its mouth—members are used to that—but for the puritanical set that is The Greens to vote to sell off a hospital shows that they are exactly what they are: a bunch of whingeing, canting hypocrites.

This bill provides an opportunity for the Government to show the community that it cares and that it will keep David Berry Hospital in community hands. Berry and its region has a large proportion of retirees, many of whom are self-funded. It has an ageing population—an exploding population, in fact. With the Government's housing targets in mind—not that I want to necessarily talk about those today—it is an opportunity to create even more services for our region. What an opportunity to create another successful urgent care centre to relieve emergency services or an opportunity to create a centre for women escaping domestic violence—or a space for the arts and culture, community events, gardens or education! Or will the site be developed into just another wedding venue or another hotel by this Labor Government?

I would be pleased, as I said, to drop this bill, should the Government commit to retaining David Berry Hospital and its lands, but the Government does not seem to want to do that. At the very least it is not being transparent with the community if that is what it intends to do. Why does the Government need legal advice if it intends to retain ownership? That is what the Government has done: It has sought legal advice on all options—

every single one. In 2022 the former Government and Minister Hazzard ruled out the sale of David Berry Hospital under questioning from me in question time. I thank the former Government for doing that and I also thank my friend the member for Hornsby, the shadow Minister, who also ruled it out. I take the opportunity to wish him well in his future. He is giving his valedictory speech today. That is the position of the members of the Opposition, and I thank them for it.

What was the message from this Government in that public interest debate? The member for Shellharbour noted that the Government "has committed to undertake extensive consultation with the community on future use options for David Berry Hospital for the public good", but that sits truly juxtaposed to the message that I am receiving from the community and the actions of this Government. Not one future use was mentioned by the member for Shellharbour during that debate. Instead the Government went back in time—a common trait—to blame the former Government. Government members talked about a new hospital instead of the actual topic of that debate which was about saving an asset dear to the community. The point was missed that this bill is not just about the closure of health services or the closure of a hospital; it was about the sale of an asset, an asset of historical and natural value, which is something that I thought both The Greens and Labor were for.

The member for the South Coast rightly pointed to the Indigenous value of the lands and that the purpose of the initial hospital was so that local Aboriginal women turned away from the Shoalhaven hospital could give birth there. If I could extend the notion of custodianship and responsibility for preserving our history, places of significance and our environment—very important issues—this bill does exactly that. I ask members here today to think about how they voted and the reasons for doing so. This bill is not just about the closure of a hospital; it is about the preservation of a site dating back to 1906, further back in time for the Wodi Wodi people, and further back to when the remnant rainforest stretched from the mountains to the sea. The bill is perhaps the most simple bill to understand, and even easier to vote for: a bill to amend the David Berry Hospital Act 1906 to prohibit the sale or disposal of the lands on which the David Berry Hospital stands. After section 4 of the David Berry Hospital Act 1906, the bill inserts section 4A, which reads:

4A Hospital lands must not be sold or disposed of

- (1) The hospital lands may not be sold or disposed of in any way.
- (2) A sale or disposal of land in breach of section 4A(1) has no effect.
- (3) In this section—

hospital lands means the lands used under section 4(1)(a) for the David Berry Hospital, including the lands containing any of the following used for the purposes of the David Berry Hospital—

- (a) a building,
- (b) the curtilage of a building,
- (c) any other structure, including a gate, sign, garden, car park or driveway. Further, new section 11 states that the Act binds the Crown. At 2.00 p.m. on 20 July at the Berry Uniting Church there will be a public meeting to discuss the issue further. I thank Irene Birks from the hospital auxiliary for organising that meeting. I understand that Dr Phil Lee, who is a specialist doctor in palliative care, will speak at that meeting and address the importance of retaining the site. All members come to this place to do the very best we can, and I do not know what more I could have done. I have asked questions on notice, written to the Minister, asked the Premier a question in question time and sought to use the time of this House for a public interest debate. I am now left with no other option but to present a bill to amend legislation as it stands to rule out the sale of the hospital, which is genuinely special to our community.

The bill seeks to ensure that the site is protected in perpetuity. It would be unpardonably hypocritical and arrogant for a government that seeks to claim the mantle of being opposed to privatisation to vote against the bill, or at the very least not to rule out the sale of David Berry Hospital, which would cause a great deal of relief. Again, I note that throughout this debate the member for Keira, and Minister for Health, has been absent—as he was when quite a large number of people travelled from Berry to this building. They travelled hours to be here and he could not travel one floor from his ministerial office—a Minister who, I might point out, is also the so-called Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—to be here for the debate.

I ask and plead with my colleagues on the crossbench to vote for the bill as well. This Government is not a majority government and it should not be able to behave like one. Whilst I appreciate that three members of the crossbench have an arrangement with the Government for confidence and supply for the Government's bills, that does not mean those three members cannot vote for other legislation simply because the Government opposes it. I speak directly to three members whom I have a very high regard for. I simply say to those three members that they can tell the Government that, whilst they will continue with their agreement, it does not mean they cannot support bills brought by local members genuinely pleading with the Parliament to do what the community is asking this Parliament to do. In this case, it is to rule out the sale of an incredibly important asset that was a gift to the people of Berry: the David Berry Hospital. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

**ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AMENDMENT (TENDER MORATORIUM)
BILL 2024**

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Roy Butler, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (10:33): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I introduce the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Amendment (Tender Moratorium) Bill 2024. The bill is simple but, if passed, will have a positive impact on the perception of regional people towards renewable energy projects, particularly within the renewable energy zones, or REZs, in regional New South Wales. The communication that people have with EnergyCo and power generators has been solidly unsatisfactory. Impacts are dismissed and workarounds that may be co-beneficial are ignored. The community benefits are talked about and re-announced. Most of my communities have no faith that these programs will be more than an expensive, insulting, box-ticking process.

The REZ program is crucial to the New South Wales energy road map. My attempt to temporarily halt the releasing of tenders in the REZ may be presented as a hold-up to energy security. I reject that. If the inquiry is held between tender rounds, there will be minimal interruption to the developments. The benefit is that an inquiry that must be held in a timely way to minimise impacts on tender rounds will allow the impacted communities to take centre stage. It is time government agencies and power generators took responsibility for the dissatisfied response to the implementation of the REZs.

The bill relates directly to the tender process for long-term energy service agreements by the renewable energy sector Consumer Trustee, the Australian Energy Market Operator. According to the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act, or the EII Act, a long-term energy service agreement [LTESA] is an agreement entered into between the scheme financial vehicle, or the financial trustee, and renewable project developers that provides certainty for private investment in renewable energy generation, firming and long-duration storage. In essence, the intention of these agreements is to help investors secure finance for renewable projects.

When the original bill passed both Houses, the legislative and regulatory framework was expected to provide a clear pathway for investment, development, workforce development, employment, education and training. The bill introduced the electricity infrastructure safeguard regulation, which, in theory, would ensure orderly, timely, optimised and efficient investment that meets the needs of the electricity system and the expectations of the people of New South Wales. The bill also introduced the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. In the second reading speech the Minister said:

It creates a mechanism to deliver transmission infrastructure at scale in the regions with the State's strongest energy resources while working closely with communities.

Unfortunately, these mechanisms have not achieved the desired outcomes in regional communities. We can only find out why by pausing and reviewing the Act and its regulatory framework. That is where this bill steps in. The Electricity Infrastructure and Investment Amendment (Tender Moratorium) Bill 2024 will prohibit a competitive tender for an LTESA until the completion of a parliamentary inquiry into the operation of the EII Act.

Through considerable consultation in Barwon, we know that regional communities can see the opportunity in a renewable energy transition, and they want to seize it. However, they are hamstrung by the legislative and regulatory framework. This position is backed up by a Marsden Jacob report prepared for Treasury in August 2023, the *NSW Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up*. Recommendation 9 suggests that Infrastructure NSW conduct an assurance review of the REZ program and assess procurement approaches and delivery-focused structures for EnergyCo before any procurement processes occur for future REZs.

It is clear the current process needs to be reviewed. The success of the renewable energy sector transition relies on private investment, and private investors do not have the certainty they require to invest. Communities want this investment because it means skilled jobs and social and economic growth for regional New South Wales. We need to provide certainty through the review process to activate this investment. To paint a bleak picture, we lose investment, jobs, social development and economic activity without clarity around the current processes. Instead of receiving benefits, we watch them go to another State or a large international company. We cannot waste this opportunity.

This bill requires a resolution by this House to form a parliamentary committee of the Legislative Assembly or a joint committee of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. It sets out that the Consumer Trustee, the Australian Energy Market Operator, cannot conduct a competitive tender until an inquiry is conducted and a report is tabled in each House of Parliament. The parliamentary committee must inquire into the operation of the EII Act, site selection, impacts on agriculture and business and the adequacy of regional community consultation. The inquiry must happen as soon as possible, and a report must be tabled. Only when that report is tabled can we proceed with LTESA tenders.

This inquiry will be a temperature check on something introduced four years ago in a volatile political climate demanding urgent action. Action is great but must be considered and deliberate, not reactionary. A renewable energy transition is full of opportunities, but it is raising many questions in the space of policy, with conflicting land-use demands, balancing the needs of energy, agriculture and the environment and ensuring regional communities benefit from major infrastructure projects being developed in their backyards.

Both the original legislation and the amendments had good intentions, which are evident in the contributions made in both Houses. The legislation passed with bipartisan support, so we must blaze a trail forward here whether we like it or not. However, those good intentions from both sides of politics have not translated into effective policy. We have talked the talk; it is now time to walk the walk. Losing this opportunity will be on this Parliament's watch. This is our chance to review critical legislation that has compounding impacts across our regional communities in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

BAIL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) BILL 2024
LAW ENFORCEMENT (POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT (KNIFE CRIME) BILL 2024
EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY AMENDMENT (LAND CLASSIFICATION) BILL 2024
EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY INSURANCE MONITOR BILL 2024
MUSEUMS OF HISTORY NSW AMENDMENT (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER) BILL 2024

Assent

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of messages from the Governor notifying Her Excellency's assent to the bills.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (10:40): As Chair: It is with great pleasure that I address the House as the Chair of the Legislation Review Committee. The committee tabled *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58* on Tuesday. In the digest, the committee examined 16 bills that were introduced during the last sitting week.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I understand that guests are arriving to hear the valedictory speech by the member for Hornsby. I ask that they remain silent during the committee take-note debate.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: It also reviewed six regulations and statutory instruments tabled in Parliament that did not raise any issues under section 9 of the Legislation Review Act 1987. As members are aware, the committee has the important role of reviewing all bills introduced and all statutory instruments tabled in Parliament. The committee's scrutiny of legislation informs members of both Houses and the community about the potential impact of legislation on personal rights and liberties, and any potential inappropriate exercise of government or legislative power. I draw members' attention to some of the key issues raised in the digest.

The Community Services Sector (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2024 seeks to establish a scheme for portable long service leave for eligible full-time, part-time and casual employees in the community services sector. The proposed scheme is intended to bridge the gap where employees are unable to access long service leave entitlements due to changing organisations or working for more than one employer at a time. The bill would defer a number of significant matters to the regulations, including which workers and community services are eligible to participate in the scheme, the procedure and processes for appeals, and part of the formula for determining long service leave payments. The committee acknowledged that the provisions may be intended to build more

flexibility into the regulatory framework and to allow regulators to better respond to changing circumstances, including changing community services. However, the committee referred the issue to Parliament for further consideration, noting that the substantive matters deferred to the regulations may significantly affect individual workers' entitlements.

Turning to another Government bill, the committee also reported on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Transparency and Fit and Proper Persons) Bill 2024. The bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and certain other Acts and regulations to expand and improve the transparency of animal welfare enforcement. The proposed amendments would extend the circumstances where a court must make a disqualification order for persons committing an offence under section 5 of the Act. The committee acknowledged that the court would retain appropriate discretions to determine whether there is any special circumstance to justify not making the order. It also acknowledged that the proposed amendment is intended to deliver on the "fit and proper person" regime and enhance animal welfare protections. However, the committee noted that the proposed changes may effectively limit the court's judicial discretion and impact on the procedural fairness of a person convicted under the Act.

The bill also seeks to allow a relevant agency to collect, use or disclose information to another relevant agency if they consider it appropriate to give the information in relation to a significant risk to safety. The term "information" would include personal information, and the term "relevant agency" would include "another entity" prescribed by the regulations. Further, the bill does not specify what amounts to an "appropriate" disclosure or who may be prescribed as "another entity" under the regulations. The committee acknowledged that the proposed amendment may be intended to ensure that government and enforcement agencies can efficiently and appropriately share relevant information to support the administration and enforcement of animal welfare.

However, the bill may impact individual privacy rights by allowing a relevant agency to provide personal information for collection and use. The committee notes that these provisions would empower a relevant agency, including a private entity, to require disclosure of personal information by another relevant agency without needing to notify that person of the disclosure or providing an opportunity to object. For these reasons, the committee has referred these issues to Parliament for its consideration. That concludes my remarks on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58*. I encourage everyone to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage. I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions to the digest, and the secretariat for their support. I commend the digest to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (10:45): It is my great pleasure to comment on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58*. I thank the chair for her great leadership of the committee, and the secretariat for its fantastic work to put these reports together. The committee considered 16 bills and six regulations. There were no comments on the regulations. We raised concerns with 10 of the bills. In particular, there were a number of comments on the Community Services Sector (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2024. Some issues were raised with the bill around the right to autonomy and workers' consent not being required for registration. The bill provides that the Long Service Corporation may register a person as a worker when the person has not applied but there is evidence that they are or were a worker and the corporation is satisfied that they should be registered. The subsections impact an individual's right to personal autonomy by permitting them to be registered without their consent. The committee notes that the register would contain personal information about workers under section 17, which may infringe on their privacy rights.

A second comment raised about the bill concerned the wide official powers, property rights and the right to silence and privilege against self-incrimination. The proposed bill would grant broad entry, search and seizure powers to inspectors under part 8, including powers to enter premises with or without a search warrant; examine and inspect the premises and any records or other documents; and seize any documents or things suspected to relate to an offence under the Act or regulations. Entry to and search of non-residential premises without the occupier's consent can occur at any time using reasonable force. Entry to and search of residential premises without the occupier's consent can be authorised by applying for a search warrant from an authorised officer. By providing for broad powers to enter, search and seize items, the bill may impact on a person's privacy and property rights.

Thirdly, we discussed the Henry VIII clause. I thank the secretariat for the opportunity to talk once again about the Henry VIII clause. I am always happy when the clause is identified in a bill. In this particular bill the Henry VIII clause has been identified as a concern. A subsection of the proposed Act allows for schedule 1 to be amended by the regulations. The subsection may therefore amount to the Henry VIII clause by allowing the Executive to alter the operation of the parent Act without reference to the Parliament. The committee generally considers Henry VIII clauses to be an inappropriate delegation of legislative powers. The committee does acknowledge the administrative efficiency of deferring the amendment of schedule 1 to the regulations. However, as the regulation-making power relates to which workers are eligible for long service leave, the committee refers

the matter to the Parliament. That concludes my comments on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58*. I suggest that all members take a moment during the winter break to read this magnificent report. I commend the report to the House.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (10:49): I make a contribution to the take-note debate on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58*, published 18 June 2024. I am heartened by the reception it received from those opposite. It is a cracking read, as it always is. One of the downsides is that during a double sitting week members only have a short time to read it because there is a quick turnaround. That is disappointing. They are all available on the website and I encourage members to read them.

Mr Mark Coure: You want more pictures.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: I note the contribution from the member for Oatley where he wished he had a packet of crayons and there were more pictures in the digest. Alas, there are only words in the report—some big words—so the member might need a dictionary to accompany his reading. He would learn quite a bit if he read the digest.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The member for Oatley will come to order.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: The member for Upper Hunter spoke about the Henry VIII clause. They were raised in the Community Services Sector Bill. The committee raised concerns about some other bills, including the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill 2024. In that bill the issues identified were absolute liability offences, which are commonly raised here, significant custodial penalty, as well as penalty notices offences and wide powers of delegation. The Electoral Funding Amendment Bill 2024 potentially had some retrospective issues. No doubt we will hear from the Minister on those. Some of the issues raised about the Energy Legislation Amendment (Clean Energy Future) Bill 2024 included its commencement by proclamation and the removal of offences from the Act, its wide regulation-making powers and the making of guidelines and ministerial powers. There were issues with the Energy Security Corporation Bill 2024. Those matters were deferred to regulation.

Commencement by proclamation was one of the issues identified by the committee in the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Absolute liability offences were noted also as a potential issue in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Transparency and Fit and Proper Persons) Bill 2024. In the Statue Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024, an issue was a statutory rule expressed to commence before publication on the New South Wales legislation website. There were some issues about transparency and making sure those things are available at an appropriate time. The Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 had wide powers of delegation listed amongst its issues. The Work Health and Safety Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2024 was the last bill. The committee identified commencement by proclamation as an issue, which it has expressed on a number of occasions is not the preferred method.

The following bills were reported on without any issues: Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (Liberalisation) Bill 2024; Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria Trust Bill 2024; Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Disallowance of Transport Oriented Development SEPP) Bill 2024, which seeks to prevent transport oriented development—why would we want to do that?—Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Balloons) Bill 2024; Rice Marketing Amendment Bill 2024; Road Rules Amendment (Helmets-Sikh Exemption) Bill 2024. I am happy to report that there were no issues with regulations. I encourage all members to read the digest.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (10:53): I make a brief contribution to the take-note debate on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 15/58* because of the fundamental importance of this committee, which often the House does not pay sufficient attention to. As the House knows, the function of the committee is to report to both Houses whether the wording or intention of the bills and regulations that are introduced unduly impact upon personal rights, liberties and obligations of citizens. It also requires Ministers to provide the committee with a document about that before the committee considers a bill, but Ministers, including me, are struggling to meet that timetable.

However, there are some very significant issues raised by the committee and it is important that Ministers and the House take them into consideration, as they may have horrendous consequences. For example, the committee's review of the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill 2024 (No 2) caught my attention. Clause 7 of the bill requires a responsible person of a relevant building or vehicle to ensure that publicly accessible defibrillators are maintained. The clause proposes to establish an absolute liability offence for failure to comply with this maintenance requirement. The offence carries a maximum penalty of a fine of \$19,800 or 180 penalty units. It is understandable that the Parliament would want to legislate to compel people to properly maintain automated external defibrillators, because they are a life-saving device. But that needs to be balanced by

proper consideration of who may become liable under the circumstances. Is it going to be a community-based volunteer of a soccer club who, through a particular failure, will automatically be subject to an absolute liability offence? Should another mechanism or notice mechanism be inserted therein?

I ask the Minister to take those issues seriously and to inform the House, when the bill is debated, as to what the final decision is. It is not for me or the committee to import a prohibition upon the implementation of a penalty—to do so in this case might affect a human life—but a balance needs to be drawn. The Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill 2024 (No 2) also proposes significant penalties for damaging or destroying a defibrillator. Clause 9 of the bill provides that a person must not intentionally and without a reasonable excuse damage, destroy or remove a defibrillator. Noncompliance would be an offence carrying an almost \$10,000 fine and/or five years imprisonment. This House needs to send a very clear message to people in this State that it will not tolerate, under any circumstances, the destruction or damage of automated external defibrillators, because human lives are at stake. But the committee points out to the House that the bill does not specify what circumstances or factors may warrant the maximum custodial penalty of five years imprisonment. *[Time expired.]*

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (10:58): I have the great pleasure of acting as deputy chair of the Legislation Review Committee. It is one of four committees of which I am a member. I want to let the people of New South Wales know exactly what this committee does. The membership of the committee consists of the member for Auburn, who is the chair of the committee; me, as deputy chair; the member for Parramatta; the member for Leppington; the member for Upper Hunter; and Ms Sue Higginson, the Hon. Jacqui Munro and the Hon. Cameron Murphy from the Legislative Council. The committee is assisted by its secretariat. I thank the secretariat for its hard work. The committee scrutinises all bills introduced into the New South Wales Parliament.

The digest examines 16 pieces of legislation that have been put before Parliament, on which comments have been made, and six regulations where there have been no comments made. The Electoral Funding Amendment Bill seeks to expand the definition of administrative expenditure that can be claimed from the Administration Fund under the Electoral Funding Act 2018. The Act currently provides that if a member of Parliament can claim an expenditure item through their parliamentary allowance, they cannot claim this expenditure through the Administration Fund. The proposed amendments would create a specific exception for members' electoral allowances, which are a type of parliamentary allowance. These amendments would apply retrospectively from 1 April 2023.

The committee commented on provisions that are drafted to have retrospective effect. In this case, the committee noted that the retrospective application of the amendments would not adversely impact a person's rights or liberties. The committee also noted that the retrospective application is intended to provide legislative clarity for those making and determining claims for payment from the fund. For this reason, the committee made no further comment. That is the work that the Legislation Review Committee undertakes. I thank the chair, Lynda Voltz, who does an extraordinary job in making sure that those meetings are very efficient. Again, I thank all of my colleagues from this Chamber and from the other place. I acknowledge all the hard work by the secretariat. The committee does really important work. I commend the digest to the House and encourage everyone to have a good read of it during the break. It is well worth it.

Report noted.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The SPEAKER: I advise members that photographers are approved to cover the valedictory speech today. Before I call the member for Hornsby, I acknowledge some of our guests in the gallery, which is always fraught when there are so many people here wishing to see to see the member for Hornsby leave—no, sorry, wishing to hear his valedictory speech. I acknowledge members of the member for Hornsby's family: Noel Kean, the member for Hornsby's father; Cecilia Kean, Matt's mother; Wendy Paterson, Matt's partner, who I have never had the pleasure of meeting but I have heard so much of from Matt; and Tom—the new generation of Keans—Emma Dixon, Matt's sister; and Damien Kean. Welcome.

Also notable in Australia's first Parliament and the beating heart of representative democracy in Australia, the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, I recognise the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, a former Prime Minister, and his wife, Lucy. I also acknowledge the former President of the Legislative Council, who has joined us and is seated to my left, which is not something I would normally say about Don Harwin. I welcome Don, to my left, and to my right I acknowledge the presence of the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin.

We have former member of the Federal Parliament and Mayor of Hornsby the Hon. Philip Ruddock with us. We also have current members Paul Fletcher and Julian Leeser. If anyone does not know Michael Photios,

they have not been around for long. Also we have so many family members and friends of the member here. This is a significant moment, and it gives me mixed feelings to call my friend the member for Hornsby to make his valedictory speech.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (11:05): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the House for the indulgence. It has been 13 years since I delivered my inaugural speech to this Chamber as an unknown, new MP. Today, thanks to Scott Morrison, that is no longer the case. Almost the first words I spoke were about my refusal to approach politics cynically. With the passage of time, despite a little less hair and some lovely character references from my friends at *Sky After Dark*, I can say unequivocally that my optimism remains undiminished. People elected to this Parliament should never forget that politics is a service. And, when you stay true to your values, work with a clear purpose, show a willingness to see good people and good ideas across the aisle and remember we are ultimately here to leave New South Wales in a better state than we inherited it, it can also be a joy.

I was lucky to see the importance placed on service in the family in which I was raised and the community in which I lived. In my maiden speech, I reflected on my grandfather Jack Kean, who served in World War II, and referenced my father Noel Kean's career as a public servant and my mother Cecilia's time as a teacher and a community volunteer. I spoke of a community of volunteers and hardworking, generous and caring people wanting to contribute to our civic fabric. To then have the opportunity to serve them as their elected representative is one of life's great honours.

I hope I have done justice to the faith shown in me by the people of Hornsby. I cherished the opportunity to work with you and on your behalf, to take Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital from an institution under threat to one of the State's finest, to deliver NorthConnex and upgrades to New Line Road, and deliver accessibility improvements to the Normanhurst, Mount Colah, Hawkesbury River, Thornleigh and Waitara train stations. Mark Taylor Oval has been redeveloped, and Hornsby Quarry is being converted into one of Sydney's great open spaces—the Centennial Park of the north. We created Berowra Valley National Park, protecting an incredible part of our bushland shire forever. And Galston and Cowan have finally been connected to the sewerage system. I thank everyone who has worked alongside me in delivering results for my community, particularly some of the most special Hornsby locals I have had the pleasure of working with and who have become now my closest friends.

I would like to acknowledge Peter and Patsy Marshall, Janda Longhorn, the Baynie and Sarkis families, who alone make up most of my community, Peter and Frida Srour—Frida left the birthing suite to vote for me in my original preselection when her son Joey was hours old; I will never forget that or be able to repay it—Neil Ashworth, Peter Kirkwood, Stuart and Linda English, Lori Modde, Alexi Boyd, Tila and Manoj Gera, Ted and Pauline Henebry, Maree Sumpton, Bruce Wood, Mark Rushton, the Shadie family, Terry and Lyn James, Elizabeth Amvrazis, Matt Pinchbeck, Jamie Davidson, Anthea and Theo Klitch, Lisa Rothwell, Martin Dargan, Cathy Ruggero and the Steptoe crew, Matt and Carrie Gleeson, Meghan Gamson, Sonja and Andy Cameron, Jerry Hook, Mike Langford, Graham Gorrie, Roy and Clare Ashpol, Julie Fitzgerald, Brian Fulmer, Ted Boyce, Anthony Sukari, Ian Best, Shannon Jones, Wendy Escott, Adam Cryer, Col Bourke, Pat Dewey, Alf James, Geoff Knowles, Bobby and Maddie Holder, Phil Downey, Rachel Chappell, Mike Begbie, Mel Knudson and Dave Antrim, Neil Chippendale, and the wonderful Kent and Desley Walker. Andrew Marren, you are a deadset legend. I would particularly like to acknowledge the incredible Kathy Comb. Few have done more to connect and build our community than Kathy.

But my gratitude extends further, so please bear with me. Politics is a family business. Politicians sign up for public life but partners and parents have to ride the ups and downs regardless. I am so grateful to Wendy and the kids for their patience, love and support. It cannot be repaid. To my son, Tom, when you read this in a few years time I want you to know how much you have been the motivation for everything I do. I love you. To my mum, Cecilia, and my dad, Noel, I won the lottery of life having you as my parents. Thank you for your example of service and hard work. It has always been my north star. To my sister, Emma, and brother, Damien, and their families, thank you for everything. I could not be prouder of you.

I acknowledge my extended family: Uncle John, Felicity Kean, Michael Kean, Michael and Carmel Sekulich, Cathy and Eddie Rossiter, Liz and Michael Gallagher, Gerard Vince and Deb, Jane and Andy Sutton, Stephen and Joanne Vince, Patrick and Diane Vince, Chris and Kate Vince, and Peter and Bernadette Vince. I would particularly like to acknowledge my cousins Brad Kean and his wife, Clare; Alex and Anita Kean; and Olivia and Brad Howard for being my most unwavering loyal supporters, and also cousin Lockie Kean, whom we lost far too soon. We miss him so much. I give a special-shout out to my cousin Amy Kean, who had to stand aside from all work in New South Wales when I became the energy Minister. Thank you for that sacrifice and for your unwavering love. Brad, I could not have done any of this without you, mate. Each of these people has played a pivotal role in supporting me in the good times and the bad.

To my supporters Kirsty and Peter Gold, Trine Chandler and Chris Barter, Anna Jacobson and Rickard Gardell, Brett Whitford, Susan Lee, Matt Browne, Rob Purves, Gary Zamel, Fred and Therese Wollard, Ben Salmon, Julie Taylor Mills, Peter van Beek, Anthony Salteri, the Lala family, the utterly brilliant Aiden Allan and his wife, Alex, and of course the great Kim Warwick, thank you for everything; you have always had my back. I acknowledge and thank my colleagues in the parliamentary Liberal Party for their commitment to building a better State. I love the Liberal Party and know that its liberal values are what is needed to continue to drive our country forward. I would particularly like to thank my most loyal and trusted friends and supporters in here, Mark Coure, Chris Rath, Felicity Wilson, Kellie Sloane, Natalie Ward, Jordan Lane, Scott Farlow and Eleni Petinos. I could never thank you all enough. When I could not even rely on my own vote, I could still count on yours. Thank you very much.

To the National Party, I have come to admire the role you play in our Coalition family and the important voice that you provide regional Australia. I thank my friend John Barilaro, the dominant force in National Party politics for so long; my mates Paul Toole, Adam Marshall, Mel Pavey, Bronnie Taylor and, of course, Steph Cooke and Ben Franklin, who are actually undercover moderate Liberals. Sorry, Ben! Ben, I am so proud of everything that you have achieved and grateful for your unwavering loyalty and friendship.

I acknowledge the four Premiers that I served under: O'Farrell, Baird, Berejiklian and my mate Dom Perrottet. Each made a mammoth contribution to the betterment of this State and I appreciate the opportunities they provided me, so I am loath to single one out. But I have to give a special nod to my great friend and mentor Gladys Berejiklian. I still regard what happened to her as a grave injustice that denied this State one of its finest Premiers and leaders, and I know that the people of New South Wales regard her as fondly as I do. She set the standard when it came to dedication, commitment and service to the people of this State and I thank her for her incredible leadership and the unshakeable belief she had in me. I thank Mark Speakman for his friendship and I am certain that he will make a fine Premier in 2027 and beyond. I thank his staff, particularly Cheryl Gwilliam, who is amazing.

To my incredible mentors who invested so much time energy and effort in me, particularly our outstanding twenty-ninth Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He is a great man and a great friend—thank you, Malcolm. To John Brogden, where it all started, thank you forever. Our President—my President—Don Harwin has been a great mentor and friend. To Michael Photios, who had an unshakeable belief in me, thank you. To Paul Fletcher, who is here today, thank you for everything, Paul. And of course I thank the brilliant Trent Zimmerman. All of those people I mentioned are true Liberals in the Menzies tradition.

I want to acknowledge and thank Philip Ruddock for being like a second father to me. Your dedication to public service has been the absolute benchmark. I give a special shout-out to one of my closest friends in politics and in life—who also happens to be one of the most remarkable policy and political minds in the country—and that is Julian Leaser. Julian is one of the most brilliant talents on the conservative side of politics. The Liberal Party needs him now more than ever. I want to thank the policymakers and supporters who helped me in various ways. Dr Paul Grimes—one of the most outstanding public officials in the country—James Hay, Atticus Fleming, Martin Hoffman, John Tansey, Rod Stowe, Rachel Parry, Kate Wilson, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, Chris Armstrong, Professor Alan Finkel, Tracy Mackey, Justice Patricia Bergin and Tim McCallum all served me and our State with utter distinction. A special thank you to the Hornsby council officials, who do so much to support the community—especially Steven Head, James Farrington, Neil Chippendale and Steve Federow. Thank you also to Scott Phillips.

Can I also give a shout-out to the very gifted Louisa Hearn, Paul Ritchie and Glen Byers. They are the best wordsmiths in the land, who always made me sound much better than I was. Thank you to my staff, loyally and brilliantly led by two of my best friends, Ben Coles and Sean Berry, in my ministerial office. Sean and Ben are two of the best strategic, policy and political minds that I have encountered in my 13 years in Parliament. Sean is easily the best communicator and strategic mind I know, whose insights and advice have been invaluable both to me and to Gladys Berejiklian. My success was largely due to surrounding myself with brilliant people. To that end, I want to thank all the people who worked in my ministerial teams over the years, particularly Christine Chalker—the best gatekeeper in the business—the brilliant Sharon Labi, Christian Dunk, Dmitry Palmer, Alex Hall, Charlie Hoffman, Mark Connell, Anthony Brewster, Peter Poulos, Emma Rogers, Ava Hancock, Lucy Hughes Jones, Patrick Blacker, Lars Roy, "Big Jack" Kepple, Owen Shu and many more.

To my electorate office staff, who served the community of Hornsby with professionalism and dedication, thank you to Nathan Tilbury, Aaron Fawcett, Jeanette Farrell, Steven Spierings, Amanda Long, Lynne Slevin, Krish Nair, Francis Bolster, David Nouri and, of course, the kindest and hardest working electorate officer in the land, Heidi Cameron. Thank you, Heidi, for everything. I mention so many, and could mention so many more, because they helped me turn an early instinct for service into a career that allowed me to effect meaningful change.

Finally, I want to thank my Liberal family. The Hornsby Liberals are some of the best you will find across the country. To my State electoral committee president, Andrew Jetson, thank you for everything. I thank Charles Mouyat, Lara van der Wall, Parveen Gupta, Steve Russell, Warren Waddell, Sallianne McClelland, Jeremy Greenwood-Graham, Verity Greenwood, Sreeni Pillamarri, Ross Yelland, the great Steve Hopwood, Penny and Ray Becchio, Bill Lea, Peter and Helen McNamee, Uncle Joe Saliba, David Baynie, Martin Pluss, Wayne and Jacki Gobert, Steve Ball, Selva Kidnapillai, Paul McKenzie, Paul and Nancy Scuglia, Uncle Chris Evanian, Warren Hendy, Euan Gilmour, Sabah Hussain, Jack Abadee, Tony Bray, Wayne Van Balen, Daniel Dummer, Tom Green, Gina Maxted, Jonar Nader, Joan Stone, Valentino Musico, Dilip Varma, Gurdeep Singh, Paul Keighery and Abby Smith. A special shout-out to my brilliant, loyal and hardworking treasurer, Richard Hodge. You are a remarkable talent.

Also, to my supporters in the broader Liberal family, thank you to Stuart Ayres, Chris Patterson, Damien Tudehope, Sally Betts, David Begg, Lucy Turnbull, Senator Andrew Bragg, Senator Maria Kovacic, Alex Hawke, Mark Textor, Bruce Baird, John Gardiner, James Newbury, Alex Dore, Ned Mannoun, Tina McQueen, Carmelo Pesce, Remo Nogarotto, Tom Callachor and Christopher Pyne. Thank you to one of the best party officials in the history of the Liberal Party, Chris Stone. Thank you for everything you have done for me, Chris. To James Wallace, you are a once-in-a-generation political talent. Thank you for your outstanding service to the Liberal Party.

I thank my broader support network: Kristin Stubbins, Behyad Jafari, Mike Cannon-Brookes, Damien Sanford, Steve Symons, Annabelle Daniel, Tim Flannery, Ross Garnaut, Saul Griffith, the Harris family, Simon Currie, Kerry Schott, Lee Jeloscek, Clare Savage, Daniel Westerman, Alex Wonhas, Chris Gambian, Jack Gough, Justin Field, Gretel Packer, Peter Warne, Martin Parkinson, Jill Kilby and everyone who played a vital role in supporting my endeavours.

I got involved in politics because of an inappropriate development in my neighbourhood. We formed a community action group where I learnt the power of leveraging the political system to achieve outcomes. It set me on the path to becoming an MP. I then became a Minister within six years of being elected. I served in portfolios for which I had an overwhelming passion—most notably as Minister for Climate Change and Energy—and was the State's Treasurer. But politics is not about the positions you hold or the titles you acquire. It is about improving the State and the country for future generations. Throughout my time in politics, that is what I endeavoured to do, and I am proud of the contribution I was able to make with many others along the way. In particular I am very proud of the work we were able to advance to make sure a little girl born in New South Wales today has the same opportunities in life as the baby boy born in the hospital room next door. There is still much more to do.

I am proud that, in my first act as Treasurer, I made an unprecedented investment to double the number of women's refuges in New South Wales. No person in modern Australia should live in fear for their safety. No person in modern Australia should fear the darkness on our streets, but that is the lived experience of many women in New South Wales. It is not acceptable, and I genuinely hope our State and our nation can finally conquer the blight of domestic violence and violence against women. I recognise all the contributions that various campaigners for women's safety have made during my time in Parliament. I am proud of the investments we made in this area, but I encourage every member in this place, when they have an opportunity to advocate for programs and community groups at the front line or to allocate funding, to do so and to do it without hesitation.

I am also proud of the work I and my team did with the incredible Sam Mostyn—who, by the way, will make a great Governor-General—that will improve the lives of millions of women across New South Wales. Our economy and our society are at their best when we afford every person the opportunity to contribute to our country and pursue the career of their choosing. We legislated a \$5 billion investment over the next decade to expand access to high-quality, affordable child care in those areas of the State where access to child care is the biggest barrier to women returning to work. I also state for the record that none of that would have happened without my former deputy chief of staff, Ava Hancock. She drove and authored these reforms. She is passionate and brilliant and has a big future ahead of her.

Let us be clear that no person should have to choose between a family and their career. Too often in our State, women have had to make that compromise. Not only is that an injustice—not only is that an affront to the liberal values of egalitarianism and reward for effort—it is also a handbrake on the prosperity of this State. More than that, the solution of affordable, accessible child care and a great childhood education can set our children up for success as well. We know that the first five years of a person's life will have a huge bearing on what they will be able to achieve in life. I believe that a person should only be limited by the size of their dreams and the strength of their work ethic, not the financial circumstances in which they were born.

I have always believed that the best asset of this State is the people of New South Wales. As Treasurer, I saw our huge childcare and early education commitments not as expenditure, but as investment—an investment

that will pay a dividend to this State for decades to come. But I also recognised as Treasurer the absolute importance of making investments in our future in a way that is financially sustainable. Every dollar we borrow today needs to be paid off by our children. While I was the Treasurer of our State, I absolutely made sure we invested in our people but that we did so in a prudent way. During my time as Treasurer we experienced the worst pandemic in Australia's history, the most expensive natural disaster on record, and a commitment to continue the Coalition Government's generational improvement in our infrastructure. But we responded in a way that kept us on a track for surplus and kept the State's triple-A credit rating.

Make no mistake, the budget handed down this week, which delivered a decade of deficits, will leave our children with a bill of higher taxes and worse public services. It did not need to be this way. Those opposite, notwithstanding their nonsense about the GST, will see higher revenues in every single year of the forward estimates compared to what we forecast two years ago and had the State on track for surplus. Every parent I know wants to leave a legacy for their children, whether it is the values they instil, a good education or the family home. Public finances are the same. We should never leave a structural debt and we should always understand that it is the obligation of this generation to pay off its own debts. I do not want our kids to choose between taxes they cannot afford and the health policy they deserve when the next pandemic comes around. The better we manage the State's finances, the more freedom we give future generations to chart their own course unencumbered by the choices we made.

The reason the Liberal Party has always been better at managing the State's finances is because we understand that society is a covenant between the past to the present and the present to the future. Liberals understand that we are merely custodians of our country and our planet for future generations. It is incumbent upon us to not squander what was bequeathed to us but to build a better future for those who come after us. As a Liberal in the twenty-first century, the biggest challenge to that principle is climate change. In the same way that we, as Liberals, believe that you should not leave a financial debt to future generations, I believe that it is incumbent upon us to not leave an environmental debt to future generations.

Climate change is the challenge of our generation, and it needs a once-in-a-generation response. My grandparents' generation fought for freedom in the Second World War. My parents' generation saw off the threat of communism during the Cold War. It is incumbent upon our generation to take decisive and responsible action on climate change. It is the biggest challenge that will face our society and economy in our lifetime. We know that climate change will lead to more extreme weather events and that those events are happening now. During my time in this place, I have seen the worst bushfires in New South Wales's history, the worst drought in its history and the most expensive natural disaster event in its history, in the form of the Lismore floods.

For critics who complain of an economic and financial cost of acting on climate change, I say as Treasurer I saw the catastrophic cost of not acting—the cost of rebuilding infrastructure, towns, lives and livelihoods. There is no comparison. Those natural disasters are exactly what scientists have warned about for decades. Climate change is not just a threat; tackling it is one of the biggest economic opportunities that we have ever seen. We can drive down cost-of-living pressures for families and businesses. Australia is not only a sunburnt country; it is a sun-blessed country. Our country's sun and wind can deliver us some of the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy anywhere in the world. It will free us from our dependency on ageing power stations and the shocks of global energy markets.

In the community debate on the issue, the transition to renewables is often positioned as a choice between clean energy and affordable energy, between the planet's future and our economic prosperity. Let me be clear: There is no choice. The way to put downward pressure on energy prices is to build more renewables. Our electricity prices have gone up in recent years because fossil fuel prices have gone through the roof and because coal plants are getting less reliable as they age. We do not have higher electricity prices in Australia because we have too much renewable energy; we have higher electricity prices in Australia because we do not have enough renewable energy.

Realising the opportunity of renewable energy in our country is not going to be easy. We need to replace coal. We need to electrify our vehicles. We need to electrify our homes. If we are going to realise the great economic opportunity here, we need to build gigawatts of renewables to supply green hydrogen, green steel, green aluminium and green data centres to our region and to the world. Make no mistake, there is an economic arms race exploding across the world to capture the next generation of investment, resources, jobs and innovation. I want Australia to corral every cent of investment available to us. We have the potential to become a renewable energy superpower that cannot only protect our natural environment but also underwrite our prosperity for generations to come. We need to recognise that there is genuine community concern about the energy transition but, if we do this right, the ongoing jobs and opportunities that come from a net zero global economy will be the biggest economic development opportunities that regional Australia has ever had.

It is an opportunity to ensure that young people in our regional centres have high-paying quality jobs in their home towns, and that families across the country benefit from the lower power bills that will come with the transition. That is the promise of the energy transition, if we get it right. That is why we gave investors the policy comfort they needed by delivering the biggest renewable energy policy in Australia's history in the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. It brings together reverse auctions for renewable energy generation, long duration storage and firming. It brings contestability to transmission in New South Wales. It is one of the most comprehensive energy transition policies in the world.

Since it was legislated, the road map has already withstood substantial tests. Investors have committed to build six gigawatts of renewable energy generation in New South Wales. The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone is underway. There have been successful long-duration storage tenders. We were also able to deliver the Waratah Super Battery and hundreds of megawatts of extra firming to help support the reliability of our State's power system for when Eraring closes. We are on track to meet our emission reduction targets, which are ambitious, science-aligned and achievable. We created change in a way that respects fundamental conservative and free-market principles.

The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap created a framework to capture investment, not stifle it. We sought to harness the power of markets and the private sector to deliver new infrastructure, freeing up the State's balance sheet to invest in schools, hospitals and roads, which is exactly what it should be doing. Our country is at its best when the powers of Government and the expertise, ingenuity and experience of the private sector work as one towards building a better country for all of us. That is exactly what the road map does. We matched it with ambitious policies to make New South Wales a first-mover on hydrogen and the best place in Australia to buy, own and drive an electric vehicle.

I am particularly thankful to the team that helped me deliver the road map, including James Hay, Liam Ryan, Chloe Hicks, Ava Hancock, Paul Grimes and Brad Hopkins. I recognise the contribution of my outstanding former chief of staff, Ben Coles. If there is an intellectual architect of the road map, it is Ben. More than anyone, he saw the energy transition opportunity, and it was his endeavours that developed the ambitious policy we see today.

I am also delighted that in New South Wales we have effectively ended the climate wars. I give genuine credit to the Labor and crossbench members who worked with goodwill to refine and legislate the road map. I acknowledge in particular John Barilaro. He always believed in creating jobs and prosperity in the bush, and saw the economic opportunity offered by the transition and the chance to diversify regional economies. The road map would not have happened without him—I want that firmly on the record. It is also fitting to mention the role of the Hon. Adam Searle, a fine Labor man with an excellent policy mind. He was critical to this policy. I recognise also the contributions to the road map of the Hon. Ben Franklin, who stayed up all night to get it through the Parliament; David Shoebridge; Alex Greenwich; Paul Scully; and Yasmin Catley. I thank the Speaker, Greg Piper, for the important role he played while representing a community heavily affected by the energy transition.

Every one of those individuals and countless more were willing to find areas of common ground and avoid the temptation to put politics first. Instead, they put the people of this State first. Parliament works best when we recognise the legitimate objectives and concerns of different communities across this State and try to address them with respect as best we can. Some see politics as a platform to build a profile, some see politics as a point-scoring parlour game and others see politics as a popularity or power contest. I believe politics is about bringing people together to work in common cause to achieve common goals for the common good. Politics is about leadership. I got involved in politics not to administer the State, but to reform the State for the better.

That is what politics is about, and those of us fortunate enough to hold political office should always remember that we are on the stage for a short period of time. That has become very clear to me this week. Members must be ambitious not for themselves, but for what is possible for our State and country. The great public offices are there to do great things for the public. No-one else can pass laws or marshal our collective resources in the way that we can here. Members must rise to the challenges of our time, see a better future for our State and build it. Where we can find unity of purpose, the solutions will be more substantial and more durable.

So let's disagree where we must, but find common ground where we can, because it is on that common ground that we can build lasting change, and let us do both these things with respect and civility. We live in an era of social media, fuelled by algorithms designed to enrage and divide us and only give us information we agree with. We see threats to the best traditions of Western liberalism, whether it is the cynical populism of Donald Trump, or the outright authoritarianism of Russia and China. We are currently confronting horrific antisemitism that ignores some of the darkest days in the history of modern civilisation. So we need to show that democracy can work.

I truly believe most people who live in this country and serve in this Chamber want the best for our country and its citizens. Let's rally to that cause and show we can tackle the greatest challenges confronting our generation. It is about protecting our freedoms, our liberties, the rule of law and democracy. It is about ensuring everyone in our society is able to live safe and secure, free from threats abroad and within. It is about handing down a world that is in a better state than the one we inherited. For the 13 years that I have been in this Parliament that has been my north star. As I look up at my family—my son, Tom, and my step-children, Jasmine and Monique—you are our future. Of course it has required sacrifice. There have been missed school nights and sports days and, put simply, moments and time that can never be recovered. I am certain every parent in this place feels the same tension between service and family.

But what we do in this place matters. And if we are diligent in our work and noble in our intent, we should ensure that they inherit a State that is stronger, cleaner, healthier and more prosperous than ever before. We live in the most beautiful part of the world. Sydney's harbour and its beaches are the ribbon that ties our city together. From Batemans Bay to Bondi to Byron, New South Wales people look out from the beaches towards the morning light. Tom, Jasmine and Monique, I hope that as the sun rises on your generation, your future will be a little brighter because of what we achieved while I was in this place. I thank everyone who has worked with me on this journey and I wish you all the very best.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

Bills

WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr David Harris, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

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) (11:46): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As Minister for the Central Coast, I am pleased to introduce the Water Management Amendment (Central Coast Council) Bill 2024. It is vitally important that the people of the Central Coast have security when it comes to their local utilities. This Government has been clear: Water is a public asset; it belongs to the people. The reason for this bill is to further protect water as an important public asset, and address issues that have come up in recent years.

The development of the bill has been particularly informed by the circumstances surrounding the Central Coast Council. It is important that the House understands those circumstances. I have spoken before, both in this place and in the community, about the challenges faced by Central Coast Council. The previous Coalition Government led a regime of forced mergers of councils across this State. This included the merger of Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council to become Central Coast Council in 2016. Whilst the two councils voted for the merger, the public had no meaningful say in the matter. The New South Wales Labor Party opposed the forced council mergers at the time. It continues to oppose the forced amalgamation of local government and the removal of the democratic right of persons in those affected communities to have their say.

The previous Government did not appropriately fund the mergers or address regulatory issues associated with the mergers. Issues with the Central Coast's water supply are but one example. Its failure to address those issues was one of the reasons for Central Coast Council being placed into administration in October 2020. The 2021 public inquiry into the Central Coast Council and the circumstances that led to it being in administration investigated the council's financial management and ability to serve the local community. A key finding of the inquiry was that the council was facing regulatory complexity and ambiguity associated with operating under two legislative frameworks for its water supply and sewerage—the Water Management Act and the Local Government Act. Central Coast Council is unique among New South Wales councils that provide water supply and sewerage services.

Central Coast Council water is the third largest water utility in New South Wales after Sydney Water and Hunter Water and is significantly larger than other council local water utilities. The Central Coast is the only council that operates under the Local Government Act and is also constituted as a water supply authority under the Water Management Act. It is also the only council whose prices for water and sewerage services are regulated by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales, or IPART. This means that Central Coast Council is subject to overlapping legislative regimes in relation to the provision of its water supply services

and sewerage services. This duplication and ambiguity in the legislative framework that applies to council's provision of these services has contributed over time to uncertainty and the poor financial performance of the council.

Poor financial performance was one of the main reasons for the council being placed in administration. One factor for this poor performance was transfers of money out of the water supply and sewerage funds, partly owing to regulatory complexity and ambiguity associated with the levying of charges for its water supply and sewerage services under two legislative frameworks—the Water Management Act and the Local Government Act—and, in particular, the application of restrictions under section 409 of the Local Government Act in relation to the movement and use for other purposes of money levied for the specific purpose of council's water supply or sewerage services. While during the period of administration measures have been taken to restore council's finances, regulatory changes to prevent this issue re-occurring were not implemented by the former Government. With local government elections scheduled for 14 September 2024, our Government has been working to resolve the issues that contributed to the council being placed into administration.

This bill will provide incoming councillors with a clear and streamlined regulatory and legislative framework for Central Coast Council's water supply and sewerage business. The bill will strengthen council's governance and build on performance measures already implemented under council's administrator. Some of the measures implemented under council's administrator—supported by my colleague the Minister for Local Government—include full repayment of a \$100 million emergency loan completed in December 2023; council commencing accrual of \$1.4 million each month to enable paying down the second emergency loan of \$50 million by November 2025; and council reducing costs by \$50 million. I particularly note that under council's administrator—supported by my colleague the Minister for Local Government—council achieved a \$40 million surplus in the financial year 2021-22 and a \$28 million surplus in 2022-23. However, we need to cement council's position and, as I said, build on these measures to ensure council's continued viability.

The reforms carried through this bill will go a long way to ensuring that. This bill will also address some of the key recommendations from the public inquiry into the council. Our reforms have been developed having regard to the findings and recommendations on council's performance from the public inquiry. They also consider other reports relevant to Central Coast Council's water supply and sewerage activities, including IPART's *Review of Central Coast Council water prices – Final Report May 2022*; and its *Review of Central Coast Council water prices – Improving performance Final Information Paper May 2022*.

I turn now to the substance of the bill and what it entails. Following stakeholder engagement and analysis of options, the New South Wales Government has decided to pursue a regulatory framework of a model for Central Coast water through the Local Government Act. This would see council providing water services and being regulated under the Local Government Act, but not as a water supply authority under the Water Management Act, while retaining IPART as the independent price regulator. The bill amends the Water Management Act 2000 by removing Central Coast Council as a water supply authority under that Act. That is achieved by removing Gosford City Council and Wyong Council from schedule 3, part 2, to the Water Management Act—references to Gosford and Wyong councils are taken to be references to Central Coast Council due to clause 6 (a) of the Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016—and making consequential amendments to the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 and any other amendments necessary to remove Central Coast Council as a water supply authority for the purposes of the Water Management Act.

Removal of the council as a water supply authority under the Water Management Act will, among other things, reduce regulatory costs and complexity associated with being captured by and operating under both the Water Management Act and the Local Government Act; remove regulatory ambiguity associated with the levying of service charges under two legislative frameworks—the Water Management Act and the Local Government Act—that are not consistent, including in relation to the application of restrictions under section 409 (3) of the Local Government Act on the use of money levied as a special rate or charge for a council's water supply or sewerage services for other purposes; reduce regulatory costs associated with having to seek the approval of the Minister for Water under section 315 of the Water Management Act for service charges determined by the council, whilst also being subjected to IPART price regulation; and align the regulation of Central Coast Council's water supply and sewerage services more closely with the regulatory framework that applies to all other New South Wales councils that provide such services.

The Minister for Water has broad powers to control and direct the exercise of water supply authority functions under section 293 (1) (b) of the Water Management Act and the authority to approve service charges under section 315 of the Water Management Act. While removing council as a water supply authority under the Water Management Act will remove those powers, it means the Minister for Water will still be able to exercise powers under chapter 6, part 3, division 2 of the Local Government Act in relation to the council's provision of water supply and sewerage services. Central Coast Council will also be encouraged to form an expert-based

advisory committee to support sound decision-making by the council on its water supply and sewerage services. Finally, the bill also ensures adequate oversight of the council's water supply and sewerage service pricing with IPART to continue to regulate prices, which I will outline next.

The bill I have introduced today retains IPART as the regulator of the council's water and sewerage service prices. We have retained IPART price regulation for a number of reasons. First, Central Coast Council provides water supply and/or sewerage services to a population of approximately 345,000, including approximately 140,000 homes and businesses. The council has the third biggest water utility in New South Wales, after Sydney Water and Hunter Water. And, in terms of population, the council area is 2.5 times as large as the next largest local council area with a water utility in New South Wales, Shoalhaven City Council, and is much closer in scale to its neighbour, Hunter Water.

Secondly, Central Coast Council's unique location in the Sydney metropolitan area is in between the areas of operation of Sydney Water and Hunter Water, both of which are statutory State-owned corporations and are subject to IPART price regulation. Thirdly, the complex interaction between Central Coast Council's water supply system and that of Hunter Water warrant additional price oversight. Finally, the current economic climate and high cost of living requires increased attention to customers' costs for essential services, such as water supply and sewerage services.

IPART's regulatory role will be formalised through amendments to schedule 1 to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992, which will include a reference to Central Coast Council. I note the previous examples of the ways in which IPART has supported the interests of customers and ensured affordability. For example, in 2022 IPART set prices for Central Coast Council so that increases would occur over four years rather than in one year. This was to help customers manage the possible impact of bills. While IPART will continue to regulate prices for water supply and sewerage services, price regulation of stormwater drainage services based on approvals under the Water Management Act will discontinue following the charging year 2025-26.

Council is already transitioning to cost recovery for the provision of stormwater services via council rates from 1 July 2026 consistent with the current IPART price determination. Stormwater services, which benefit the entire community and are not generally part of New South Wales councils' water supply and sewerage operations, should be funded mainly through council rates. Whether the charges can be included within the existing rates system or whether council requires an amendment, they will continue to be managed by council and the New South Wales Government.

The bill also repeals the Central Coast Water Corporation Act 2006 and the Central Coast Water Corporation Regulation 2016. The Central Coast Water Corporation Act, commenced by proclamation on 25 February 2011, constituted the Central Coast Water Corporation in accordance with section 2 of the Act. However, the transfer of functions to the corporation under the Act, which was to occur in phases, was put on hold in mid-2013 and ultimately abandoned. The Act was never fully implemented and should not be operationalised because, since the Act was made, Gosford City Council and Wyong Council amalgamated on 12 May 2016, thus rendering the Act unnecessary. Repeal of the Central Coast Water Corporation Act and the Central Coast Water Corporation Regulation will improve regulatory clarity.

I also want to reflect on the New South Wales Government's approach to protecting water from privatisation. Earlier I remarked that water is a public asset and belongs to the community. I note that the Joint Select Committee on Protecting Water Utilities from Privatisation handed down its report in March this year and the Government is currently preparing its response. The New South Wales Government took a strong approach to the issue prior to the 2023 election. This Government has committed to protecting water utilities from privatisation. This bill further enacts that principle through repealing the Central Coast Water Corporation Act. This bill ensures that Central Coast water remains in the hands of the council and our community.

Finally, the bill carries amendments to the Local Government Act to allow the Central Coast Council to use money levied for its water supply services for the purpose of providing sewerage services and vice versa. That is currently precluded under section 409 (3) of the Local Government Act. Removing that restraint on council will improve its ability to effectively manage cash flow and debt funding for the delivery of priority assets; for example, by utilising surpluses in the sewerage fund to help finance necessary investments in essential water supply infrastructure.

The restrictions on transfers of money between the water supply fund and the sewerage fund, as imposed under section 409 (3) of the Local Government Act, are considered unnecessary and inefficient because Central Coast Council's water supply and sewerage services are government monopoly services subject to IPART price regulation. The proposed amendments will not remove the restriction under section 409 of the Local Government Act on using money levied for the purpose of providing water supply and sewerage services for other council

purposes that are unrelated to water supply and sewerage services. In addition, the New South Wales Government will undertake a review and consult further with all councils with a view of affording them the same flexibility.

This bill is important. I have spoken briefly about the significant inroads the Central Coast Council has made under administration. This bill is about helping to provide the right regulatory framework to ensure that council can continue that momentum. This bill provides that framework. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 20 June 2024

No. 1 OPP No. 1 [c2024-106A]

Page 5, Schedule 2, proposed section 10.3B. Insert after line 11—

(3A) This section does not apply to a Fund within the meaning of the *Long Service Corporation Act 2010*.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (12:04): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:05): On behalf of the Opposition, I confirm that we concur with the Government and support the Legislative Council amendment.

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

Motion agreed to.

ENERGY SECURITY CORPORATION BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 20 June 2024

No. 1 GRNS No. 1 [c2024-112]

Page 5, clause 13. Insert after line 25—

(5A) Of the Board members appointed under this section—

(a) 1 must be a worker representative nominated by Unions NSW, and

(b) 1 must be nominated by a body that represents employers in New South Wales.

No. 2 GRNS No. 2 [c2024-112]

Page 6, clause 14. Insert after line 1—

(j1) community and employment matters,

No. 3 GRNS No. 3 [c2024-112]

Page 9, clause 26(1). Insert after line 11—

(a1) must have regard to environmental, social, and governance principles, best practice labour principles, skills and training, local content procurement, and First Nations participation.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (12:06): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:06): The Opposition supports the amendments from the Legislative Council.

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

Motion agreed to.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA TRUST BILL 2024**Consideration in Detail****Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.**

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of an earlier hour

No. 1 GOVT No. 1 [c2024-108A]

Page 6, Schedule 1. Insert after line 4—

10/713582

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (12:06): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:06): On behalf of the Opposition, I confirm that we support the amendment from the Legislative Council.

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

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024**Second Reading Speech**

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:07): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I bring before the House the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The Government Sector Employment Act 2013 sets out four core values for the government sector in New South Wales: integrity, trust, service and accountability. I know that those values guide the work of our dedicated public servants throughout the State each and every day, and the reforms that the bill proposes are deeply consistent with those values. These reforms will deliver direct improvements to the employment framework in which our public servants operate. But, of course, just as importantly, these improvements will in turn enable our public servants to better support the people of New South Wales—support grounded in integrity, trust, service and accountability.

Before we came to government, the Premier made a commitment to review the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. Delivering on that commitment, the Government has commenced a review of the Act to examine—among other matters—whether amendments to the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 should be made to refocus the Public Service Commissioner on merit and integrity functions and/or support workplace reform and planning, recruitment, learning and development, and mobility.

While the review is ongoing, key interim findings regarding the Public Service Commissioner's functions are that the Public Service Commissioner's integrity functions are appropriately exercised by the commissioner as an independent statutory officer, at arm's length from the Executive. These include functions relating to promoting and maintaining the government sector core values, adopting a government sector wide code of ethics and conduct, conducting inquiries into government sector agencies, and ensuring compliance with requirements to ensure officials are recruited and promoted based on merit. However, other functions relating to workplace reform and planning, mobility and other functions may be more effectively and efficiently performed by a central agency, enabling existing knowledge and expertise, including in relation to industrial relations issues and trends, to be leveraged and whole-of-government perspectives to be brought to the fore.

The interim review concluded that the commissioner's integrity functions should continue to be exercised by the commissioner as an independent statutory officer, at arm's length from the Executive. The Government may wish to consider amending the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 so that the commissioner is not required to exercise functions unrelated to the commissioner's integrity functions, with functions relating to workforce reform and planning, mobility, data collection, talent pool management and website management to be undertaken by a central agency.

I move to the details of the bill. First, the bill proposes amendments to give effect to the review by amending the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 to provide that certain functions are no longer to be exercised by the Public Service Commissioner. Secondly, the bill amends the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022 in relation to the appointment of the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority. Thirdly, the bill makes other, minor

miscellaneous amendments, including consequential amendments to other legislation, to give effect to the objects of the bill.

Schedule 1 to the bill omits the commissioner's objectives and functions which do not require statutory independence. The following general functions of the commissioner currently at section 15 of the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 are omitted: to identify reform opportunities for the government sector workforce and to advise the Government on policy innovations and strategy in those areas of reform; to lead the strategic development and management of the government sector workforce in relation to workforce planning, including identifying risks and strategies to minimise risks, performance management and recognition, succession planning, redeployment, including excess employees, and staff mobility.

Functions also omitted include: to advise the Government on leadership structure for the government sector; to advise the Government on appropriate strategies, policies and practices in relation to the structure of the government sector workforce; to advise the Government on appropriate strategies, policies and practices in relation to such other government sector matters as the Minister may determine from time to time, and to monitor, coordinate and assist the implementation of Government strategies, policies and practices in such other areas as the Minister may determine from time to time; to develop and advise the Government on service delivery strategies and models for the government sector through collaboration with the private business sector, the not-for-profit sector and the wider community; and to set standards, subject to any legislative requirements, for the selection of persons for appointment as members of boards or committees of public authorities, including government business enterprises. These functions will instead be performed by the Secretary of the Premier's Department.

Exercise of these functions by a central government agency will enable existing knowledge and expertise, including in relation to industrial relations issues and trends, to be leveraged and will promote a coordinated, whole-of-government perspective to be applied to complex workforce planning issues. In many instances, the delivery of those functions may also benefit from the strategic direction and guidance of the responsible Minister. The commissioner will continue to exercise integrity functions as an independent statutory officer. These include promoting and maintaining the government sector core values, adopting a government sector wide code of ethics and conduct, conducting inquiries into government sector agencies, and ensuring compliance with requirements to ensure that officials are recruited and promoted based on merit.

Schedule 1 also provides for the continued preparation of the annual state of the government sector report, which the Premier will table in both Houses of Parliament. Preparation of the report will instead be undertaken by the Secretary of the Premier's Department rather than being a function of the commissioner. Reflecting the varied functions of the commissioner, the bill revises the principal objectives of the commissioner to be: to promote and maintain the highest levels of integrity, impartiality, accountability and leadership across the government sector; to ensure that government sector recruitment and selection processes comply with the merit principle and adhere to professional standards; to foster a public service culture in which integrity, trust, service and accountability are strongly valued; and to build public confidence in the government sector.

Schedule 2 to the bill amends the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022 to remove the requirement that the CEO be employed in a band 4 secretary level role. This will ensure that employment arrangements for the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority are consistent with the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 framework and employment arrangements for other executive agency heads. Schedule 3 to the bill makes minor, consequential amendments to other legislation.

The bill commences on proclamation and will deliver necessary reform to the employment framework in which our public servants operate, and ensure that our government sector values of integrity, trust, service and accountability continue to guide the work of our dedicated public servants in their work to support the people of New South Wales. I note that the Legislation Review Committee made no comments on the bill in its digest report. The bill was supported, with no amendments proposed by members, during debate in the Legislative Council. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (12:15): I contribute to debate on the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I state from the outset that the Opposition does not support the bill. The Public Service Commissioner is an integral mechanism providing oversight of the appropriate composition and size of the New South Wales public service. The Minns Labor Government has once again shown us who is calling the shots by agreeing to its union masters' demands that these functions—oversight of the size and composition of the public service—be housed in the public service. At a time when Labor has already lost control of the budget following its reckless union deals, this is a terrible policy and the taxpayer is carrying all the risk.

The bill is the Public Service Association's [PSA] dreams come true. In fact, the PSA has on its website a kiss-the-ring letter dated 7 February 2023 from the now Premier confirming that he would take up Stewart Little's command and look into these matters posthaste if elected. On 7 February 2023 the now Premier also claimed that all his union deals would be funded entirely by productivity savings. Now we know that it is upward of \$10 billion of New South Wales taxpayer money. How the world changes. The bill proposes to omit a variety of statutory objectives and functions from the remit of the Public Service Commissioner. In a media release on 6 June this year the Government announced that these functions would be re-housed in the Premier's Department.

The statutory functions of the Public Service Commissioner that the bill proposes to omit include to identify reform opportunities for the government sector workforce and to advise the Government on policy innovations and strategy in those areas of reform; to lead the strategic development and management of the government sector workforce in relation to workforce planning, including identifying risks and strategies to minimise risks, performance management and recognition, succession planning, redeployment, including excess employees, and staff mobility; to advise the Government on appropriate strategies, policies and practices in relation to the structure of the government sector workforce; to develop and advise the Government on service delivery strategies and models for the government sector through collaboration with the private business sector, the not-for-profit sector and the wider community; and to set standards, subject to any legislative requirements, for the selection of persons for appointment as members of boards or committees of public authorities, including government business enterprises.

The Government claims that these reforms will "reduce over-reliance on consultants and bring costs under control". How exactly that will be achieved by the amendments proposed in the bill remains to be seen. Indeed, in his second reading speech, the Minister noted that these reforms arise from findings from an interim report of the review into the Government Sector Employment Act. Of course, that interim report is not public; we will have to take the Government's word for it—just like taxpayers had to take the now Premier's word on those productivity savings. The Public Service Commissioner is an integral oversight and planning mechanism for the New South Wales public service. The office of the commissioner was first founded in 2011 and legislated in its current terms in 2013. Since then, the commission has played an essential role in ensuring that the New South Wales public service best represents and works for the people of New South Wales. In his second reading speech for the Government Sector Employment Bill 2013, then Premier Barry O'Farrell outlined the work that the Public Service Commissioner at the time, Mr Graeme Head, was leading.

His work would ensure that New South Wales has the best qualified and most professional public service in the nation; restore the highest levels of impartiality, ability, accountability and leadership in the New South Wales public service; ensure that public service positions are filled on the basis of merit and qualifications, not patronage or favouritism; promote a public sector culture in which initiative and the achievement of results and individual responsibility are strongly valued; build a new customer service culture; and strengthen the public's confidence and trust in the New South Wales public service.

The reforms proposed in the 2013 bill provided for a modern public service that is responsive and adaptive. I thank each and every public servant in New South Wales for the work that they do to advance the State. However, the bill is flawed. Despite the Government's claims to the contrary, the bill is an attempt to centralise future planning for the public service within the public service itself. It is worth noting that section 11 (1) (e) already provides for the commissioner to "advise the Government on appropriate strategies, policies and practices in relation to such other government sector matters as the Minister may determine from time to time, and to monitor, coordinate and assist the implementation of government strategies, policies and practices in such other areas as the Minister may determine from time to time".

Given the Government's policy to "reduce over-reliance on consultants and bring costs under control", it is unclear why the Premier could not task the commissioner, with support from the Premier's Department, with that work. It makes me think that the actual intent of the bill lies elsewhere. The Public Service Commissioner has been a strong advocate for integrity and proper process in the public service. I cannot help but notice that the so-called "reforms" essentially gut the commissioner's remit and capacity on the tail of the commissioner's invaluable evidence during the Transport secretary appointment fiasco. For those who do not recall, that was when the transport Minister hand-picked Chris Minns' Labor mate to head up the transport department—a role for which the selection panel found he had inadequate operational experience and that an alternate candidate was better qualified.

Subsequent inquiries revealed the extent to which the Minister's office intervened in the process. The Minister's former chief of staff, Scott Gartrell, sent the role advertisement to the appointee but forgot to submit that message in an order for papers made in the other place. Throughout the whole process, the Public Service Commissioner was a voice of clarity, not necessarily a voice for the Government. That is the voice that the people of New South Wales need, not the voice that Chris Minns and his union mates want to hear. The bill is a gift to

the unions. The Minister claims that the bill gives effect to the findings of a review that is not public, so we have to take him on his word. It is simply not good enough, especially in a time when we are all talking about transparency. The last time that we took this Government on its word on employment matters, it left the people of New South Wales with a \$10 billion bill.

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (12:22): I speak in support of the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The main purpose of the bill is to, firstly, amend the Government Sector Employment Act 2013, known as the GSE Act, to provide that certain functions are no longer to be exercised by the Public Service Commissioner. Secondly, the bill amends the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022, known as the RA Act, in relation to the appointment of the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority. Thirdly, the bill makes other consequential amendments.

The bill gives effect to two key proposals resulting from the review of the GSE Act by the Cabinet Office, being that the commissioner's integrity functions continue to be exercised by the commissioner as an independent statutory officer and that the commissioner is not required to exercise functions unrelated to the commissioner's integrity functions. That is enacted in schedule 1 to the bill. The bill omits the commissioner's objectives and functions that do not require statutory independence, including identifying reform opportunities for the government sector workforce, leading the strategic development and management of the government sector workforce in relation to workforce planning, and advising government on leadership structure for the government sector. Those duties will instead be performed by the Secretary of the Premier's Department.

The commissioner will continue to exercise integrity functions as an independent statutory officer, including promoting and maintaining the government sector's core values, adopting a government-sector-wide code of ethics, conducting inquiries into government sector agencies and ensuring compliance with requirements to ensure that officials are recruited and promoted based on merit. The bill also amends the RA Act, per schedule 2 to the bill, to remove the unusual requirements that the CEO be employed in a band 4 secretary level role. This ensures that the employment arrangement for the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority is consistent with the GSE Act framework and employment arrangements for other executive agency heads. The bill amends the GSE Act to give effect to interim findings of the review that support the commissioner's exercise of its integrity functions and independence. The structural changes contained in the bill are required to strengthen the public service in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (12:24): I make a brief contribution in support of the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The object of the bill is to amend the functions and objectives of the Public Service Commissioner and the Secretary of the Premier's Department under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. The bill also amends employment arrangements for the chief executive officer of the NSW Reconstruction Authority under the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022 and makes other consequential amendments to certain Acts and regulations. The Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 is a crucial piece of legislation aimed at transforming our public sector to better serve the people of New South Wales. The bill not only seeks to strengthen the employment framework for our dedicated public servants but also aligns profoundly with the core values that guide their daily work: integrity, trust, service, and accountability.

The reforms proposed in the bill are not mere administrative adjustments; they are a strategic response to the imperative to enhance efficiency, reduce over-reliance on external consultants, and foster a workforce capable of meeting the evolving needs of our communities. These reforms are rooted in the Government Sector Employment Act 2013, which sets out principles that uphold the highest standards of governance across our public institutions. Central to these reforms is the realignment of responsibilities within our public service. The establishment of a dedicated workforce group within the Premier's Department underscores our commitment to strategic workforce planning and development. The group will play a pivotal role in identifying skills shortages, implementing recruitment and training programs, and ensuring that our public service has the necessary capabilities to deliver essential services effectively statewide.

Moreover, a new unit within the Premier's Department will oversee the use of consultants across the public sector, aiming to reduce their reliance by directing agencies to utilise in-house resources wherever feasible. The initiative not only aligns with our commitment to fiscal responsibility but also empowers agencies to build internal expertise in critical areas, thereby enhancing service delivery and minimising outsourcing costs. Furthermore, the introduction of the core New South Wales public service work policy represents a significant step towards clarifying the responsibilities of government agencies. By outlining core functions that agencies must develop in house, this policy ensures that essential services are managed reliably by our own workforce, reinforcing the values of accountability and service excellence.

The Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 builds upon these foundational reforms by amending the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 to reallocate certain functions

from the Public Service Commissioner to central agencies. This strategic realignment aims to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness in areas such as workforce planning, mobility and data management, allowing for a coordinated approach across the public sector. Importantly, these reforms are informed by ongoing reviews and inquiries, including those conducted by the Cabinet Office, which underscore the need for a centralised approach to workforce planning and reform.

By leveraging existing knowledge and expertise within central agencies, we can better address emerging challenges and opportunities facing our public service. The bill also reaffirms our commitment to integrity and transparency in governance. It preserves the independence of the Public Service Commissioner in exercising integrity functions, including promoting core values and conducting inquiries into government agencies. This ensures that our public sector continues to uphold the highest ethical standards, essential for maintaining public trust and confidence.

Additionally, the amendments proposed in schedule 1 to the bill streamline the commissioner's objectives to focus explicitly on integrity functions, while empowering the Secretary of the Premier's Department to oversee strategic workforce planning and development. This structural adjustment not only enhances efficiency but also ensures that policy development is informed by comprehensive workforce data and aligned with broader government priorities. Schedule 2 to the bill addresses employment arrangements within executive agencies, ensuring consistency with the principles outlined in the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. By removing outdated requirements, such as the band 4 secretary-level role, we ensure flexibility in appointing executives who can effectively lead and manage critical government initiatives.

The Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 represents a landmark opportunity to modernise and strengthen our public sector. It embodies our commitment to governance reforms that promote integrity, accountability and service excellence. By supporting these reforms, we are laying the foundation for a public service that not only meets the current needs of our communities, but also anticipates and adapts to future challenges with agility and foresight. The bill reaffirms our commitment as a government that serves the people of New South Wales with diligence, transparency and unwavering dedication. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:30): I am delighted to make a brief contribution to debate on the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The bill amends the functions and objectives of the Public Service Commissioner and the Secretary of the Premier's Department under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. The bill also amends the employment arrangements for the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Reconstruction Authority under the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022. It also makes consequential amendments to certain Acts and regulations.

As previously stated, under these reforms the Premier's Department will be responsible for ensuring the public service has the skills needed to deliver essential services across the State. That is ultimately what this bill is about. I acknowledge the importance of our public sector workers, many of whom are on the front line serving our community not only in hospitals but also in schools, on trains and in many other areas of government. Something that gets lost on some members of this place is that many public servants have lifelong commitments to public service. They do not go to work only to earn an income or for a professional purpose. They have a personal purpose. They are invested in and get a kick out of going to work every day to serve the public. That is an honourable commitment.

I do not like giving attention to irrelevant members in this place, but I acknowledge the previous statements made by them. It is in Labor's DNA to support our public sector workers. It is in our DNA to know that the public service is a pivotal and important part of our society, particularly in New South Wales. It is in the DNA of the Liberal Party to take a swipe at the worker any chance it gets. Liberal members love to directly or indirectly have a go at workers. I have no idea why. Members opposite are often saying "your union mates". All right, we have mates in unions. But not every worker in New South Wales is a member of a union. Yet, members on this side of the House support all workers. We support our unions. We support our stakeholders. Most importantly, we know that by supporting workers, we are supporting the people of New South Wales who matter most. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:34): In reply: I thank the member for Miranda, the member for Fairfield and the member for Mount Druitt for their contributions to debate on the Government Sector Employment and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I particularly thank the member for Campbelltown for that impassioned speech, which I welcome. I briefly reflect on the claim made by the member for Miranda that the bill would not assist in our budget management. The Government rejects that assertion because the core purpose of the bill is to reform the functions around government sector employment. Those reforms will streamline non-integrity functions and remove duplication. They also lay the foundation to

better define what is core public service work. It will reduce reliance and expenditure on consultants, thereby improving our budget position overall.

The bill proposes amendments to give effect to the interim review, as I outlined, by amending the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 to provide that certain functions are no longer to be exercised by the Public Service Commissioner. Secondly, the bill will amend the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022 in relation to the appointment of the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority. Thirdly, the bill also makes other minor miscellaneous amendments, including consequential amendments to the legislation, to give effect to the objects of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes40
Noes22
Majority.....18

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Butler, L
Butler, R
Car, P
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Doyle, T
Greenwich, A
Hagarty, N (teller)

Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kamper, S
Kirby, W
Leong, J
Li, J
McDermott, H
McGirr, J
McKeown, K

Mehan, D
O'Neill, M
Park, R
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Shetty, K
Smith, T
Stuart, M
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Warren, G (teller)
Washington, K
Whan, S

NOES

Anderson, K
Clancy, J
Coure, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Henskens, A
Hodges, M
James, T

Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Petinos, E
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

Singh, G
Speakman, M
Thompson, T
Ward, G
Williams, R
Williamson, R (teller)
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Dib, J
Finn, J
Kaliyanda, C
Minns, C
Quinnell, S
Saffin, J
Tesch, L
Watson, A
Wilkinson, K

Toole, P
Ayyad, T
Griffin, J
Tuckerman, W
Sloane, K
Preston, R
Cross, M
Perrottet, D
Taylor, M
Williams, L
Di Pasqua, S

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Ms JO HAYLEN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1.30 p.m.

Community Recognition Statements

HENLEY PARK RUN

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (13:31): In our busy world the benefits of physical activity and exercise are often overlooked. Regular physical activity prevents and manages chronic disease, can improve mental health and is a great way to make new friends. When a group of fitness-conscious residents expressed an interest to team up with my office to set up the Henley Park Run in Enfield we jumped at the idea to have a locally driven activity promoting health, wellbeing and community. It is on every Saturday at 8.00 a.m. and is suitable for beginners to seasoned athletes, with the choice of a three-kilometre route or a five-kilometre route. I thank Homebush Boys High School Captain Leo Carleton, and fellow prefects and students Filip Ilic, Atticus D'Adam, Michael Elaro, James Knight and Christopher Xie for enthusiastically driving the initiative. I also acknowledge other local residents, including Paulina, Mark and Michael Bezzina, as well as Penny Haddad.

TURRAMURRA ROTARY CLUB

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (13:32): The Rotary Club of Turramurra began in November 1968 and since then has raised money for charities and helped build projects that support our community. This week it was my pleasure to join the Rotary Club of Turramurra for its annual Changeover Dinner at the Avondale Golf Club. We farewelled outgoing president Dallas Booth, AM. Dallas was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia at the Australia Day Honours Awards earlier this year. He has been a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Turramurra and has also supported Wheelchair Sports NSW. Taking his place as president is Helene Brunker. In the past year the Rotary Club of Turramurra has participated in and organised a number of community events and projects. It recently contributed to the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, along with five other Rotary clubs, which altogether brought more than 500 volunteers to assist. This event raised a total of \$115,000 for a multitude of charities. Well done to Dallas and good luck to Helene. Thank you, Turramurra Rotary Club.

NEPALESE NEW YEAR

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (13:33): On 8 June I attended the Nepalese New Year celebrations at Willowdale Park, Denham Court, along with Nepalese Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Kailash Raj Pokharei, Camden mayor Ashleigh Cagney and Liverpool city councillor Dr Betty Green. Having previously been rained out, it was great to see some beautiful Leppington weather on show for this wonderful celebration of Nepalese culture. Nepalese New Year, also known as Naya Barsha, is a celebration marking the beginning of the year according to the lunar calendar used in Nepal. It is a time for cultural festivities, family gatherings and traditional rituals. Seeing the Nepalese community grow and thrive in my region is truly inspiring. Their contributions and cultural richness bring great value to the Leppington electorate. Their dedication to preserving their heritage while actively participating in our growing community showcases unity and diversity—hallmarks that make our region so special. A happy 2081 to all who celebrate.

ZAC JONES

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (13:34): I acknowledge a local rising star: Zac Jones from Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus. As school captain, Zac is an important leader in his school, but he has also excelled at two parliamentary conferences over the past year. Based on an essay application, Zac was selected for a conference of 200 school captains held at New South Wales Parliament in November 2023. Participants in the conference then voted for 30 from that cohort to attend the National Schools Constitutional Convention held at Old Parliament House in Canberra. Zac clearly made an impression on his peers and in March 2024 was off to Canberra as one of the New South Wales representatives. At the convention, students were challenged to debate and vote on a potential amendment to the Constitution, and heard from leading politicians and academics to better understand the features and value of Australia's most vital document. In Cromer last week, Zac formally welcomed the Premier to the school assembly during his recent visit, speaking with confidence, charm and thoughtfulness. He made us all proud. I really admire and commend Zac for his interest in and commitment to learning about our civic institutions and democratic system of government. Good on you, Zac. Keep shining bright.

VOICE OF KOREAN-AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:35): VoKAB, the Voice of Korean-Australian Businesses, is doing great work across Greater Sydney to foster stronger business ties and cultural understanding between Australia and South Korea, to enhance bilateral trade and to highlight the significant contributions of the Korean-Australian business community. VoKAB is a non-profit social organisation that aspires to act as a bridge between our local Korean communities and other communities in Australia as well as between the broader Australian society and South Korea. VoKAB is flourishing under the leadership of president Patrick Cha and vice-president Julianne Lee. Last night VoKAB hosted Australia-Korea Closer than Ever: Knowing Korea, an event aimed at fostering multicultural connections, with attendees including educators, leaders from the multicultural business community, the Korean Consul-General, KOTRA, Korean business leaders and students of international business. The event provided an opportunity to launch VoKAB's booklet prepared by Julianne in collaboration with Gi-Hyun Shin from the Korean studies program at the University of New South Wales.

NATHAN GREMMO MEMORIAL SHIELD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (13:36): I speak today about the Nathan Gremmo Memorial Shield, which will be held at Crestwood Oval, Baulkham Hills, on 23 June 2024. The Hills Bulls Ron Massey Cup side will be competing for the annual Nathan Gremmo Memorial Shield. The memorial shield honours the life of Nathan Gremmo. In May 2015 the Gremmo family's life changed with the tragic accident that took away young Nathan. Nathan was an exceptional young man. He was a heroic 13-year-old boy who was an organ donor. Nathan's gift of his organs saved six lives, including that of a baby boy. His life touched many people in our community and he will never be forgotten. I am therefore asking that those who can attend on Sunday at Crestwood Oval, Baulkham Hills, to join the community to celebrate and honour Nathan's life. I thank Michael Gremmo, his father, and his entire family for continuing to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation in our society, and I thank Nathan.

MR NGOC MINH LU

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (13:37): Mr Ngoc Minh Lu's journey, from escaping a communist regime as a refugee after the Vietnam War to advancing in an IT and chemical technology education and career in Germany and later Australia, is nothing short of inspiring. His dedication to continuous learning and resilience in overcoming challenges exemplifies remarkable determination. With his extensive IT expertise, Mr Lu is passionate about giving back to his community. In 1990 Mr Lu joined the Vietnamese Professionals Society, providing technical support in building computer networks for Vietnamese communities worldwide. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he joined the Sydney Local Health District to support the community at a critical time. In 2023 Mr Lu joined the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association [VEFA], where his IT services have been invaluable. His expertise and dedication have played a pivotal role in advancing VEFA's initiatives, notably expanding essential services such as English and computer classes. On behalf of our community, I thank Mr Lu for his outstanding commitment and invaluable contributions.

REG PIERCE, OAM

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (13:38): It gives me great pleasure today to congratulate Reginald "Reg" Pierce for receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia. Reg, who has a deep love for Wauchope and a passion for helping its people, was awarded the prestigious honour for service to the communities of Wauchope and the Mid North Coast. That service dates back to the 1970s, when he first worked tirelessly for the Rotary Club of Wauchope. Over the years Reg's humanitarian work has made for an impressive repertoire. Between 2002 and 2016, Reg was the chair of the Rotary Donations in Kind committee, and between 2003 and 2012, the chair of the Adopt a School program. Between 2017 and 2022, Reg was also the director and manager of Rotary's drought relief program, which saw him in charge of raising \$1.5 million to deliver clean water and stockfeed for farmers. We are honoured to have a selfless and compassionate member of our community who always identifies a need and goes into bat for its betterment. I thank Reg and congratulate him once again on obtaining this noble accolade.

SOUTH COAST STINGRAYS BOCCIA CLUB

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (13:39): Today I celebrate the South Coast Stingrays Boccia Club. The club will be hosting its inaugural competition, the Shoalhaven Shield, on Saturday 22 June 2024. This significant event will be held at the Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre at Bomaderry, attracting competitors from across the State. Boccia is one of the world's fastest growing and most inclusive Paralympic sports, fostering community, inclusivity and removing barriers to participation. It encourages and supports athletes, carers, family members and support workers alike. This year the Shoalhaven Shield holds special significance as the club will honour the memory of Bodhi, a dedicated member who recently passed away at the young age of 18. I commend

the South Coast Stingrays Boccia Club for their efforts to increase the profile of boccia and provide more opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in this wonderful sport.

HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (13:40): In a big win for our local heritage and history, the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace in Cremorne will be protected for future generations with its listing on the New South Wales State Heritage Register. Many people have fond memories of watching a film at the Orpheum. It holds a very special place in our hearts, lives and community. Opened in 1935 as the Cremorne Orpheum, it is celebrated as a well-preserved example of a theatre in the classic Art Deco style of the interwar years. Under the ownership and vision of Mike Walsh, OAM, it was saved and restored in the 1980s—thank goodness. It is pleasing that it will now be preserved for the enjoyment of current and future generations. I thank everyone who came together to make this listing a reality: the theatre's leadership, North Sydney Council and a range of community groups. I particularly recognise the Cremorne Conservation Society and the work of Fiona Gracie. It was a terrific community effort. Heritage matters and it is important that we celebrate and preserve our history for the future.

CATHY WILTON

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (13:41): Cathy Wilton started her role as relieving principal at Yennora Public School in May 2022. Growing up in Cabramatta and raising her family in Fairfield Heights, she has held several positions working in Fairfield-based schools as a teacher or school leader. During her time as relieving principal at Yennora Public School, she promoted the improvement of digital platforms for teaching and learning. She was also a strong advocate for bolstering school infrastructure. Of note was her work alongside stakeholders at Verona School to secure a joint multipurpose hall in the recent New South Wales budget. This hall will transform the school experience for thousands of students for decades to come. That is legacy. That is impact. I thank Cathy for her leadership and service to Yennora Public School, its students, their families and its staff.

JUDITH KING, OAM

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:42): I ask the House to join me in congratulating Judith King on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia [OAM]. This recognition is a testament to Judith's exceptional service to secondary education, particularly in the Ryde community. During her tenures as principal at Riverside Girls High School and Beacon Hill Technology High School, Judith demonstrated unwavering dedication and leadership. Her extensive career, spanning several decades—within the Department of Education and in roles including head mistress and assistant teacher—exemplifies Judith's lifelong commitment to shaping young minds and fostering academic excellence. Judith's contributions extended beyond her school leadership roles, as evidenced by her active involvement in professional advocacy, where she provided a strong voice for the teaching profession. Her dedication to education and community service has enriched the lives of many in Ryde, leaving a lasting legacy of excellence and inspiration. Judith's achievements, culminating in this prestigious honour, highlight her profound impact on education and her exemplary service to the community. I commend her outstanding contributions and celebrate this well-deserved accolade.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CONNOLLY, OAM

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (13:43): I honour the remarkable Shirley Connolly, OAM, affectionately known as "Mrs C". Sadly, Shirley passed away on 4 June. Shirley was the heart and soul of the Campbelltown District Netball Association for over 30 years, earning recognition at local and State levels. As a foundation member of the Campbelltown Sports Foundation, Shirley played a pivotal role in establishing the South West Sydney Academy of Sport. Her dedication to women's sport in the Macarthur region earned her multiple community service awards from Campbelltown council, and the Netball NSW Anne Clark Service award in 2000. Shirley's impact on netball administration was profound. Her belief that "if your community provides a service, you should give something in return" was evident in everything she did. Despite not playing netball herself, she saw its value through her daughters and tirelessly promoted the sport. In 2021 Shirley was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her outstanding contributions to netball. Her dedication and community spirit will be deeply missed. Vale, Mrs C.

COAST SHELTER RECONCILIATION GATHERING

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:44): As part of National Reconciliation Week 2024, I was deeply honoured to join thousands of locals of all ages participating in Coast Shelter's Reconciliation Gathering at Industree Group Stadium on 28 May. The remarkable event brought our community together in a spirit of unity and reflection. The event included a united walk from the Coast Shelter Community Centre through Gosford's town centre to Industree Group Stadium. That was followed by a sharing of First Nations peoples culture with a powerful acknowledgement of country, song, dance and the yidaki, which is the didgeridoo. I extend my congratulations to Lea Shearer, CEO of Coast Shelter; the outstanding chairperson of the Darkinjung Local

Aboriginal Land Council, Tina West; Tim Selwyn from Girri Girra Aboriginal Experiences; and the fantastic artists from The Glen for Men and The Glen for Women on creating such a memorable experience for everyone who attended. Their dedication and efforts made the gathering a special experience. I thank Coast Shelter and all the wonderful sponsors, volunteers and partners for their unwavering support of this amazing community event.

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL MCLEAN

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (13:45): Our police go above and beyond to protect New South Wales. Detective Superintendent Michael McLean, Commander of the Fairfield City Police Area Command [PAC] since June 2022, is a testament to that. Detective Superintendent McLean is an experienced officer and notable leader, having served in a variety of appointments across a range of portfolios in general duties, investigations and intelligence. His experience and proactive approach to policing has made a significant impact to the policing operational capability in the region. Furthermore, I have seen firsthand his commitment to bolstering the morale and welfare of personnel under his command. Detective Superintendent McLean's commitment to enhancing relationships between the Fairfield community and police conforms with best practice community policing. I commend Detective Superintendent McLean for his leadership with the Fairfield PAC and for his significant contributions. I thank him for what he did for Fairfield.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS EVENTS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:46): I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the success of one of Ryde's first Meet Your Neighbours events, hosted by Nathan Xiaolong in Meadowbank. The event was a significant step towards fostering a stronger sense of community among Ryde residents, particularly those living in high-density areas. High-density living can often make it difficult for residents to meet their neighbours and build local connections. Nate's event provided a much-needed platform for residents to come together, share experiences and form meaningful relationships. Ryde council offers funding of up to \$250 to encourage community engagement activities like Nate's event. Through this funding, the Meet Your Neighbours event facilitated an inclusive and welcoming environment, enabling residents to break the ice and connect in ways that high-density living typically restricts. Nate's efforts have contributed significantly to the community spirit of Ryde, promoting social cohesion and a supportive neighbourhood environment. This initiative exemplifies the positive impact that dedicated community members can have on enhancing local connections and fostering a vibrant community. I thank Nate for his invaluable contribution to Ryde and Meadowbank.

HARDING MILLER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:47): On Monday 6 May 2024 I was pleased to attend the annual Harding Miller Education Foundation Awards ceremony at Sofitel Sydney, Darling Harbour. The Harding Miller Education Foundation is an Australian charity that supports high potential but socio-economically disadvantaged girls across Australia. Successful scholars receive a \$20,000 scholarship over four years of high school. Since 2016, the foundation has awarded over 1,000 scholarships to girls from more than 400 schools across the country. The awards were an opportunity to welcome the newest members of the scholarship program, which included six young students from the electorate of Prospect including Elyse Huynh, Vivian Trinh, Zara Sahin, Chelsea Sok and Emily Mckinnon. Each scholar receives a high-quality laptop, personal tutoring, prepaid cards, school essentials, homework help and extensive enrichment opportunities over four years. I congratulate all the successful scholars.

MINI-MOS COMMUNITY FUN RUN

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:48): A brisk Sunday morning was not going to stop one of the premier events that graces the streets of Mosman. I am of course talking about the Mini-Mos Community Fun Run and Fair, hosted by the incredible parents and community of the Mosman Public School P&C Association and staff from Mosman Public School in partnership with local businesses and sponsors. Over the course of the morning more than 2,000 runners took part, running through the streets of Mosman. As well as raising money for Mosman Public School, each year Mini-Mos nominates a charity to raise funds for simultaneously. This year the partner charity was Kids Giving Back, which is an organisation that facilitates hands-on volunteering programs for kids and families across Sydney. I especially thank the Mosman Public School P&C for its outstanding work in organising the day and Anne-Marie Gibson, Claire Jolly, Philippa Macaskill, Kirsty Tanner, Ben Mangold, Lisa Gard, Ronel Engelbrecht, Kitty See, Rebecca Scelly, Sonya Lekanik, Lucy Walker, Jacqui Cummins, Sarah Hughes and Sally Giblin, and of course Principal Steve Connelly, for all their amazing work. The kids and I loved joining them. I congratulate all placegetters and runners.

HELP YOU COPE ORGANISATION

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (13:49): Help You Cope is a not-for-profit organisation based in south-west Sydney with truly inspiring beginnings. Joline George felt overwhelmed and unsupported when her

son received an autism diagnosis at 18 months old. After approximately 1½ years of navigating how to best provide for his care needs, in March 2019 Joline founded Help You Cope—an autism support hub designed to counsel and offer support to carers facing similar circumstances. Starting with three mums at the first support group, this quickly grew via word of mouth. It now has approximately 200 registered carers and has supported over 1,000 carers both online and in person since opening. I thank founder Joline and her dedicated team for raising autism awareness and making a difference in the lives of caregivers and those they care for. Thank you, and well done.

PACIFIC LAKES, CANTON BEACH

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:50): I was absolutely delighted to have the fantastic opportunity to attend and view Pacific Link Housing's brand-new housing facility, Pacific Lakes, which is a development in Canton Beach on the Central Coast. I was delighted to be part of a government that helped to deliver the almost \$2 million in funding to help to support the delivery of this infrastructure project for our communities. The complex comprises 14 units of social, affordable and market rate rentals. I have spoken about Pacific Link Housing in this Chamber previously. It does a fantastic job. This company is based on the Central Coast. As I said earlier, this development was partially funded by the former Government to the tune of \$1.92 million. I congratulate Ian Lynch and the incredible team at Pacific Link Housing. These are Central Coast locals providing houses for Central Coasts people who are most in need, and they do an absolutely outstanding job. They are a real credit to our region by providing support for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Congratulations, Pacific Link, on your property at Canton Beach.

Private Members' Statements

BETTY SPEARS CHILD CARE CENTRE

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (13:51): I wish to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the Betty Spears Child Care Centre and recognise the tireless work of this community organisation. The Betty Spears Child Care Centre has been a pillar of comfort and support for families within Tempe and surrounds for four decades. Today the centre stands as a lasting reminder of the tenacity of its extraordinary founder, Betty Spears, for which the centre was very aptly named. For those in the Labor family, Betty's name is likely to be a familiar one. Throughout her involvement in the Labor Party, Betty was widely known as a fierce activist and champion of the Labor union movement. Much of her advocacy centred on making sure the workforce was a better, fairer place for women and working mothers. In particular, she fought vigorously for equal pay for women and was a major contributor for the first equal pay case in 1972.

In the early 1980s Betty campaigned for four years to secure funding from both the State and Federal governments to establish a childcare centre. This was not to be just any other childcare centre: Betty was a visionary and she understood the importance of supporting working mothers and helping women get back into the workforce after having children. She selected the site at Tempe bus depot to make sure the women and parents who did not work in a typical nine-to-five environment would not miss out on being in the workforce. Some started their shifts late or finished early in the morning, which meant that traditional childcare services were not suitable. After years of fighting, Betty was able to secure funding and in 1984 the Betty Spears Child Care Centre opened its doors. It was a trailblazing service and, at the time, was the first and only 24-hour childcare centre in Australia. It gave the bus depot workers access to a safe and reliable childcare service so they could provide for their families without giving up work.

While the centre is no longer open 24 hours, many working parents in Australia have Betty to thank for making childcare services more flexible to meet family needs. The centre has overcome many challenges over the years, including attempts by various governments to sell it off. Over the years the staff have fought hard on multiple occasions to keep the centre within the community—where it rightly belongs. Its future was again in doubt under the former Government, which refused to renew their lease while the bus depot was being upgraded. When Labor came to government last year, I was determined that the Betty Spears Child Care Centre would continue to stay open for the more than 90 families who rely on it. When residents in my electorate raised their concerns about losing the centre, I advocated to the Minister for Transport for the site to remain. I understand that a long-term lease is being finalised, which will guarantee its future for many years to come.

During my time as the local member, I have visited the Betty Spears Child Care Centre on many occasions. I have seen firsthand the impact that the incredible teachers and early childhood educators have on young minds and their families. I was proud to recently join Heather Byrne, the chair of Betty Spears, and centre manager Karen Dresser, along with parents and their children to celebrate the centre's fortieth birthday. Betty Spear's legacy continues to live on in the many children whose lives have been forever enriched by their time at the centre. I will continue to support this special community organisation and will always fight to ensure that my electorate's residents have access to excellent and affordable child care.

I thank the transport Minister, Jo Haylen. As shadow Minister, she gave the commitment that an incoming Labor government, if elected, would save the Betty Spears Child Care Centre. She honoured the promise that she gave to the residents of Tempe, and I thank her for that. I congratulate all the wonderful staff and educators on this significant milestone.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (13:56): I thank Minister Hoenig for bringing his private member's statement to the House. As he noted, the Betty Spears Child Care Centre is one of a kind and completely revolutionary. I knew Betty personally; she lived around the corner from me. She was a huge part of the eastern suburbs community and had an impact on workers and women. The legacy that she left has really transformed the way that we think about child care. I also thank the Rail, Tram and Bus Union for its work in advocating for the retention of the childcare centre. As the Minister identified, this childcare centre was at risk under the previous Government. Minister Haylen has done phenomenal work in preserving and saving the centre, which caters for the families not just of bus drivers but all people across Minister Hoenig's community as well.

WAHROONGA ELECTORATE SCOUT GROUPS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (13:57): I have often spoken in the past about the great scout groups in my electorate. With the Wahroonga electorate spanning the Ku-ring-gai and Lane Cove national parks, and the many bush areas in between, the scout movement has a particularly rich tapestry of opportunities to flourish in that locality—and so it does. Indeed, I think that Sydney North Region Scouts is the most successful area for scouting nationally. It is something I am proud of. Scouts develop great skills and qualities in our young men and women, and the adults who facilitate them developing those skills and qualities are themselves exceptional people. Today I raise an issue that has been bouncing around for some time, and I hope it will be resolved in the lead-up to the upcoming council elections.

For many years now I have been told that the scout groups in the Ku-ring-gai local government area have little security of tenure over their scout halls. Often these halls are on Crown land, which is administered by the local council. Also, these scout halls have often been built by members of the community in generations past and most, if not all, of the maintenance of the buildings is done by the scout parents and leaders. Security of tenure is an important issue for the maintenance of the scout facilities and affects the terms and conditions under which the scout groups can operate. For almost a decade in the Ku-ring-gai local government area, none of the scout groups have had a lease. In one case that has been an issue for over 40 years.

I have tried to get this issue resolved with many previous mayors, and I ask the current mayor, Sam Ngai—whom I have always found to be a very decent person—to find the solution that has eluded his predecessors. I am not having a go at the mayor or the council's staff, but we need a solution to this issue. One consequence of the absence of tenure, when there is nothing to guarantee that the scouts will be able to use the hall beyond the next few weeks, is that parents are reluctant to invest money in the halls. I have tried to assist by recommending State Government Community Building Partnership grants to our local scouts, but the council needs to support our scouting groups that are developing our future by investing in our young people.

I have been informed that, rather than the situation being fixed, it has recently become worse. One of the groups has been told by Ku-ring-gai Council that they cannot lease their hall to other groups, which is one of the ways in which the scouts are able to remain viable and is also important to many community groups in our area. The catalyst for this decision was a person hiring a scout hall on behalf of an undesirable group in the community. Scouts NSW was contacted by a person wanting to hire a hall for 12 hours for "a combined casual thirtieth birthday party and belated Australia Day weekend get-together with friends". The booking details said that it would be a family event and:

There will be no alcohol, and the average age of attendees will be around 30, and many will have young children. We plan to have a BBQ outside (we would bring our own) and social gathering, and the kids can run around etc. We will clean up after ourselves and leave the hall in pristine condition.

A scouts representative met with who appeared to be a husband and wife with a child to collect the keys to the hall and was oblivious to the fact that the gathering was for an entirely different and socially undesirable purpose. Though the scouts were not at fault and were misled and deceived, they are now being penalised by the council and can no longer hire out their hall to families, community groups or small businesses. Ku-ring-gai Council has advised Scouts NSW that failure to comply with that directive could put the scouts under direct threat of eviction. If Ku-ring-gai Council were to prevent the scouts from leasing their hall to small businesses and families or even from hosting their own meetings because they have been evicted, the council would not have sufficient facilities to accommodate the many groups who use the hall. The scouts are asking for a more reasonable approach by the council, especially for the small businesses and community groups who use the hall in addition to them.

These issues of insecurity of tenure need to be resolved. It is completely unfair for community groups like the scouts, who contribute a significant amount to our local community and our country, to not have the certainty

of their leases going forward. The deception by one outside group should not risk all of their great work. I ask Mayor Sam Ngai to immediately make contact with the Sydney North Scouts deputy commissioner to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency, and I ask all councils to support our wonderful scouts.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (14:02): Domestic violence is a scourge on New South Wales. In Australia nearly one in four women and one in eight men over the age of 15 have experienced violence from an intimate partner or family member. Fairfield has a highly culturally and linguistically diverse population, meaning an increased vulnerability for victims of domestic violence, alongside barriers to access for support. That is why I am so proud that the New South Wales Labor Government, in partnership with Settlement Services International, recently opened the NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety in a location directly relevant to Fairfield. The centre collaborates with services to strengthen culturally responsive case management and support for domestic, family and sexual violence.

The centre does this through a range of mechanisms. Firstly, it provides support with individual safety planning, navigating relevant services, advocacy, counselling and recovery planning. Secondly, it helps with securing assistance from police, legal services and courts, and with income support and crisis accommodation. Thirdly, the centre collaborates with other domestic, family and sexual violence services to support them in their work with migrants and refugees who are affected by violence. This occurs through providing advice and practice support on complex cases involving cultural or migration considerations.

Fourthly, the centre delivers training to services in culturally responsive practice in the context of domestic, family and sexual violence. It works with communities to raise awareness and understanding of violence and its drivers and appropriate responses. Overall, the centre's operations specifically focus on Fairfield and south-west Sydney, as well as broader New South Wales, for its collaboration and training services. This centre will make a difference. This centre will save lives. I urge those in need of help to please reach out to the centre by calling (02) 8111 7077 or call 000 in an emergency. Please stay safe.

REGIONAL AND RURAL CRIME

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (14:05): Regional New South Wales has been crying out for help. People are struggling and they cannot sleep. They fear for their safety and are left defenceless in front of a government that promised to be their knight in shining armour. For six months the Minns Labor Government has been carrying on about helping the regions. So far, that help has extended to Moree in the budget papers, and the rest of us are still waiting. In fact, we are pleading for some kind of reprieve. A few days after the new State budget that reprieve remains to be seen.

I will tell members a story about Marilyn Figget, whom I have known for about 10 years. She has given her heart and soul to our community but has had to fight against members of the community entering her house multiple times and perpetrating crimes in her backyard. Marilyn has faced one of the most difficult weeks of her life. She is a pensioner who is trying to get by in the rough end of town, in South Kempsey, where she has lived and contributed to the community for a very long time. She recently had her car stolen, and it was not the first time either. In fact, I cannot count on my fingers the number of times she has had her car stolen—it has happened 20 times and her home has been invaded 18 times. She is the victim of a campaign of fear. She is a pensioner who is living alone in a difficult area with a high crime rate.

It was not until Marilyn made a heartfelt plea to social media that the community rallied behind her. They helped Marilyn bring back the car that was stolen. Police did their duty and impounded the car for fingerprinting. The community pooled resources and helped Marilyn restore the vehicle. There were many contributors, including Beaurepaires in Kempsey, which has offered to do a wheel alignment for her. North Coast Heavy Towing dropped her car off. Macleay Locksmiths and Security significantly reduced its price to help her get back into her car and gave her a new key that the people perpetrating the crime do not have.

Unfortunately, there are many more cases like Marilyn's in regional New South Wales. It has been two months since the Labor Government promised an inquiry into regional crime. To its credit, that process is rolling on and the committee is receiving submissions. But it took six months of the Liberals and The Nationals continually asking for the inquiry until we got it. We need to hear from the Minns Government what the next steps are and what it is going to do. Government members need to come to Kempsey and Oxley and have a look at what is happening in our towns. Is the Government going to make further investments from its fund into our region? I implore the Government not to wait a year for the trial in Moree to implement it.

When are we going to hear the results of the inquiry and when are we going to see action on the ground? How long will it take for these submissions to create meaningful change in our small towns? In fact, I would like to see the Minns Labor Government put its money where its mouth is. It has had two budgets to get it right but it

has not offered up a realistic, tangible solution to regional crime. But should I have expected any better? This Government has failed to deliver on any new cost-of-living relief. There is crime in our regions and no cost-of-living relief. My electorate has received no new funding. The money announced for Waterfall Way was a reannouncement, as was the money to fight fire ants. It is time for this Government to start protecting and defending people like Marilyn. I urge a regional crime inquiry to come to Oxley.

PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (14:10): It was a pleasure to see the Lord Mayor of Parramatta in this place this week when he dropped by to thank the Premier and the Ministers on behalf of the residents and businesses of the Parramatta local government area for committing \$2.1 billion in the 2024-25 State budget for Parramatta Light Rail stage two. The light rail provides a crucial connection for the communities in my electorate and across Sydney's growing west, and construction of stage two will begin under the Minns Labor Government. The investment follows recent NSW Planning approval and Federal environmental approval for the project. The game-changing transport project will unlock development potential and deliver frequent and reliable public transport options for residents who have moved into fast-growing suburbs like Wentworth Point. The 12-kilometre alignment will link the Parramatta CBD to Sydney Olympic Park via Camellia, Rydalmere, Ermington, Melrose Park and Wentworth Point, with 14 new stops, three new river crossings and 8.5 kilometres of new walking and cycling paths.

After years of posturing from the former Government, the people of the Parramatta electorate now have assurance that Parramatta Light Rail stage two will be built. Construction will be phased, with initial work to begin later this year on a new 320-metre public and active transport bridge over Parramatta River between Melrose Park and Wentworth Point. For many people across New South Wales and Australia, and indeed the world, Sydney Olympic Park and its surrounds is synonymous with the best Olympic Games ever, or maybe the Matildas and the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. If you are a "Swiftie" like our Treasurer, it could be synonymous with screaming "shake it off" at one of Tay-Tay's concerts or enjoying chips on a stick each year at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

However, for the tens of thousands of people in Sydney Olympic Park and its surrounding suburbs of Wentworth Point, Lidcombe and Newington, the peninsula is their home. The Carter Street precinct in Lidcombe and Wentworth Point are products of UAPs. Do any members remember the urban activation precincts that former Premier O'Farrell rolled out in 2013 as the solution to Sydney's future housing needs? The public exhibition exclaimed:

The rezoning proposal for the Wentworth Point Urban Activation Precinct includes apartments, maritime facilities, a large peninsula park, a school and connections to the nearby Sydney Olympic Parklands.

That was the promise for Wentworth Point in 2013. What was the picture of that urban activation precinct when the Minns Government was elected 10 years later? By 2023 Wentworth Point was the most densely populated suburb in Australia. It had a public school that was bursting at the seams—so much so that the school principal had to rotate the children for their recess and lunch breaks. A wasteland of public land earmarked for a peninsula park a decade earlier had shrunk in size due to a decision to plonk the long-awaited Sydney Olympic Park High School on a portion of that park. Finally, there was the failure to fund any new public transport links—certainly not Parramatta Light Rail stage two.

The good news for the people of Wentworth Point is that the Minns Labor Government's budget is all about the must-haves: building Peninsula Park for the "Pointers", building stage two of Wentworth Point Public School and providing \$2.1 billion for the construction of Parramatta Light Rail stage two. When I was elected to this place the dream of Peninsula Park was still not a reality. Thanks to our Government, we are ensuring the people of Wentworth Point will finally have the peninsula park and Parramatta Light Rail stage two, connecting Parramatta CBD to Sydney Olympic Park. That public transport service will be reliable and provide the connection that is necessary when we build these wonderful new suburbs in the sky. I thank the House.

NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE CROMER CAMPUS

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (14:15): Across the northern beaches the community has been crying out for more indoor multi-use sports courts so everyone can play the sports they love. Waiting lists are in the thousands, with kids missing out. I have raised this issue both with Ministers and in the Chamber on multiple occasions, particularly in relation to the demand to play basketball. At the same time, the Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus P&C has been making a strong case for a new school hall, not only for sport but also for all-school assemblies, music and other performances. In particular, I thank Jackie Reavie for her leadership on this as president of the P&C. Last week we celebrated the Government's commitment for us to get both, in a two-in-one-style development at Cromer Campus: a multi-court sports facility for community use that doubles as a new school hall to meet the varied needs of this excellent local public high school. Significant funding

to start planning this new facility was confirmed in the budget on Wednesday, the school one of only a handful slated for new major works across the State.

On Friday I was pleased to welcome the Premier to the Wakehurst electorate, where he visited the high school. He even got to shoot some hoops with the under-16s basketball team on the outdoor concrete courts where it practises, and present medals to the players for recently winning the State championships—a remarkable achievement I have previously mentioned in this place. I am passionate about providing our young people with the facilities to support a rich and fulfilling extracurricular life, whether that involves playing in a basketball team or a band or performing in a stage production. These activities bring joy, connection and purpose to the lives of students. Youth mental health, in particular, is a major concern for parents in this area, so it has always been—and always will be—a top priority for me.

In recent years Cromer campus has gone from strength to strength. Students are consistently improving in their NAPLAN results. Just two years ago the school got its best-ever HSC results. The creative arts program at the school is now flourishing, with the first school musical in decades held just last year. Cromer campus is also very culturally diverse, with some 27 per cent of students having a language background other than English and 55 language backgrounds in total represented at the school. Staff and students do a great job of celebrating this cultural diversity and the richness it brings. For example, on Harmony Day last year students from Filipino, Nepali, Thai and Tongan backgrounds celebrated their cultures together through dance and presentations, including a display of traditional dress and greeting the school in their varied languages. The link back to sport is also important here, with teachers crediting the strong sporting culture as important in fostering harmony at the school. Playing sport together unites people. It is about teamwork, as simple as that.

I acknowledge the exceptional leadership of Mr Justin Hong, who is in his tenth year at the school and has really turned it around. Not only does he run the place as principal, which is more like a CEO these days, but also coaches the basketball team and is the drummer in the teachers' band. He is quite the legend—but he is no Larry Mullen Jr. Justin rightly credits his committed and dynamic teaching staff members, who go above and beyond for the students. I too can attest to those great teachers. Their hard work means Cromer is an excellent comprehensive local public high school that builds the talents and potential of all its students across the areas of academia, sports and the arts. The whole community is indebted to them.

There have been no major infrastructure projects at the school since it opened nearly 50 years ago, despite the student population doubling to 1,200 kids—and growing—over the last decade. To walk around the grounds feels like going back in time. On the day the Premier visited, the weather obliged with some light drizzle to demonstrate the point that there is no indoor space large enough to comfortably fit large groups of students, let alone the whole school.

I am so proud of Cromer campus. It is awesome to see this local public high school receive the investment it needs and deserves. With a new purpose-built, multi-use school hall for all the community to use, I cannot wait to see the school continue to thrive. The announced commencement of planning for the facility is just the start. I look forward to working with the school, the community and the sporting groups over coming months to make sure the final design delivers a great outcome that meets the needs of the whole community, which I know it will. Cromer campus and Mr Hong, I love your work.

COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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) (14:19): I acknowledge the organisations in my electorate that received finance under the Community Building Partnership program this year. The member for Tweed is in the Chamber. He will remember when the Community Building Partnership program started in 2009, and I have to say we used to get a lot more money back then. Anyway, we will keep lobbying to get back to those days. I think it was \$700,000, actually.

Mr Geoff Provost: Yes, it was.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: It was, yes. That great program supplies funds for really important projects. The groups in my community include Wyong Family History Group, which is getting \$16,895 to get a new Micrographic ScanPro and computer. I actually know what that does: It allows the group to scan documents and then store them digitally, which is really important to make sure that history is preserved. A lot of those documents are hard copies or have been photographed, and they deteriorate, and the grant will mean that those resources are available for the future.

Wyong Men's Shed—a great organisation—is getting \$11,935 to refurbish its decking. As members know, men's sheds are not just about getting together and building things; they are great for mental health. That group's members in particular do an amazing job. They have been around for a long time and it is a great facility, so I am

happy that they are getting funding. The Bikers Hand charity is a waypoint for food that then gets distributed to the other charities that give out food to the community. Through Bendigo Bank, its members have been able to lease a factory bay and stack the food so that those organisations only have to come and get it when they need it. They needed a forklift, so \$12,672 will go to towards helping them purchase that forklift so that they can support those other groups in our community.

We all know the job that Marine Rescue does, and Marine Rescue Toukley is getting \$20,566 to refurbish its base. It is an older building and Marine Rescue members do an amazing job, so it is really good that they will be able to modernise that. The mighty Toukley Hawks, who have won the past two Central Coast Rugby League premierships, are getting \$150,000 to upgrade their clubhouse and improve drainage at the ground. That is well deserved; those hardworking volunteers do an amazing job. Wyong Creek Hall will get \$11,599. The little hall is probably heritage listed and is one of the only meeting places in that community. They will replace some outdated and unsafe equipment to ensure that they can continue to lease that building out.

Oasis, which is part of the Salvation Army, is getting \$16,322 to upgrade its kitchen with LED lighting and a range hood. It provides a number of fantastic services—including a kitchen, a supermarket and a cafe—so the grant is really needed. Pioneer Dairy will receive \$17,240 to buy a new all-terrain vehicle. Warnervale Public School will receive \$20,000 to create an exercise equipment course. That is important for that school, which is in one of the newer suburbs. The grant that will create the most work for a crew is the \$20,145 for a new boat for the Central Coast Dragon Boat Club. In the past—although not for quite a few years—I have been out with club members on a number of occasions, and it is quite an enjoyable sport. The new boat, including the mandatory drum, will keep everyone rowing together in the same direction.

That is what we look for in this place—that we all row in the same direction. Obviously it is more important for that crew, because they do not just do social excursions on a Sunday; they also compete in competitions. It is money well spent, and I congratulate all of those groups on their applications and their work in our community. A lot of other groups missed out, which is really sad, but I encourage them to reapply next year. It may be that we could not fit them in this year, but next year we will have a look at it.

Mr Geoff Provest: We can double it.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The member for Tweed and I will put in a bid to double the Community Building Partnership grants and see how we go.

STATE BUDGET AND TWEED ELECTORATE

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (14:24): The 2024-25 State budget was handed down on Tuesday. A lot has been said in this Chamber about the budget over the past couple of days but, honestly, the Tweed electorate has received its fair share. Some \$200 million has been allocated to boost health worker accommodation in the regional parts of New South Wales. The Tweed will see a share of that allocation to support the recruitment and retention of over 500 health workers and their families by providing a range of new worker accommodation.

Some \$9 million was allocated to social housing and flood recovery, and \$26.9 million was allocated to the Resilient Homes Program, while \$275,000 was allocated for 11 school crossing supervisors to keep the kids of the Tweed safe. Some \$9.4 million was allocated to complete works at the new Kingscliff Ambulance Station, while \$24.1 million was allocated for upgrades to the Cobaki and Kings Forest substations. Both those estates have 5,000 new home sites, so there are 10,000 homes there. The budget allocated \$18 million for the upgrade of the Tweed Coast Road, and \$4.7 million for sporting fields at Kings Forest. An extra \$18.4 million was allocated for the Kingscliff TAFE campus expansion and the research hub at the new Tweed Valley Hospital.

I welcome the continued funding for the upgrades at Kingscliff High School, Kingscliff Public School, Tweed Heads South Public School and Tweed River High School. There was also \$3 million allocated to the light rail, which is very important for my local area. It connects the Tweed to the Gold Coast, which is currently building its light rail. That is one of the issues I have always fought for. The Tweed area is very good when it comes to the environment and social housing and so on, but public transport is the way of the future. I am very excited about that.

There is funding to support families with the cost of living, as \$4,220 will be available in fee relief for parents and carers of three- to five-year-olds in community and mobile preschools. In further funding for Kingscliff TAFE, fee-free training for the formal training component of apprenticeships and traineeships has also been made available. Two \$50 Active and Creative Kids combined vouchers are available. I am disappointed that the original program was dropped, but something is better than nothing. All in all, a lot of money has been directly designated for the Tweed electorate. I am pleased about that—it could have been more, but I am pleased.

As of Friday 21 June, which is today, two new probationary constables will commence their duties in the Tweed-Byron Police District, after the officers were attested at a formal ceremony at Goulburn. On behalf of the community, I am pleased to welcome our newest police officers to the Tweed. A career in policing is like no other. It takes a special person with dedication and commitment. Their commitment to fostering a safe and thriving environment is invaluable, and we want each and every officer to know that their efforts are deeply appreciated by the wider community.

Class 362 comprised 169 new probationary constables, including 122 men and 47 women. Eight of the recruits will receive awards for outstanding academic, physical, marksmanship and practical policing achievements. The recruits have completed eight months of foundational training and our new officers will report to their stations from Monday 24 June. Members on both sides of the Chamber appreciate the efforts of the NSW Police Force in keeping us all safe.

The Tweed electorate has had a trying time, having gone through floods, the COVID pandemic and many other different things. The Tweed has an interesting relationship with Queensland. I was pleased to note that New South Wales recently signed a cross-border memorandum with Queensland. I think that is extraordinarily important. Particularly with groups such as community and justice, there is a strong relationship across the border. A lot has been done on the cross-border relationship. It is unique in the State. At the best of times, Queensland is difficult to deal with.

Ms Jodie Harrison: Queenslanders!

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Yes, Queenslanders—very much so. All in all, I am pleased with the current budget.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (14:29): In my role as Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, I congratulate the member for Tweed and comment on the Government's contribution to health worker accommodation. As the member for Bega, I know that the Eurobodalla has also benefited from the Government's \$200 million contribution towards essential health worker accommodation. Tweed Heads, Lake Cargelligo, Lismore and the Eurobodalla will benefit from over \$200 million towards that accommodation, with approximately 120 dwellings being provided, which will supply some 500 essential workers with homes. That is on top of a \$45.3 million contribution to accommodation for health workers in the Murrumbidgee, southern New South Wales and Far West local health districts. We have just received the work contract for the new Eurobodalla hospital. After making these announcements, we are always asked where the workers will live. As we can see, the Government is contributing to worker accommodation in these areas.

STATE BUDGET AND CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (14:30): When a government hands down a budget, it is more than a set of figures and financial forecasts. It is a vision for the future and a statement of values. This week the Minns Labor Government handed down its second budget and set out a clear vision for New South Wales, and for my electorate of Charlestown. The values of this budget are clear: It cares for and supports the people of this State during tough times, and it is responsible. The budget does not recklessly throw cash around to get good media grabs. It is a budget of must-haves, with sensible spending on important infrastructure and much-needed support for essential services, frontline workers and the people doing it tough right now.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for families in Charlestown and across New South Wales to make ends meet. That is why the budget is all about getting the services that people rely on and the State's finances back on track. This budget means that we will not have to spend money on interest payments instead of essential services. It means that we will be able to invest in health care, education, transport and the bread-and-butter services that governments should deliver to citizens. I often hear from people in the Charlestown electorate who have difficulty accessing primary health services, including GPs. The budget commits \$189 million to support bulk-billing in GP clinics by waiving payroll tax for GPs in the Charlestown electorate who meet a minimum bulk-billing rate of 70 per cent. That will mean more people seeing their GPs and fewer people presenting to our emergency departments.

The budget prioritises building homes across the State, including in the Charlestown electorate, because the Government recognises that everyone deserves a safe, secure roof over their heads. The Building Homes for NSW program will support the delivery of 30,000 new homes across the State. It is difficult to overstate how important that will be. I once stood in this Chamber and referred to the state of public housing maintenance and access under the previous Government as a "humanitarian disaster" and said that those opposite had mismanaged a homelessness crisis into a full-blown catastrophe. Now, thanks to this Government and the largest investment

in housing by any government in the State's history, that disaster will come to an end. This investment will transform some parts of my electorate and give some of my most vulnerable constituents the safety and security of a well-maintained home—something denied them by the previous Government's neglect.

The budget also prioritises important local infrastructure and services, with funding provided to commence construction on stage one of the much-needed Hillsborough Road upgrade. This important arterial connection in northern Lake Macquarie has been unfit for purpose for so long. Unlike members opposite, this Government listens to the locals who have been advocating for these upgrades for so long. As part of this Government's commitment to taking mental health seriously, there is funding to open the Residential Eating Disorders Centre in Charlestown.

I am proud to be part of a government that takes fiscal responsibility seriously but does not default to austerity, a government with a vision for the future and the determination to achieve it, and a government that cares, supports, listens and gets on with the job. I am proud to represent the Charlestown electorate in this Parliament. My constituents have every right to expect a passionate, vocal advocate who works to deliver for them, and I am proud to be part of a government that is doing exactly that.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:34): On 20 June 2001 the United Nations declared the first World Refugee Day in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. That convention provided the framework for the definition of the term "refugee" that is still used today. It clearly set out the rights of individuals seeking refuge or asylum in a country other than their birthplace and the responsibilities such a country must meet in return. Every year since 2001, countries around the world recognise the week of 20 June as Refugee Week and use it as a time to commemorate refugees, their complex experiences and all that they contribute to their new home countries. Remarkably, the first Refugee Week in Australia predates the official United Nations week. For once, in an area in which we have a history that has at times been nothing short of shameful—and remains so—we were ahead of the curve.

That first Refugee Week took place on Gadigal land not far from here in November 1986, when members of AUSTCARE, the Australians Care for Refugees group, marched peacefully from Belmore Park to the Domain. Together with 200 other community members, including refugees from Vietnam, Chile, South Africa and Afghanistan, their message was clear: Refugees are welcome here. While the community may have led the global curve in 1983, successive governments from all sides of politics have shamefully fallen behind and failed to uphold the legacy of compassion and courage that we need to be showing refugees and asylum seekers in this country.

When it comes to refugees and people seeking asylum, Australia now has some of the most punitive policies in the world. Since September 2012, people who arrive on our shores seeking refuge and asylum are sent to Nauru and Papua New Guinea under the offshore processing regime set up under the Gillard Federal Labor Government. Organisations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have raised the alarm on horrific human rights violations that take place in those offshore detention centres, but people are still being held there. As of 30 April this year, under the Federal Labor Government and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the Refugee Council of Australia reports that 64 people are still being held on Nauru and a further 64 on Manus Island. That is a contradiction to human rights law and our commitments to ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers are treated with dignity and respect.

Australia is the only country in the world that imposes a mandatory detention and offshore processing policy for people who arrive here seeking refuge or asylum. It is an absolute disgrace that those kinds of policies are being adopted by conservative parties across the world. Even when people are released from immigration detention into the community and are recognised as refugees, many face years of visa-related limbo, during which they struggle to access education, housing, health care and other essentials. Labor must end offshore detention now and immediately bring all those being held in Nauru and Manus Island to Australia.

It is impossible to speak in this place about refugees without acknowledging the ongoing genocidal attacks in Gaza by the apartheid State of Israel, which has forced more than 120,000 Palestinians to seek safety overseas and has internally displaced over 1.5 million. As signatories to the Refugee Convention, Australia has a duty to welcome refugees. Since October 2023, it has only issued 2,000 visas to Palestinians fleeing catastrophic violence in their homeland. Shamefully, Australia has refused 460 applications. We can, and must, do much more. For those few who have found safety in our communities, we must ensure that they have access to the vital food, health care, education and housing services they need. We can start here by removing the permanent residency and citizenship requirements for access to social housing in New South Wales, heeding the calls of experts to invest in dedicated support services and crisis accommodation for non-citizens.

The Government is failing to give refugees the support that they desperately need from our communities and non-government organisations. So many in our communities do so much to directly support refugees and asylum seekers. I give a shout-out to the amazing folks at the Addison Road Community Organisation, the Asylum Seekers Centre in my electorate of Newtown and the House of Welcome, which are doing vital work to connect people. It is absolutely critical that we remember that refugees are not others coming from another land. They are living among us. They are welcome here and they deserve dignity, human rights and respect.

SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE HOUSING

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (14:39): There is no doubt that we find ourselves in the middle of the worst housing crisis that New South Wales has ever seen. In my electorate of South Coast, we have seen dramatic challenges. As a region known for its unique character, beautiful beaches and natural environments, it is no wonder the Shoalhaven has been attracting so many people from Sydney, Canberra and other places choosing to relocate to the South Coast. This influx has caused our property market to explode, with it now common for once-humble properties to sell for over \$1 million. Our rental market has also been impacted, with rental vacancies at record lows and weekly rents high right across the South Coast.

To help alleviate the housing stress in my electorate, the Minns Government is currently undertaking a number of initiatives. One of these is the build-to-rent pilot in the Shoalhaven. This \$35 million pilot project will deliver 60 build-to-rent apartments in low-rise buildings that will demonstrate best practice design and sustainability. These apartments are set to include a mix of apartment sizes to suit the needs, lifestyles and budgets of different households and will include 20 per cent affordable housing in perpetuity. Future residents will be close to Bomaderry station and have easy access to shops, open spaces and other amenities in Nowra.

Additionally, the New South Wales Government has recently announced the first stage of an incentive program for local governments that meet and beat their housing targets to deliver more homes over the next five years. For the Shoalhaven, the target is set at 4,900 homes. Of these, 3,120 are already planned, approved or under construction, demonstrating a strong foundation and commitment to meeting the housing demands. These planned developments reflect a proactive approach to tackling the housing shortage and providing much-needed accommodation. When you take into account the 3,120 already planned, it leaves a target of only 1,780 over five years, which is absolutely achievable. These targets also help inform where housing growth should not be planned, including locations with heightened hazards and risks like bushfire or floods, and locations without adequate local amenities.

During my campaign and since being elected as the member for South Coast, I have consistently stated that we need to revitalise our major town centres of Ulladulla and Nowra, and that we need to go up, not out. Sustainable development will be key to my approach to housing on the South Coast, working with Shoalhaven City Council to ensure the unique character of our historic towns and villages are protected. This brings me to the West Nowra urban land releases in Mundamia and Cabbage Tree Lane.

Last week, the Minns Labor Government announced a funding injection of \$10.35 million to help deliver major upgrades to water and wastewater infrastructure to support the developments. Councillor Copley from Shoalhaven City Council is quoted in the media this week raising concerns that the Government is not funding infrastructure such as roads, schools, footpaths and playgrounds. It is unfortunate that Councillor Copley has such a limited knowledge of the role of council in this development.

Mr Gareth Ward: Point of order: That is wrong.

Ms LIZA BUTLER: Mr Assistant Speaker, can you please stop the clock?

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Gareth Ward: Standing Order 76 applies during private members' statements.

Dr Hugh McDermott: Just because you don't like what she's saying doesn't mean you can get up and interrupt a member.

Mr Gareth Ward: What she said is wrong.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I call the member for Kiama to order for the first time. I will seek advice from the Clerk. I will hear further from the member on the point of order.

Mr Gareth Ward: My point of order is under Standing Order 76, on the basis that the member is referring to Bomaderry and West Nowra, neither of which are in her electorate. Private members' statements need to relate to members' electorates. In addition, she made an attack on Councillor Copley, who has no capacity to defend herself in this place.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I do not uphold the point of order.

Ms LIZA BUTLER: The development is privately owned land. In fact, the subdivision is being undertaken by AVJennings, a major player in the building industry. It is not a Landcom development that would absolutely include land for educational purposes. I make it clear that any footpaths, parks, open spaces and commercial spaces are set out in the development application and are covered by developer contributions or works required to be completed by the developer as part of delivering its proposal. It is the council's responsibility to ensure that the developer completes those works as part of the subdivision.

Land being set aside for a school in the future is triggered by population and growth numbers. A developer is then required to make land available for a school to be located in consultation with the Department of Education. Shoalhaven City Council also has the ability to set that trigger through the council's development control plan, which outlines that once a development reaches a certain number, the developer is required to make land available for a school to be located. Councillors may wish to focus on that. After all, it is the Minns Labor Government that has built the schools needed in New South Wales. We cannot forget that the previous Liberal Government built thousands of homes in Western Sydney but forgot to build schools for families to send their children to. The Minns Labor Government has also committed \$1.4 billion to schools in regional areas. Members on this side of the House are addressing the housing crisis and fixing public education in New South Wales.

EASTLAKES SHOPPING CENTRE

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (14:45): I address the state of the Eastlakes Shopping Centre and recent developments impacting the Eastlakes community. The Eastlakes Shopping Centre first opened in 1965. It is one of the oldest shopping centres in Sydney outside the CBD. Until as recently as a couple of years ago, the centre was still home to some of the original shop owners, including Maurice and Paula Di Blasi. Maurice cut hair—and in the old days, sold cigarettes—in the centre for more than 55 years. In 2015, Crown Group purchased the centre to form part of its mixed-use redevelopment project, The Grand. The first stage of this project, located on the northern side of Evans Avenue, was completed in 2021 to no great fanfare. Crown Group left a hole in the ground for years before the projected was completed.

Since then, despite the previous Government gifting Crown Group a dodgy accelerated approval for stage two during the pandemic, not a single shovel of sod has been turned on the southern site. I warned former planning Minister Rob Stokes that Crown Group was a Liberal Party donor via the Free Enterprise Foundation. It was exposed by ICAC. I warned the Minister that they should not give Crown Group an accelerated planning approval because it would not comply, and it would not be shovel-ready within six months. I turned out to be 100 per cent right. In the intervening period, Crown Group went into liquidation after its co-founders had a falling out.

However, the real fallout has landed on our community, with Eastlakes Shopping Centre becoming neglected. As a result of Crown Group's collapse, the NSW Supreme Court mandated the sale of Crown's unfinished projects, including the Eastlakes redevelopment, to repay its lenders such as the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The company appointed to oversee these actions, BDO, has already arranged for Savills Australia to place Eastlakes Shopping Centre on the market. It is hopeful that it can attract a reputable developer. Savills will launch an expression of interest campaign mid next month.

Although this is a private commercial matter, my residents deserve to have this site operate in a way that best aligns with the needs and interests of the community, as well as the interests of the State of New South Wales. Many residents from Eastlakes, Mascot and Rosebery have complained to me about the shopping centre's condition. I met with the liquidator, Mr Sallway, to share my disappointment. In particular, I raised the issues of prolific litter, unsanitary bathrooms and the closure of part of the rooftop car park. I was advised that additional cleaning staff would be brought in to assist. I am pleased that Mr Sallway was willing to hear and address these concerns and that change has been made. I will be closely monitoring the situation and actively engaging with the relevant stakeholders to advocate for a swift and positive outcome that puts the communities of New South Wales first.

I want to set higher expectations for the future. In my view, the new owners of the shopping centre need to be dedicated to enhancing local amenities by providing a high-quality retail experience and community space as well as high-quality residential apartments to help alleviate Sydney's housing crisis. That does not mean building as high and wide as physically possible, as is customary for many of the least reputable developers around. Instead, it means ensuring that each dwelling built provides enough space and enough parking spaces, and that the bulk and scale of the overall project is respectful of the Eastlakes neighbourhood. It is time for a change that genuinely serves the people of Eastlakes, which will also address the housing shortages in Sydney. I will continue to fight for transparency, accountability and a redevelopment that reflects the needs and aspirations of my community.

HORNSBY ELECTORATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (14:50): As my time as the MP for Hornsby comes to an end, I have taken the time to reflect on the many challenges and achievements of my electorate over the past 13 years. When I was first elected in March 2011, fixing Hornsby hospital was my number one priority. A \$20 million upgrade was just not going to cut it; the entire facility required a rebuild, and that could only be done in stages, with serious funding. I lobbied, begged and badgered until \$50 million had been secured to start the phased redevelopment of the hospital. Over the next decade, the investment in the hospital grew to \$440 million, which transformed it into the best hospital in the State. I know this because residents tell me that every day.

Another major issue in the local area was Pennant Hills Road. With 80,000 vehicles a day on it, it was rated as the worst road in New South Wales. We went to work to find the best way to deal with this nightmare. It affected not only locals but also everyone else who drove through the area. Working with our Federal colleagues and the private sector, we found a way to deliver the crucial missing link that went on to become NorthConnex. When the dual nine-kilometre tunnels opened in late October 2020, local residents told me that it changed their lives overnight. Aside from the immediate removal of 40,000 vehicles off Pennant Hills Road daily—over 5,000 of them trucks—the project delivered blissful silence to the residents living around the area. Users of NorthConnex now avoid 21 sets of traffic lights, and they also enjoy a traffic-light-free journey from Melbourne to Newcastle.

In the middle of Hornsby, a stone's throw away from the CBD, was a massive hole that was created after a century of quarrying. When it was exhausted of its valuable blue metal, the area was forced onto the local council as a compulsory acquisition—a result so bad for the people of Hornsby that soon after the law was changed. Hornsby Quarry sat idle as a multimillion-dollar hole for over a decade until we took advantage of the unique opportunity created by the construction of the NorthConnex tunnels. Over one million cubic metres of fill was deposited in the quarry void as part of the site's rehabilitation. It played a significant role in converting the area into a large and valuable recreation space for the residents of Hornsby.

A terribly outdated but crucial piece of infrastructure in Hornsby was the old pedestrian bridge linking the Hornsby railway station with the Hornsby mall. This bridge was too narrow, too low and had deteriorated into a poor state. After working hard to secure funding, the old bridge was replaced with one that was higher, twice as wide and befitting as the gateway to the centre of Hornsby. Today over 15,000 people walk across that bridge, and I am proud to have delivered it.

The residents of Hornsby love our unique bushland, and it is the envy of others who regularly visit our renowned bushwalking network. In what I consider a major achievement, 9,600 acres of valuable bushland was dedicated as the Berowra Valley National Park in September 2012. In addition, throughout my time as the MP for Hornsby, other national parks in the Hornsby area have been considerably enhanced to greatly improve the visitor experience, such as the facilities in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. I am proud to have lobbied, fought for and delivered the status upgrade of the Berowra Valley National Park, keeping it for future generations forever. I also note that I am proud to have delivered the biggest expansion of national parks across New South Wales in over a generation. It is a legacy that will outlive me and one that I hope will be built on by those who come after.

When Westleigh was in my electorate, a large group of residents approached me, concerned about an area that was to be turned into a waste dump and slated for an inappropriate development. Working with the residents, we managed to have those ideas dismissed. I then worked with the local council to have the area and the surrounding bushland purchased for recreation use. The bushland was saved and the cleared area will be developed into badly needed sporting facilities.

Over the past decade I have fought hard to support commuters with mobility issues. We managed to upgrade accessibility at many local railway stations, including Waitara, Thornleigh, Normanhurst, Hawkesbury River and finally Mount Colah, which is nearing completion. In my time as the member for Hornsby I am proud to have also delivered millions of dollars to community facilities. I funded the resurfacing of the facility at Mountview Oval and upgraded the lights to support Hornsby Heights Football Club. Berowra Oval received lighting upgrades and Wideview Oval received new club facilities, which go well with the cricket nets I delivered. I was proud to fight for and deliver \$1 million for the change rooms at Ern Holmes Oval, Pennant Hills, to support the mighty Pennant Hills Demons.

I am also very proud to put the merging of Asquith Boys High School and Asquith Girls High School on the agenda. That will ensure that local families have a genuine co-educational option. I am proud of the significant investment to Wideview Public School with \$150,000 to build a new football field surface. Berowra Public School also received upgrades to the basketball courts, playgrounds and cricket nets because of my advocacy. As the father of a young boy, I was proud to have delivered the new playground at Bobbin Head in the national park. I delivered the new cricket facilities at Normanhurst Oval, ensuring great facilities for the Normanhurst-Warrawee

Cricket Club. After 13 years in a role that I have loved, I feel deeply honoured to have represented the wonderful residents of Hornsby as I fought to serve them to the best of my ability. Thank you and goodbye.

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (14:55): Gather all, for I stand before ye to recount the tales of a local government as tumultuous as the Seven Kingdoms. Earlier this week the good citizens of Leppington alerted me to a tale in Ye Morning Herald of Sydney, entitled "Game of Thrones: Council axes 10th CEO in eight years", by noted scribes of these here lands, Kate McClymont and Ben Cubby. In the realm of Liverpool, winter is coming—a long night to rival the fiercest battles beyond the wall. Just as the great houses of Westeros contend for power, so too does House Liberal Party in Liverpool. He of the robes and chains, Mayor Mannoun, finds himself entangled in a struggle reminiscent of the infamous clash between the Starks and the Lannisters.

The latest chapter in this saga saw the ousting of John Ajaka, a seasoned and respected leader of this here dominion, akin to a noble knight cast aside in the dead of winter. The Hon. John Ajaka, former President of the New South Wales Legislative Council, assumed the mantle of CEO with high hopes and grand visions. Much like Ned Stark taking up the position of Hand of the King, Ajaka's appointment was heralded as a new dawn for Liverpool. Yet, within the council chambers whispers of discontent and mutiny grew louder and alliances shifted like the sands of Dorne. Alas, the tale took a dark turn when, in a heated exchange, Ajaka told he of the robes and chains to "shut the f--- up".

What followed was a swift and decisive move by the council, reminiscent of the Red Wedding. Ajaka was suspended, and despite the council's divided loyalties, he was cast out in a manner befitting the swift justice of the Iron Throne. The walls of Liverpool City Council echo with cries of dissent and division, as if it were in the midst of a battle at Blackwater Bay. The suspension and subsequent termination of Ajaka's employment have sparked a legal war, with Supreme Court actions mirroring the epic trials faced by Tyrion Lannister. As the council stands bitterly divided, we find ourselves witnessing the brink of an internal war, much like the War of the Five Kings.

The decision, shrouded in controversy and allegations of procedural unfairness, has called into question the integrity of council. But do not despair, for the vigilant Night's Watch of this great State, local government Minister Ron Hoenig, has sounded the alarm, expressing grave concerns about the state of Liverpool City Council and launching an inquiry. While, thankfully for those involved, this will be no trial by combat, the terms of reference read like a scroll of judgement. Conflicts of interest, financial mismanagement and the merit of recruitment processes are all under scrutiny. In this game of thrones, the path forward is fraught with peril. The people of Liverpool deserve better. They deserve honesty, trust, integrity, transparency and accountability. As Ned Stark said, "The man who passes the sentence should swing the sword."

Elected officials of the realm must serve faithfully and navigate these turbulent times with unwavering principles. The inquiry promises to be the spring that Liverpool so desperately needs, a light to chase away the long night of accusations of misconduct, mismanagement and maladministration. It is clear to me as a mere observer that ambition and ego have overshadowed Liverpool for too long, casting a pall over the city's governance like the impulsive and petulant leadership of King Joffrey Baratheon. The legal inquiry into the council's actions is like the arrival of the White Walkers—an inevitable force demanding confrontation with flaws in leadership and governance.

Winter is coming for those with improper motives, but with the inquiry's diligence and determination, I believe a new dawn will break. Let us usher in an era where justice prevails and the people of Liverpool can thrive under the guidance of true leadership. The free folk of Liverpool need gallant and brave leaders who are just, fair, and full of integrity. The fate of Liverpool City Council shall be decided. For, in the words of Cersei Lannister, "When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die. There is no middle ground."

STATE BUDGET AND CASTLE HILL ELECTORATE

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (15:00): I speak concerning the impact on the residents of my electorate of Castle Hill of the failure of the Government to provide funding for important infrastructure. The 2024-25 budget has failed the people of New South Wales. The budget papers record that government sector revenue is projected to increase by 6.9 per cent in 2024-25 to \$118.5 billion. The budget also reveals that the Government will be collecting more revenue than any former government, has failed to deliver infrastructure where needed, has failed to provide cost-of-living support for our residents, has risked the State's economic security, has delivered more debt and has put our triple-A credit rating in jeopardy.

To find out why the budget has failed my electorate—having regard to the record revenue that this Government will be collecting—it becomes necessary to look at why the Government has delivered an exceptionally bad budget. My community has rightly asked: Where has the revenue been spent? Why has the

Government not funded new schools, particularly in my electorate, where they are needed? Why has the Government not funded important road upgrades to go with the increasing population? And why has the Government not funded important cost-of-living measures for our community?

One of the broken promises made during the election was that union wage deals would be met by productivity gains. That promise was broken very early on by the Government and has cost \$9 billion and potentially a further \$6.4 billion on top of that. I had hoped to be able to announce to my electorate the funding of infrastructure, including, importantly, a new school, but that is not the case. Nowhere in the budget does it provide responsible funding for appropriate infrastructure for the residents of north-western Sydney, including those in my electorate. This week the Treasurer handed down a budget that failed not only the people and parents of my electorate but also the people of New South Wales.

We have heard much about the need to build more houses to meet the needs of our growing community. As a result of record spending by the former Government, the Castle Hill Showground precinct is able to take an additional 9,500 dwellings. However, it was also acknowledged in 2017 that, before the full capacity for that precinct could be achieved, there would be additional infrastructure. The Hills Local Environment Plan in 2019 included a cap of 5,000 dwellings. The intent was that the cap would not be exceeded until at least a new high school was built. Last year the Government removed the cap to allow the total of 9,500 dwellings in the precinct.

Let me explain why a new school is so critical to the Castle Hill precinct. The 2021 census for Castle Hill found that, for houses with families, there is an average of 1.8 children per family. The census further recorded that, for all households, that average becomes one child per household. Building in the precinct is already underway. It follows then that, with the additional 4,500 dwellings, there will be an additional 9,500 children living in the precinct. Where will they go to school? Castle Hill High School is the third largest school in New South Wales. It is already fully subscribed and there are no places for further children. It has 51 demountable buildings. Given the decision by the Government to increase the number of dwellings in the precinct, my community was hoping for a new school. It was disappointed by the failure of the Government to provide funding for that.

What is more important is that when we look at the budget, bearing in mind the increasing population, it suggests that this Government will not be looking after future children. Table 1.2 in *Budget Paper No. 3* reveals a downward trajectory in education spending, from \$3.036 billion in 2024-25 to \$1.801 billion in 2027-28. Parents, not only in my electorate but across New South Wales, must be very concerned about this plan to decrease funding. This budget is about cuts, cuts and more cuts. The forward estimates make it clear that the Minns Government will be making further cuts to education funding in the years to come. My electorate has not received funding for much-needed critical infrastructure. In particular, I will be calling on the Government to fund a new school in the Castle Hill precinct.

SURF LIFE SAVING CENTRAL COAST AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:05): With great pride, I recently attended the annual 2024 Surf Life Saving Central Coast [SLSCC] Awards of Excellence. What a remarkable event it was, held at the fantastic Mingara Recreation Club. There were over 400 attendees from all 15 surf life saving clubs on the Central Coast, from The Lakes district in the north to Umina in the south. We gathered to reflect on an extraordinary year, one marked by the incredible achievement of zero drownings on patrolled Central Coast beaches. Recognising the invaluable contributions of our surf life saving members, clubs and branches is of utmost importance, and I am proud to have been able to personally attend these awards every year since being elected in 2015.

At the recent New South Wales Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving event, we learnt that across the New South Wales 2023-24 season there were 18,126 first-aid actions, 1,085,247 preventative actions, 5,395 rescues performed and 13,923,041 visitors to our beaches. Pleasingly, total membership of Surf Life Saving NSW has grown to 78,596 members, up 3.6 per cent; junior memberships—Nippers—have increased 5.6 per cent to 20,461; and community Nippers clubs have increased by 21.1 per cent since February. On the Central Coast we are fortunate to have a robust and vibrant surf lifesaving community. The Surf Life Saving Central Coast [SLSCC] branch is tasked with the overall management, promotion and growth of surf lifesaving in our region.

With 15 clubs—including seven in my electorate—and over 8,000 members, the 2023-24 season was the busiest on record. Our beaches attracted over 1.2 million visitors, contributing an impressive \$7 million to the Central Coast community. A staggering 92,000 patrol hours were undertaken, resulting in 390 rescues and 18,000 preventative actions. Importantly, we again achieved the remarkable milestone of zero lives lost between the flags. I am extremely proud that this record has stood since I became the member for Terrigal in 2015. This is a testament to the dedication, vigilance and skill of our volunteer surf lifesavers, who tirelessly work to keep our beaches safe. The SLSCC Awards of Excellence night provides a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in surf sports, education, lifesaving, youth activities and patrols. Numerous

clubs and individuals received well-deserved awards in various categories, showcasing the breadth of talent and commitment within our community.

I acknowledge the exceptional clubs and members from my electorate of Terrigal who were honoured on the night. Firstly, a big congratulations to Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club for winning Club of the Year for the first time in its 100-year history. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all its members, from volunteers and patrolling members to age managers, coaches, competitors, organisers and directors. Each person has played a vital role in this success. Special congratulations to the following award recipients from Terrigal SLSC: Richard Green, President of the Year; Zahra Green, Sienna Sinclair and Olivia Edwards from the U17 Ski Relay Team, Sports Team of the Year; Ryan Quick, Coach of the Year; Paul Lemmon, Masters Athlete of the Year; Bryn Gaha, Athlete of the Year; and Niko Milanovic, Support Operator of the Year.

Terrigal SLSC also placed third in the Overall Surf Points Score of the Year. Well done to everyone involved. I also congratulate the North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club on securing five major awards: Scott Green, Administrator of the Year; Jackie Sproll, Patrol Captain of the Year; Remy Avis, Junior Lifesaver of the Year; Bailey Green, Young Volunteer of the Year; and the North Avoca member services team, Service Team of the Year.

Congratulations to Seamus Meares from Wamberal Surf Life Saving Club on being awarded Junior Lifesaver of the Year. Copacabana Surf Life Saving Club earned the Innovation Award for its successful Beach to Bush Program, a testament to its creative and impactful outreach. Davara Marshall of Avoca Surf Life Saving Club took out the Young Athlete of the Year Award, and the club also claimed first place in the Overall Surf Points Score of the Year. Congratulations to all!

The annual SLSCC Awards of Excellence shine a bright light on our amazing community clubs and their members. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of the nominees and winners. Their achievements inspire us all and highlight the strength and spirit of our community. I also acknowledge local club presidents Craig Sheppard from Killcare SLSC, Tom Tseng from Copacabana SLSC, Stuart Harvey from Avoca SLSC, Kim Findlay from North Avoca SLSC, Alison McNeill from MacMasters Beach SLSC, Richard Green from Terrigal SLSC, and Adam Phillips from Wamberal SLSC. Their leadership to our community surf lifesaving clubs is invaluable. I thank them for keeping our beaches safe.

RYDE ELECTORATE FUNDING

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (15:10): I make some community budget announcements for the electorate of Ryde. St Anthony's Catholic Parish Marsfield recently applied for funding to assist with acquiring a new digital piano and computer for St Anthony's church. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$5,000. I congratulate St Anthony's parish and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. CASS Care recently applied for funding to assist with upgrades to its Meadowbank Sensory and Educational Rehabilitation Centre. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$11,333. I congratulate CASS and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Northcross Christian School recently applied for funding to assist with a student bathroom renovation. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$30,000. I congratulate Northcross and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

St Philip's Anglican Church Eastwood recently applied for funding to assist with a retractable awning for Eastwood Community Centre deck and play zone. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$22,000. I congratulate St Phil's and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. The Catholic Parish of St Michael's Meadowbank recently applied for funding to assist with a new air conditioning installation. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$20,000. I congratulate St Michael's and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club recently applied for funding to assist with modernising its club. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$7,500. I congratulate Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

Smalls Road Public School P&C recently applied for funding to assist with installing sensory play equipment and reversible basketball and netball hoops. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$40,000. I congratulate Smalls Road Public School P&C and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Macquarie Anglican Church recently applied for funding to assist with running a community care and connection program. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$10,000. I congratulate Macquarie Anglican Church and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Kent Road Public School P&C recently applied for funding to assist with new playground improvements and the erection of new seating and shades. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$20,000. I congratulate Kent Road Public School P&C and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

St Micheal's Meadowbank P&F recently applied for funding to assist with new playground works. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$10,000. I congratulate St Michael's and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. The Temple Society Australia [TSA] recently applied for funding to assist with the Meadowbank TSA community space project. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$5,000. I congratulate TSA and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Christian Community Aid [CCA] Eastwood recently applied for funding to assist with the CCA community hub. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$15,000. I congratulate CCA and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

KU Children's Services Eastwood recently applied for funding to assist with installing a hydraulic nappy change table. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$5,792. I congratulate KU Children's Services Eastwood and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Denistone East Before and After School Care recently applied for funding to assist with an external paint and repair job, a small pergola, landscaping and a sensory area. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$30,000. I congratulate Denistone East Before and After School Care and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

West Ryde Anglican Church recently applied for funding to assist with installing a sunshade and landscaping. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$8,800. I congratulate West Ryde Anglican Church and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Derek's Place at Ryde recently applied for funding to assist with the delivery of community fundraiser events to support kids who have lost their parents. I am pleased to announce that Derek's Place has been successful and will receive \$5,000. I congratulate Derek's Place and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. North West Sydney Football recently applied for funding to assist with the full rollout of its defibrillator project. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$5,990. I congratulate North West Sydney Football and thank it for everything it does for Ryde.

Gowrie NSW recently applied for funding to assist with a new kitchen at its Kent Road facility. I am pleased to announce it has been successful and will receive \$5,742. I congratulate Gowrie NSW and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. St Kevin's Catholic Primary School recently applied for funding to assist with resurfacing its playground with synthetic turf. I am pleased to announce the school has been successful and will receive \$30,000. I congratulate St Kevin's and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. Goodstart Early Learning recently applied for funding to assist with replacing its shade sails in North Ryde. I am pleased to announce the centre has been successful and will receive \$9,053. I congratulate Goodstart and thank it for everything it does for Ryde. There is more to do and I look forward to this program continuing next year.

CANTERBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (15:15): Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Canterbury Meals On Wheels and meeting with the wonderful team of hardworking volunteers and staff. I want this Parliament to know how much I value Christine Pape, who is the manager at Canterbury Meals On Wheels. I thank her, her staff and the volunteers who every day cook amazing and nourishing meals for our wonderful community. I am deeply impressed by everyone's passion and work ethic. When I visited a few weeks ago, everyone was very excited, including me, that through the Community Building Partnership program Meals On Wheels was successful in its bid for \$25,941, which will be used to replace ageing equipment through purchasing a new state-of-the-art freestanding blaster chiller. It will assist in the preparation and delivery of healthy, nutritional meals to those who need it most.

As many of us would know, Meals on Wheels delivers meals not only in my community but across New South Wales to those who are less mobile, including our seniors, and people with a disability as well as their carers. Canterbury Meals On Wheels has been servicing the Canterbury community for decades with fresh meals from the local Campsie kitchen. This means that food is delivered to those who need it most and that vulnerable people do not miss out on critical nutrition. Many elderly people have a higher risk of under-nutrition, putting them at a higher risk of falls. Having healthy, nutritional meals is key to prevention. It also means a sense of connection and community. Often, volunteers may be the only daily point of contact for those they serve.

I have done a couple of shifts as a volunteer for Canterbury Meals On Wheels. I apologise for not having been back for a while. I promised Christine that I would get out there. Last time I had my son with me. We did a couple of shifts and a couple of good runs. We met people who came to the door and were looking forward to seeing their volunteer. One gentleman said to me, "Who the hell are you? Where's my favourite volunteer?" I explained to him who I was and he invited me in to have a cup of tea.

Meals on Wheels is a really important service for our local community. As I said, sometimes that delivery can be the only connection that people in our community have because a high number of people are socially isolated and alone. It is a bigger problem with the cost of living, particularly in my community. I am working alongside our community organisations like Meals on Wheels and the many excellent local non-government organisations. I again thank our volunteers for the incredible work they do, but we are looking at helping people

to come out of their home and not feel isolated. When people are not seeing other people, it has other effects and impacts. We are working with our local clubs as well. I acknowledge their support as well.

Once again, I thank Canterbury Meals on Wheels and recognise the excellent work that it does. I give huge thanks to all the staff and volunteers. I acknowledge that they deliver thousands of meals every week and many thousands of meals every year. I want them to know that I am their strong advocate for further funding. They are based on council premises. We will be advocating for upgrades. The council is prepared to listen, but we still have a lot of work to do. I thank Canterbury Meals on Wheels for the incredible work that it does. I appreciate all its wonderful work.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 15:21 until
Tuesday 6 August 2024 at 12:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

THERESA PARK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Theresa Park Rural Fire Brigade are the very deserving recipients of \$65,000 in funding from the December 2023 round of the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants Program. The funds will be used for an extension to the existing station. The grant is part of the Clubs Grants Category 3 funding, which reinvests gaming machine profits from clubs across the state into community projects. The Theresa Park brigade was established in 1942 by local farmers. It relies on the contributions of its members and volunteers, and this funding will prove a huge benefit to the station in allowing a much needed extension project to go ahead. Rural and regional communities, like so many of those found in Wollondilly, rely heavily on their RFS in times of need. Everyone in my electorate has a story or a few about how they, or someone they know, has been affected by the bushfires that seem to be impacting our lives more often. Rural Fire Brigades like Theresa Park deserve all the support we can give them, and I am ever thankful for the RFS volunteers who give up their time to be there for the community.

THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM 2024

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—The Steam season opened with the Thirlmere Festival of Steam. The two-day event was blessed with good weather and attracted thousands of happy families and steam train enthusiasts to celebrate the joys of bygone days. Over two full days the magnificent engines loudly tooted majestically. It was a joy to see the happy faces and the enthusiastic waving from the nostalgic passengers and onlookers lining the tracks. The community came together to provide an amazing Street Parade, free entertainment, a sparkling display of highly polished vintage cars and a firework display. The Eat Street represented every cuisine and a retail artisan market was bustling. The festival provided an opportunity for raising community awareness of services across Wollondilly and as a community we remain thankful to the fire services and police who work tirelessly to keep our community safe. Thank you to the organisers at the NSW Rail Museum, Transport Heritage NSW and Wollondilly Shire Council for organising this wonderful celebration and immense gratitude to the ongoing dedication of the teams for restoring and maintaining the magnificent steam trains bringing the Wollondilly community together to enjoy this wonderful day celebrating steam and amazing engineering.

MAKING MUSIC DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Cafe Connect initiative, run by Wollondilly Shire Council, provides a monthly event for seniors, promoting a safe and healthy lifestyle. I enjoyed dropping by the Making Music Drumming Workshop on May 23rd 2024. It was led by Patrick Nellestein from River Road Creative Academy at the Shire Hall in Picton, and was a resounding success. The joy and enthusiasm in the room were truly infectious, as participants came together to play instruments and jam as a collective. The atmosphere was electric, filled with laughter, learning, and the rhythmic beats of drums and singing echoing through the hall. As a certified music therapist, Pat expertly guided participants through music-making techniques to enhance health and well-being in an enjoyable and supportive setting. Previous Cafe Connect sessions included Coffee with a Cop and Seniors Rights and Seniors Legal Information. There are events planned up to December this year and I encourage all seniors to participate in these welcoming and uplifting events.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - JEANETTE OUJANI

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Jeanette Oujani on her nomination as Ryde's 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Jeanette has demonstrated exceptional commitment to our community through her extensive volunteer work. She has significantly contributed to CMRC events and served

as a Multicultural Ambassador with the City of Ryde and the Mental Health Foundation Australia. Additionally, she has been a dedicated mentor with the Warrior Women Foundation. For the past eight years, Jeanette has worked tirelessly with CALD communities, providing invaluable support as a translator for Spanish-speaking members of our community. Her efforts have ensured that these community members have access to essential services and support. In 2023, Jeanette's dedication to mental health advocacy was highlighted when she attended an exclusive breakfast at the NSW Parliament for Mental Health Month. Jeanette's contributions have greatly enhanced and uplifted the life of the City of Ryde. Her selfless dedication and tireless work make her a deserving nominee for this prestigious award. Please join me in celebrating Jeanette Oujani's outstanding service to our community. Thank you, Jeanette, for your invaluable contribution to the City of Ryde.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - JOHN DIXON

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating John Dixon for being nominated for the Individual Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards. John's unwavering commitment to the City of Ryde community is truly commendable. At 81 years old, John's extensive volunteer work includes serving as the Assistant Treasurer for the City of Ryde Eisteddfod and the Treasurer for the Ryde City Combined Probus Club Inc. His dedication also extends to the Southern Cross Care Marsfield Village Residents Committee and the St Kevin's Gregorian Choir. Despite facing numerous health challenges, John's passion for volunteering has never wavered, significantly impacting various community initiatives. John's remarkable service is a testament to his dedication and the positive influence he has had on those around him. His contributions have not only enriched the lives of many but have also set a high standard for community involvement. Let us all take a moment to acknowledge John's exceptional efforts and the inspiration he provides to us all. Thank you, John, for your invaluable contributions to Ryde and for being an outstanding example of community spirit.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE- NALYN SIRIVIVATNANON

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in celebrating the remarkable achievements of Nalyn Sirivivatnanon, who was nominated as Ryde's 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Nalyn has dedicated over a decade to volunteering as a storyteller at Livvi's Place Ryde. Despite facing the challenges of an intellectual disability, she has continually demonstrated her unwavering commitment to enriching our community. Nalyn's Storytime sessions have become a cherished fixture at Livvi's Place. With the support of her Speech Therapist, she diligently practices reading her Storytime books, ensuring that each session is engaging and delightful for her young audience. One of the most heartwarming aspects of Nalyn's sessions is her singing. Her songs have not only entertained the children but also created a joyous atmosphere where everyone sings along, fostering a sense of unity and happiness. Nalyn's dedication and enthusiasm have made a significant impact on the lives of many in the City of Ryde. Her story is a powerful reminder of the positive difference that one individual can make in their community. Please join me in congratulating Nalyn Sirivivatnanon on her well-deserved nomination and in thanking her for her invaluable contributions to our community.

DR JO BRAID

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate Orange medico Dr Jo Braid on her Award for Excellence in Micro-Business at the Western Region Business NSW awards. More importantly, I would like to thank her for the work she is doing to combat burnout in our healthcare professionals. UK born, Dr Braid worked for the National Health Service where she remembers doing 100-hour weeks before moving to Australia where she covered 40-hour weeks. It was then into private clinic when she again fell victim to being unable to say 'no', wavering on the edge of her own burnout. Since then Dr Braid has established herself as a coach, providing an avenue for her colleagues to tackle their impending burnout before it costs them a career. As Dr Braid says, being exhausted as a doctor is pretty common, and I believe she should be commended for recognising the need for such a service and then setting about establishing that service. Encouraging her colleagues to reset boundaries will hopefully boost her clients' energy levels and lead more fulfilling careers. Dr Braid has now been shortlisted for an Australian Small Business Champion award and I wish her every success.

HAYLEE REDFERN

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate Forbes athlete Haylee Redfern on her stellar success in the World Kettlebell Sports Federation World Championships in Poland. The holder of nine Australian records and the defending champion of the Australian long cycle discipline, Haylee contested the amateur section at the worlds and finished with a gold medal. A kettlebell athlete for more than five years, the mum of two was thrilled to be named in the Girevoy (Kettlebell) Sport Australia Association team for the world event in Rzeszow. To earn her national crown and Australian representation, Haylee was required to heft two 20kg kettlebells 48 times in 10 minutes in the clean and jerk motion at the Australian titles in Brisbane last year. A niche sport, Australia's kettlebell team receives no national funding and Haylee had not only a tough

training regime to continue but also had to work towards fundraising. Proving her grit, she managed to complete both and the result speaks volumes for her great skill and incredible commitment to her sport. I congratulate Haylee on her success on the world stage and look forward to her future achievements.

PETER HOLMES – ORANGE NEWS EXAMINER

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I would like to acknowledge journalist Peter Holmes' tireless effort in providing the City of Orange with an independent news source. Starting as a copyboy on Broadway with The Sun in 1987, Peter is a journeyman of his craft, working at the Sydney Morning Herald, The Sun Herald, Sunday Telegraph and BuzzFeed before landing at Orange's Central Western Daily. In 2021 he branched out and created online masthead the Orange News Examiner. As a one-man operation, Peter was the reporter, editor, photographer, designer and sales manager but with support from a handful of advertisers that shared his vision for insightful news gathering, he was able to provide a free service until February 2024 when he made the tough decision to bring in a paywall. After 1000 stories and features the enormity of his undertaking took its toll and he called it a day in May 2024 although leaving the site open as a resource for its 14,000 readers. Peter Holmes' fight to create an independent news platform illustrates the difficulty regional people face in gaining trustworthy information and I thank Peter Holmes for doing his bit to hold authority accountable.

BOOK LAUNCH, INSPIRING INDO AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I recently attended the Harmon Foundation event, 'Beyond Boundaries, Thriving Together, Happiness and Success' which was held in the Rebellion Room, Castle Grand, Castle Hill. The event was held on 11 June 2024. The event included the official launch of the coffee table book, 'Inspiring Indo Australian Women Who Made a Difference' authored and published by Harmohan Singh Walia. The coffee table book contains fifty inspiring stories of Indo Australian Women who have made a difference to themselves, people surrounding them and more generally to the wider community at large. The book is a continuation of two earlier publications, 'Success Stories of Indo-Australians' and 'Challenges, Opportunities & Successes'. Harmohan recently received from the Indian Literary and Art Society of Australia [ILASA] a Lifetime Achievement Awards for his literary works in Punjabi. Thank you, Harmohan, for the publication of your coffee table book.

LORELLE SMITH, LOCAL AUTHOR

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I would like to recognise local author, Lorelle Smith. Lorelle is a resident within the Castle Hill electorate. On Saturday, 15 June 2024 Lorelle was at the Dymocks Bookshop at Castle Towers signing copies of published book titled E. & M. E & M tells is a fictional story set in growing and newly industrial village of Reading, Berkshire and begins in the March of the year 1816. The story details the tension between Mariah and her new sister-in-law, Elizabeth. The frenetic social scene of late Georgian England takes Mariah to London for the season and amidst the rounds of outings, balls, and evening engagements the prospects of marrying eligible young gentlemen are weighed up. The pressure of social convention for young ladies of standing to marry is ratcheted up and an unwelcome match looms. The deduction that Elizabeth's jealous scheming is responsible is never far from Mariah's mind as the tension between the two mounts. I recognise and congratulate Lorelle for publishing an intriguing story.

MENTOO, MENS MENTAL HEALTH

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—It was an honour to attend the launch a new Men's Mental Health initiative, "MENTOO". The launch occurred on Sunday, 26 May 2024 at Dural and was attended by many community members. The MENTOO project created by Uthra Simhan and Dr Niveditha Manokaran hopes to bring a greater understanding of the importance of men's mental health; to encourage men to open themselves up; and to give men the tools and ability to recognise and share their emotions. MENTOO will be organising and facilitating workshops and programs across Sydney with the aim to educate men and women in this area. Poor mental health is prevalent among Australian men, with up to 25 per cent experiencing a diagnosed mental health disorder in their lifetime, and 15 per cent experiencing a disorder in a 12-month period. Through increased awareness around men's mental health, there is hope for individuals and families to help men identify the root causes of mental health issues and support them. The launch of this project comes just in time for June which is recognised as Men's Mental Health Month. Congratulations to Uthra and Niveditha for the launch of this very important initiative.

JUNIOR LEAGUE TITLE FOR WEST WYALONG BASKETBALL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Under 12s West Wyalong Wildcats Women's Junior Basketball team slam dunked their way into the NSW State Cup after winning division one of the Spalding Waratah Western Junior League. The girls headed into the finals round as undefeated Minor Premiers. The nine (9) team squad comprises of Abbey Crowe, Aleyah Catlin, Hazel Webster, Isla Rossiter, Lexi Anderson,

Maicey Maitland, Maive Stewart, Sophie Leonard, and Tiarni Imrie. Head Coach Allirah Stewart leads the Wildcats Under 12s. The girls took on Dubbo and Leeton in the final rounds before battling with Dubbo again in the grand finale. They trailed behind the Dubbo team until the game's last four minutes when the Wildcats changed pace. A few back-to-back converted steals, teamwork, and ball movement sealed the deal, with the girls coming away with a well-deserved 32 to 25 win. I congratulate the team on their finals win and wish them luck at State on August 16 and 17.

TEMORA VIEW CLUB CELEBRATE 49 YEARS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Temora View Club was established in 1975 and stands as one of the largest View Clubs in the zone, a testament to their volunteer's commitment. Founding members, who still actively participate in meetings, Pam, Sally, Fay, and Catherine were recently acknowledged for their unwavering dedication and support to the club and the local community with well-deserved certificates at clubs recent 49th birthday celebrations. Badges were also presented to members for their many years of service, with 30 years of service awarded to Marjatta, 20 years of service awarded to Helen, and 10 years of service awarded to Dianne and Lyn. I am deeply grateful for the contributions of these remarkable ladies and all club members, who have left an indelible mark on the Temora Community, making it a better place for all. At present, the Club proudly sponsors three Smith Family Learning for Life students, a testament to our commitment to education and community support. They are also actively engaged in fundraising activities to further support The Smith Family programs. The community wouldn't be the same without the dedication and service of volunteers like those of the Temora View Club.

THE FARM IN GALONG

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I wish to congratulate and recognise the outstanding work of the Farm in Galong for ongoing advocacy and services to survivors of domestic violence and substance abuse. Recently, a morning tea was held that raised much needed awareness and funds for this great facility. The Farm offers sanctuary for women recovering from substance abuse and domestic violence. Providing them with a holistic environment to recover and rehabilitate. This not-for-profit charitable organisation was established in 2017 when a beautiful 3-hectare property was gifted to the Farm, having previously served as aged care accommodation and a boarding school. I have visited the Farm on several occasions, and I have been amazed to see participants cultivating land, tending the orchard, herb gardens, bees and all manner of farm animals. This enterprise provides food for participants as well as offering a revenue stream from the sale of this produce. The experienced board has a background in risk, audit and fundraising and meet quarterly with an AGM held annually. The Farm in Galong is also a member of the peak body The Australasian Therapeutic Communities association and of the Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies.

DAVID SAVILLE

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise David Saville, a member of the Taree Arts Council for nearly 40 years, who was recently honoured with life membership. David's journey with the Taree Arts Council began around 1987 with his first role in Paint Your Wagon. Over the years, he has taken part in countless productions, both on stage and behind the scenes. His standout performance was Little Shop of Horrors in 1995, where David played his first lead role as Seymour Krelborn. Beyond his theatrical roles, David has been an integral part of TAC's operations. Serving as secretary for five years, archivist, newsletter writer for 11 years, and assisting with posters and promotions, David's multifaceted contributions have been invaluable. Thank you, David, for your dedication and service, your life membership is very well-deserved. Congratulations, the Taree Arts Council is very lucky to have you.

HUGH MCCRINDLE OAM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to honour the life and legacy of Hugh Calmar McColl McCrindle OAM, a beloved member of the Taree community. Hugh was born in Sydney in 1928, he arrived in Taree in 1966 with his wife May to take on the position of general manager at Radio 2RE – this was just one facet of his extensive community service. A man of many talents, Hugh's love for music resonated through his 50+ year long involvement in the St John's Church choir and performances with the Taree Art Council. His voice, celebrated for its warmth and sincerity, brought joy to many – especially at ANZAC day services. Hugh was a keen sportsman, he represented NSW in hockey in 1956, touring New Zealand and played A-grade cricket and golf. Hugh joined Taree North Rotary Club around 1968 and was twice awarded Rotary's highest honour, the Paul Harris Fellow. When he retired from active Rotary life he was made an honorary member. In acknowledging Hugh McCrindle, we celebrate a man whose generosity and community spirit enriched many. Vale Hugh McCrindle.

RAY MAZUREK

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Ray Mazurek, who has been honoured with the Emergency Services Medal in this year's King's Birthday Honours List, for his 20-year service to Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry. After joining the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, now Marine Rescue, Ray spent 18 months working the Marine Rescue radios, fundraising, and undertaking rescue work on the boats, before he was appointed divisional commander. He rose in the ranks from crew to master coxswain. Ray's commitment to training and mentoring members, has ensured a new generation of skilled operators. He also helped rebuild the Crowdy Harrington Unit, before returning to Forster Tuncurry. As operations officer and senior vessel master, Ray has overseen both unit rescue vessels and led numerous challenging search and rescue operations, accumulating hundreds of hours of sea time. In 2021, Ray was appointed Mid North Coast Regional Director of Marine Rescue. Ray's dedication and expertise have made an indelible impact on marine rescue operations, and we are grateful for his extraordinary service. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

KIAMA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Kiama High School student leaders. Nineteen Year 12 students from Kiama High School's Geography and Marine Studies classes recently embarked on a five-day excursion to Cairns. This trip was integral to their HSC studies, focusing on the Great Barrier Reef as a vital ecosystem at risk. The students explored the biophysical interactions on the reef, assessed human impacts on its health, and studied management strategies in place to protect it. Additionally, they conducted surveys with tourism operators and tourists, enriching their understanding of the relationship between people and economic activity. During the excursion, the students engaged in snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef, hiking at Mossman Gorge, and visiting Port Douglas. The itinerary also featured a day trip to the Atherton Tablelands, where they marvelled at the Cathedral Tree and Lake Eacham. These students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and represented Kiama High School admirably throughout the trip. What an amazing experience for these students. I acknowledge the Principal Catherine Glover and the amazing students, teachers, front office administration staff and local parents and caregivers who make up the Kiama High School community.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF ILLAWARRA

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra [MCCI]. MCCI has recently been selected to deliver the Australian Government's Settlement Engagement and Transition Support program. MCCI is honoured to have been selected and I acknowledge Chief Executive Officer Chris Lacey. SETS is an early intervention, national settlement program that supports humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants to advance their participation in society. Broadly its purpose is to equip and empower humanitarian entrants, other vulnerable migrants and their communities, with the knowledge and tools to address their settlement needs in order to improve social and economic participation, and community connectedness. The program focuses on building independence and well-being. Service delivery under the SETS program will commence at MCCI from 1st July 2024 and its footprint will be Illawarra and Shoalhaven with personnel based in their Wollongong and Nowra offices to deliver this work. Management of the program will be overseen by Allyson Pazos from the leadership team, along with Sarah Cimino, Illawarra refugee support team leader. The program will build upon MCCI's foundations developed through our 50-year history of community service to migrant and refugee communities.

FOLK BY THE SEA FESTIVAL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Folk by The Sea festival which returns to the Kiama Showground for its tenth year, from 20th-22nd September 2024. I acknowledge and congratulate the Festival Director Mr Neil McCann. This year's festival will include 44 acts performing 100 concerts across nine venues over three days. Neil is enthusiastic about the new generation of folk performers, many of whom are classically trained, elevating the standard of folk music and expanding its audience. Among the standout performers is Eric Avery (Marrawuy), a violinist, vocalist, dancer, and composer from the Ngiyampaa, Yuin, and Gumbangirr people of NSW. Avery's international reputation is growing, thanks to his unique performances that blend violin playing and singing in the Ngiyampaa language. Other notable acts include Apolline from Victoria, who describe themselves as genre-bending neo-folk with a blend of extraordinary musicianship and alluring voices, and Queensland's Cigany Weaver, featuring Jo Davie's enchanting vocals accompanied by a fiery violin, dynamic guitars, and a driving rhythm section. The festival also welcomes back past favourites like Indigenous singer-songwriter Shellie Morris from Queensland and Canberra's diplomat-turned-folk-singer Fred Smith. It will feature traditional folk performers and local artists.

ST WANAS COPTIC CHURCH

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety)—I extend my congratulations to St Wanas Coptic Church on hosting an incredible First Anniversary Gala Dinner last month. Close to 600 faithful attended to raise funds to support the building of the new church, raising a much-needed \$245,000 on the night, and setting the scene for the church to become larger, better and stronger in the coming years. St Wanas' Coptic Orthodox Church is an Orthodox Christian parish within the Diocese of Sydney serving Belmore and surrounding regions. It is a relatively new church, with a rapidly growing church community over the last 12 months. 'Family' is a word that was mentioned again and again on the night. With the music and the laughter, the faithful repeatedly describe how the church helps everyone feel like a family and have a sense of belonging. Great to see His Grace Bishop Daniel and thank him for his spiritual leadership, and appreciate Father Suriel and his incredible parish committee of amazing volunteers. Congratulations to St Wanas. Thank you for your efforts in serving the local community, and may the church have many wonderful years to come.

MORNING TEAS WITH CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN SENIORS

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety)—Recently my office has organised morning teas with Chinese-Australian seniors in my local community, as a boarder regular multicultural morning tea engagement program. The seniors took the time to visit my electorate office in Campsie, raising any concerns that may be important to them. We also discussed key local community issues. The Canterbury community is home to strong and proud multicultural communities. I acknowledge and pay respect to my parents and the millions of migrants who left their homes to come to Australia for a better future for themselves and their families. This is a community of hope and of progress. However, many multicultural community members face a language barrier. Ensuring that access to Government services and information is critical to these community members, who often need assistance in navigating a very different system of government in Australia. And having regular conversations is the first step of success. I thank these senior community members in reaching out to me, and look forward to working together to make our community a better place to live.

LOVE YOUR LOCALS ARTARMON

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—As a strong advocate for local businesses in my community, I took much pride in the recent 'Love Your Locals' effort in Artarmon. Love Your Locals was a joint project of the Artarmon Progress Association and Artarmon Village Inc, supported by a grant from Willoughby City Council. The aim of this project was to give much-needed support and morale to local businesses in Artarmon adversely impacted by the Hampden Road upgrades. It did this through a competition by which locals could pick up a Loyalty Card, collect six stamps and then enter a draw to win a gift card of \$50 to spend at a participating local store. The last draw was made on 4 May, this initiative having been run successfully for over a year. I am proud to say 'Love your Locals' has been a real success. Since the first cards were collected on 1 April 2023, more than \$244,000 has been spent in the Artarmon village stores. I would like to warmly thank the businesses and locals in Artarmon for supporting each other during the streetscape upgrades.

NORTH SHORE THEATRE COMPANY – FOOTLOOSE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to commend the North Shore Theatre Company [NSTC] for the launch of its latest production, Footloose Youth Edition, staged at Chatswood's Zenith Theatre & Footloose tell the story of a Chicago boy who relocates with his mother to a small town of after being abandoned by his father. There, Ren discovers that a Reverend has convinced the town to outlaw dancing. Astonished by this, he teams up with the Reverend's daughter and his best friend to convince the Reverend to let the teenagers dance and ends up helping the town heal from a tragedy. I would like to congratulate the talented young cast of the NSTC who play each character superbly, and the production team who put this fantastic production of Footloose together. My family are so excited to be seeing the production tonight! Founded in 1951, the North Shore Theatre Company is one of Sydney's longest running and most cherished theatre companies. With Footloose premiering this June, the NSTC once again demonstrated its ability to produce popular musicals of the highest calibre.

RAY'S PLACE – NORTH WILLOUGHBY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I take immense pride in the local businesses of Willoughby that have served our community for so long, and I would like recognise Ray's Place, a popular café in North Willoughby that has been operating since 1967. Serving the community for fifty-seven years, it has established itself as an institution of Willoughby. Priding itself on serving delicious all-day breakfasts, lunches and snacks using the finest quality ingredients, Ray's Place has attracted excellent reviews. I was delighted recently to visit Ray's Place for a coffee and inspect the new safety fence which will benefit the café and its customers who favour the outdoor

seating. I would like to thank Ray's proprietor, Anthony, and Councillor Angelo Rozos, who worked hard to see Willoughby City Council install safety fencing recently. It was my pleasure to join, Angelo and Gisele Kapterian for a coffee at Ray's to mark this positive outcome for people and safety in our community. I look forward to seeing the community patronage of Ray's Café continuing to go from strength to strength.

DR FRANCIS RICHARD DOUGHTY OAM

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—I rise today to congratulate Cherrybrook resident, Dr Francis Richard Doughty who was awarded his Order of Australia Medal for services to veterinary science and the community. Frank has been President of the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society since 2016 and Honorary Veterinary Surgeon since 2013. His involvement with the Castle Hill Show spans more than 60 years, first as a member of the Epping Junior Farmers and later showing Jersey cattle. He has been the Veterinary Representative for State Disaster Plan NSW Agricultural and Animal Services and is a life member of the Australian Veterinary Association. He worked with the NSW Agricultural Department in the field and in its veterinary laboratories for over 40 years, becoming Director of Animal Quarantine Services in 1983. This appointment saw him travel to many parts of the world, ensuring the safe import of thoroughbred horses and stud cattle from their home country and then through quarantine in Australia. Dr Doughty has also been a tour coordinator with the Naval Historical Society of Australia since 2010, Life Member of Castle Hill Apex and served as a JP since 1962.

HORNSBY RUGBY CLUB IN 2024

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—Hornsby Rugby Club has always been a strong family club. Recently a history making occurrence was achieved at the Club involving a Berowra Heights family. Father, Col Davenport, played for the club's second grade with his sons, Cooper and Blake, playing first grade. To complete an amazing achievement for both the Club and Davenport family, daughter Tiana, played for the Nalas, the Club's women's team. All three teams recorded thumping wins. After nearly a decade playing in the Central Coast competition, for the 2024 the Hornsby Rugby Club returned to the Sydney Suburban Rugby competitions and has had an amazing start to the season. All their senior teams, men and women, are situated at the top of their respective ladders. In addition, the club's junior nursery is thriving with their six teams performing very strongly. These great performances are on top of the club's pre-season success with the Men's 7s squad. Congratulations to Junior President, David Weir and Senior President Tim Burns and everyone involved at the Hornsby Rugby Club, for setting up their club's future in such a positive way. I also recognize the Davenport family for their unique achievement for the club.

WIZARD OF OZ PRODUCTION

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—Berowra Musical Society was formed in 1986 and has grown to become one of the premier theatre groups on Sydney's North Shore. The society is also a founding member of the Association of Community Theatres. I recently attended the Berowra Musical Society's magnificent production of The Wizard of Oz. Director Kirsten Livie worked with Music Director Michael Howell who controlled an impressive orchestra. This was truly spectacular show with a talented cast performing in front of bumper audiences. In her first leading role, 14-year-old, Isla Friend, was the best performing Dorothy since Judy Garland. She had the unique opportunity to act on stage with her mum, Kate, who played Glinda. Also impressive were Adam Dodge (as Scarecrow), Michael Hibbard (Tinman), Savannah Sissons (Lion), Callie Crumpler (the Wicked Witch) and Graham Dodge (as the Wizard). Congratulations to all involved including the entire Cast Ensemble and the behind-the-scenes crew. I also congratulate the society's President, Karen Jones, and her committee for the work they do to bring us two performances and a Christmas pantomime annually. The Berowra Musical Society has performed over one hundred shows since it was established in 1986 and I always love attending their performances.

MR HOANG VAN DO – VEFA PLANNER

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Mr Hoang Van Do is a dedicated individual within our community, whose contributions have been instrumental to the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association [VEFA], a respectable community organisation, providing essential services to some thousands of Vietnamese seniors living in my electorate and the surrounding areas. Mr Do is a former soldier in the Republic of Vietnam Army before the Vietnam War ended. He arrived in Australia and became an Australian citizen about 40 years ago. Bringing with him an exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, Mr Do ran a furniture business until he retired and joined VEFA as a volunteer out of a passion to support his fellow members in 2015. Mr Do serves as a planner for VEFA, utilising his meticulous attention to detail and planning skills to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness. His role as a planner has been invaluable to VEFA, ensuring its programs are implemented smoothly to benefit those it serves. I recognise and thank Mr Do for his meticulous dedication and invaluable contributions to serving vulnerable members in my community.

MR LONG HUY NGUYEN – VEFA VICE PRESIDENT

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Mr Long Huy Nguyen is not only a lifelong learner who has achieved academic success but also a passionate community leader with a strong desire to help others. Mr Nguyen, an Australian of Vietnamese heritage, migrated to Australia in 1987 after earning a PhD degree in Japan. He pursued additional qualifications crucial for roles in community services, focusing on advancing his skills in the public sector, community engagement, and language teaching. After retiring, Mr Nguyen joined the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association [VEFA] as a Vice President overseeing external affairs. Utilising his advanced language skills and communication abilities, Mr Nguyen has been a pillar in fostering connections and building mutual rapport between VEFA and other community members and government bodies. His efforts have led to increased mutual benefits and enriched experiences for all involved within his community. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr Nguyen for his exemplary commitment to learning, which illustrates the value of continuous personal improvement in community services. I thank Mr Nguyen for his dedication and service to community.

MR VAN PHUNG NGUYEN – VEFA VOLUNTEER

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Mr Van Phung Nguyen, a former soldier of the Republic of Vietnam Army, is among the courageous 'boat people' escaping Vietnam in search for refuge after the Vietnam War. Mr Nguyen eventually arrived in Australia as a refugee in 1981 and became an Australian Citizen 3 years after. Mr Nguyen has remained a Scout member since the 1990s, motivated by his desire for personal growth and passion for adventure, and a strong affinity to community bonding. In 2011, Mr Nguyen joined the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association [VEFA] where he provides practical and valuable assistance. His meticulous dedication and skills, which ensure the orderly, safety and success of VEFA's services delivered to its vulnerable elderly members, are truly commendable. Whether it's setting up events, coordinating logistics, or lending a helping hand wherever needed, Mr Nguyen's contributions to his community have been invaluable. On behalf of our community, I acknowledge and thank Mr Nguyen for his selfless dedication and commitment to assisting VEFA in its mission to enhance the quality of life and total wellbeing for those in need within our community.

BIG FREEZE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge another successful Big Freeze event in Brocklesby on Saturday 31 May, raising over \$140 000 and supporting local farmer David Schilg, following his recent Motor Neurone Disease diagnosis. This powerful community event drew over 2,000 people. Likewise, I recognise the Albury Tigers Club for its outstanding Big Freeze event on the same day, raising \$11 000 and awareness for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research as part of the Fight MND campaign. Fourteen brave sliders took an icy cold-water plunge in front of 1,500 spectators, with Ovens & Murray Football great Matt Fowler earning the title of best dressed. A special mention to the dedication of organiser Jackson Payne, along with the generosity of local businesses who donated prizes ensuring the event's success. And a big shout-out to the Thurgoona Football Netball Club for raising an impressive \$15,000 in its own Big Freeze event. Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, donated, and took a chilly dip. Your collective efforts will make a difference in the search for a cure for Motor Neurone Disease.

BUSINESS WOMEN ALBURY WODONGA SHOWCASE CHARITY NIGHT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to extend my appreciation to Business Women Albury Wodonga [BWA] for its incredible efforts in raising over \$36,000 for the Albury Wodonga Health - Children's Ward. This remarkable fundraising achievement has provided a vibrant new cubby house, along with significant enhancements to the entire children's play area, including updated turf and a variety of delightful toys. I eagerly anticipate the completion of Stage B – the Specialty Sensory Room, to further enrich the children's hospital experience. In July 2023, BWA hosted a Business Showcase Charity Event at Albury's Bended Elbow Hotel, uniting 13 visionary businesses in an evening of generosity and community spirit. The original goal of several thousand dollars was well and truly surpassed thanks to the community's extraordinary support and generosity. As some of us know, hospital stays can be challenging for children, often leaving them feeling isolated and missing out on the joys of childhood. BWA helped bring light and joy to these children's lives through its unwavering support. Thank you to Business Women Albury Wodonga, and all involved for making such a meaningful difference in the lives of our littlest patients at Albury Hospital.

IT FILLS US WITH JOY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge Albury's PCYC, which has been a foundation for families, fostering growth through the Mini Movers program. With the support of an \$18,000 grant from the Border Trust's Give500, a nonprofit organization, nearly 300 Border families have benefited from this program. The Mini Movers program, catering to children aged zero to five, uses sports and fun activities to improve overall physical wellbeing and motor skills. It provides children with a more active lifestyle away from

screen time and equips them with important social skills such as teamwork, fair play, and communication. Albury PCYC club manager Tim McLaren sees this grant as a "full circle moment," where community donations create a positive feedback loop benefiting local families. Well done, PCYC Albury, for empowering our young generation and paving the way for a healthier, more active future. Your efforts not only ensure that children are happy and healthy but also foster a supportive community for parents. I also extend my gratitude to Border Trust for their Give500 campaign, which has made these positive changes possible.

ETHAN MACKIE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Glenmore Park local Ethan Mackie on his success as one of Australia's best up and coming triathletes and I wish him the very best with his upcoming events. At the young age of 15, Ethan already has some great triathlon achievements next to his name, having first competed in the sport in 2017. Ethan recently competed in the Oceania Junior Championships held in New Zealand. As the youngest competitor and competing against some of Oceania's most talented, he finished 32nd out of 45. Ethan is a Western Sydney Academy of Sport athlete and he is scheduled to represent Australia in the Elite Junior Duathlon at the World Triathlon Multisport Championships to be held in Townsville later this year. Ethan's hard work and talent has been recognised through him being named the latest recipient of the Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Junior Sports Star Award. On behalf of the Badgerys Creek electorate, I thank Ethan for doing us proud and wish him the very best in his future events.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—One of the highlights in my role as a Parliamentarian is witnessing the strong interest of our youth in our democracy, parliamentary processes and history and having the opportunity to partake in their learning, whether it be out in the electorate or when the students visit NSW Parliament. I was privileged to have had the chance to speak with secondary school leaders, including leaders from Emmaus Catholic College, at NSW Parliament recently about the constitutional and parliamentary processes, as part of the Secondary Student Leadership Program. I was proud to see their strong knowledge and their passion for learning in this field. The future is bright with this current generation coming through. I thank and commend the students, staff and parents for having the students visit NSW Parliament to expand their knowledge about constitutional and parliamentary processes and to have the opportunity to witness it in person. I also thank and commend the Parliamentary staff for their dedication to educating our youth in this field.

TEGAN UPTON

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Emmaus Catholic College student Tegan Upton for her strong success in Trampolining at the Australian Gymnastics Championships which were recently held in the Gold Coast. This was Tegan's 8th time representing NSW in trampolining, an astonishing accomplishment that reflects her skill and commitment to the sport. It marked her first time competing in the International Junior U22 category. Tegan finished 9th in both the Individual Trampolining and Double Mini Trampolining categories. Her performance was unfortunately impacted by sudden injury and she missed out on the finals by only half a point. Her results are even more incredible noting the effect of her injury. Tegan strives towards continuing to represent NSW and eventually representing Australia. She is also focused on completing her preliminary HSC studies. I wish Tegan a full recovery from her injury and I wish her the very best in her academic and sporting endeavours.

KIARA KOSTOVSKI

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Kiara Kostovski, from the Stingrays of Shellharbour, who has been selected into the Illawarra Steelers Squad for the 2024 Harvey Norman Women's Rugby League Premiership season. The Steelers' campaign started on 6 July 2024 against defending premiers Mounties at Aubrey Keech Reserve. The 11-round competition will run concurrently with the NRLW and act as a development league with players able to shift between the competitions. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I congratulate Kiara and wish her well in all her future sporting endeavours.

KATE HOWLE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Kate Howle, Under 18's Girls Tackle Player for the Stingrays Rugby League Football Club. Kate was selected to play for the Southern Country Rugby League Team at the NSWCCC Rugby League Championships. New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) is the pathway for students in all Catholic Secondary Schools in NSW to compete at NSW All Schools Championships sports and events. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Kate and wish her well in all her future sporting endeavours.

OLLIE BURTON

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Ollie Burton, from the Dapto Junior Rugby League Football Club. Ollie was recently named as fullback for the Under 15's New South Wales Combined High School Rugby League Team National Competition which will be in Port Macquarie in early July. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Ollie and wish him well in all his future sporting endeavours.

ANNE KELLY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Anne Kelly has been running the Telarah Public School's Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program since it first began 10 years ago. Anne is passionate about teaching kids about food and new life skills. With more than 500 students participating, the program is an important part of the school curriculum. Anne believes that this program is incredibly beneficial for the students in their everyday lives. By learning about these programs these young children are learning about the environment around them and what kind of food is healthy for their bodies. The program is open to everyone and incorporates fresh ingredients from the school vegetable garden. With fresh ingredients becoming more expensive, many children have not had the opportunity to cook with these at home. During a time of increasing prices in fresh food, where buying processed foods is cheaper Anne finds joy in demonstrating to children healthier food options. The skills being taught are already being put into practice by the students. Some children, not even knowing how to use a tea towel, are now inviting other kids over to feed them a meal they have made. Thank you, Anne, for showing these students a fresher tomorrow.

RAPID RELIEF TEAM

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Our essential workers do so much for our community and the rapid Relief team this week decided to say thank you. The nurses and staff at Maitland Hospital were treated to a free lunch on Tuesday courtesy of the generous volunteers. Rapid Relief Team is a charity that usually sets up its free food station to feed emergency services during natural disasters. This was the first time it has catered for Maitland Hospital staff. The volunteers come out to not only provide burgers and coffee but also to say thank you to the wonderful nurses and staff at Maitland Hospital, and the front line staff as well as the ambulance crews. The team cooked 1000 beef burgers and offered free barista coffee as a small token of their thankfulness. The groups just wanted to say thank you for the care they provide the Maitland community. Rapid Relief Team is the charitable arm of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church, which is in Louth Park. Thank you for your generosity to the essential workers at Maitland Hospital.

WALKERS FOR JENNY'S PLACE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—A group of sixteen women including Sharon Cameron and Donna George of Maitland are walking for a better tomorrow. The team leaves next week for a 125 km trek through the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, to raise money for women and men who are escaping Domestic Violence. The team has raised \$108,000 so far for Jenny's Place and are confident of reaching their goal of \$120,000. The 125 km trek along the Heysen Trail will see the group walking for nine hours each day and sleeping under the stars each night. Donna has already led 10 other hikes for Jenny's Place. One of these walks was the Kokoda Trek in Papua New Guinea where she broke her wrist 2 days in and yet still went on to complete it. Another hike was up Mount Kilimanjaro which was very difficult because of altitude sickness. The group leave on Monday, 24 June, and begin their journey the next day. The women have been in training for a year. Goodluck Sharon and Donna and all the team and thank you for your support of Jenny's Place.

AUSTRALIA STREET INFANTS SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate Australia Street Infants School's P&C Association for their successful 2023 Community Building Partnership grant. This grant will be used to develop a community garden at Australia Street Infants School that will be used by students and their families – putting this currently under-utilised land to very important use. Australia Street Infants School P&C Association does such wonderful work for the Australia Street community and our Newtown electorate, focused on enhancing the learning experiences and enjoyment of its students. We acknowledge and thank the parents, carers and school community of Australia Street for all their hard work and the contribution they make to the education and care of the next generation.

NEWTOWN NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate Newtown North Public School's P&C Association for their successful 2023 Community Building Partnership

grant. This grant will be used for the installation of creative play, educational and exercise markings on the school grounds. Newtown North Public School's P&C Association does such wonderful work for the Newtown North community and our Newtown electorate broadly – and we are so pleased to be able to support this project. We acknowledge and thank the parents, carers and school community of Newtown North Public School for their continued hard work and significant contribution to the wellbeing and education of the next generation.

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown Electorate, I would like to recognise the Newtown High School of the Performing Arts for its uplifting and engaging International Women's Day event. I was pleased to be on a panel with Dr Christy Newman, Dr Jessica Brooks and Kylie Washington, traversing a feminist politics that engaged with race, queerness, class, sport and workplace challenges. It is great to see that the Newtown High School of the Performing Arts staff, students and their families, are proactively organising intersectional feminist events that are open to all students and so well attended. It's truly encouraging that the next generation of leaders - of all genders - are hearing stories about leadership and engaging with these issues. It was also encouraging that the students at Newtown High School organised an event to include queer and gender non-binary voices. In particular, I want to recognise school leaders Josephine Bradfield and Tobias Mossman who organised this event, and Jay Stocker and Sebastian Mackenzie for their performance. I commend and congratulate Newtown High School of the Performing Arts for putting together such a successful - and quintessentially Newtown - International Women's Day Breakfast.

GEORGIA LOWDEN

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise Georgia Lowden, who in 2023 and 2024 served our local community in the Davidson Electorate Office. Georgia she was responsible and instrumental in supporting my parliamentary and portfolio work that included research, analysis and writing. Her contribution was very valuable. A Roseville local, Georgia came to the office with considerable experience. Since 2019, Georgia has advised the Federal Member for Bradfield, Hon. Paul Fletcher MP; Member of the Legislative Council, Hon. Chris Rath MLC; and the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Sport, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Skills and Training, and Leader of the House, Alister Henskens MP. I am proud that while working, Georgia also successfully juggled completing a Juris Doctor (JD) law degree at the University of Sydney, that will complement her Bachelor of Arts degree, where she was a Dalyell Scholar. The future is very bright for Georgia, and I look forward witnessing her future pathways. Thank you, Georgia, for your public service for the people of Davidson and the Parliament of NSW.

GEOFF STANWELL

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise local legend Geoff Stanwell. As locals know, you tune into Radio Northern Beaches (RNB) 88.7 FM / 90.3 FM on Wednesdays between 9am and 12pm. I can personally attest to Geoff's passion and love for radio, having been interviewed over the past year. He also interviews local actors, musicians, performers, doctors and police. Geoff came to radio in 2005 when he enrolled at Australian Film Television and Radio School to learn announcing, radio news and voice over. He's presented breakfast on RNB and the overnight express from midnight to 5am on the CBAA network through 87 stations across Australia. In 2010, Geoff joined Northside Radio, presenting Wednesday Drive and became chairman of board. Outside of radio, I recognise Geoff for his public service, having recently marked 50 years as a Justice of the Peace. Geoff is also a civil celebrant, a qualified softball umpire and soccer referee and a master of ceremonies and DJ. He's undertaken important work supporting Forestville RSL Sub-Branch, was an investigator for 35 years, and an officer in the Military Police. On behalf of our local community, thank you Geoff for your ongoing service. I look forward to our next radio interview.

BOWEL CANCER AUSTRALIA

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—As Bowel Cancer Awareness month of June comes to a conclusion for 2024, I take this opportunity to recognise Bowel Cancer Australia for their ongoing and important work. On 19 June 2024, members of the NSW Parliament, including Premier Chris Minns, Opposition Leader Mark Speakman, Health Minister Ryan Park, and Shadow Health Minister Matt Kean proudly wore a Red Apple Day pin and ribbon. Bowel Cancer Australia is a 100 per cent community-funded national charity dedicated to prevention, early diagnosis, research, quality treatment and care, so everyone affected by bowel cancer can live their best life. Bowel cancer is the deadliest cancer for young people aged 25 to 44. You can be #Never2Young. In 2024, Bowel Cancer Australia's advocacy to lower the eligibility age for a bowel cancer screening kit was successful. From 1 July 2024, people aged 45 to 49 can request a kit be mailed to them. But the work and advocacy continues. I recognise Bowel Cancer Australia Chief Executive Officer, Julien Wiggins; Chair of the Board, Craig Jackson; and all the dedicated staff, including Stephanie Bansemer-Brow. Thank you for all the work you do – that to put it simply – saves lives!

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations to Senior Deputy Captain Walter Murray – Clarence Valley District, one of eight RFS members receiving the Australian Fire Service Medal in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours list. Senior Deputy Captain Walter 'Wal' Murray joined the Mt Ramornie Brigade in 1986. He has served as a Senior Deputy Captain since 2014 and previously held the positions of Deputy Captain and brigade equipment officer and has been active over many years as a permit officer. Wal continues to be an active member of the Brigade, attending all manner of operational incidents, including out-of-area deployments. Wal is a major part of the Mt Ramornie Brigade, showing unwavering commitment to the Brigade and his community. Wal's local knowledge and experience is exceptional, he goes above and beyond to help others. He has provided excellent leadership over many years, displaying outstanding knowledge of the bush and firefighting. He has shown tenacity and commitment to his training and is a well-respected mentor. Wal is known as one of Clarence Valley's achievers, he is trustworthy and honest, with a remarkable work ethic and stamina. Thank you for your dedication, Wal!

SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT TANNER

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Superintendent Scott Tanner of the Richmond Police District who was awarded the prestigious Australian Police Medal as part of the King's Birthday honours list. Superintendent Tanner is a proud country cop at heart having spent much of his 30-year career in regional NSW including serving time in general duties in my electorate at Grafton and Nymboida, before being promoted through the ranks as Sergeant, Duty Officer and now Commander of the Richmond Police District. Superintendent Tanner has always devoted himself to being a strong part of the fabric of the country towns he has worked and lived in. This was evident during one of the most significant flood events where he oversaw the large-scale emergency response operation that saw over 2500 Northern rivers residents rescued after their homes were engulfed by floodwaters. His on-the-ground leadership during and in the aftermath of this unprecedented event was of the highest standard. He has continued to show this in the recovery phase working side-by-side with all and sundry to ensure impacted communities are supported by providing direct feedback and advice to government on what is needed on the ground for communities to recover.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT MICHAEL SMITH

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Detective Sergeant Michael Smith who was awarded a prestigious Australian Police Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List. Detective Sergeant Smith joined the NSW Police Force in 1987 and after serving time in general duties and the Highway Patrol, worked his way through the ranks in various roles with major crime and drug squads in Northern Rivers and as a long-serving member of the Tactical Operations Regional Support Unit to become a highly skilled and much valued police officer. Throughout his career, he has received numerous commendations for his leadership and brave actions, such as his role in responding to a shark attack on a young bodyboarder in Ballina and a high-risk operation in Mullumbimby as well as during Strike Force Durkin. He also conducted rescues during the 2022 floods showing outstanding actions and exceptional leadership in taking charge of police and emergency services and orchestrating the evacuation of elderly residents from retirement villages, including palliative care patients. Detective Sergeant Smith has a remarkable blend of experience across policing and is a much-valued officer. His dedication to duty embodies the very essence of the organisation's values and mission.

ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY MASS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On 3 May 2024, I had the pleasure of celebrating the Orthodox Good Friday Mass at St Euphemia Greek Orthodox Church in Bankstown joined by my colleagues the Hon. Jason Clare MP and Mayor Bilal El-Hayek. The Good Friday Mass commemorated the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, led by the Father Panagiotis Protosaltis. The Mass consisted of a series of prayers, readings, and hymns reflecting on the meaning and significance of the day. The highlight of the service was the spiritual gathering, in which hundreds of parishioners participated in a procession around the church. Students from St Euphemia College led the procession carrying a flower arrangement, known as a bier, which is meant to represent Jesus' body or coffin. The procession signified a mourning of the death of Jesus but there was also hope in the eyes of the parishioners knowing that He will rise again. I thank St Euphemia Greek Orthodox Church of Bankstown and St Euphemia College for their ongoing support and for inviting me to join in their annual Good Friday Mass. I wish the Orthodox Christians of Bankstown a blessed Easter season. Christos anesti!

EID-AL-ADHA AT LAKEMBA MOSQUE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On 16 June 2024, I joined approximately

40,000 worshippers at Ali Bin Abi Taleb (Lakemba) Mosque, for the Eid-Al-Adha Prayer. Eid-Al-Adha is the "Festival of Sacrifice," that commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (as) to sacrifice his son Ismail in obedience to Allah and is marked by a ceremony of prayers, feasts, and charitable acts. This special day on the Islamic calendar is a time for Muslims around the world to come together in prayer, to reflect on the values of sacrifice, charity, and unity. Sheikh Yahya Safi addressed the congregation and reminded us of the significance of Eid-Al-Adha and the importance of sacrifice in our lives. He emphasised that Eid is a time of true sacrifice and a lesson that we should always put the greater good ahead of ourselves and reach out to help those in need. A highlight of every Eid at Lakemba Mosque is the smiling faces of the many children, and those smiles were broader when the Lebanese Muslim Association [LMA] distributed lollies. I thank Sheikh Yahya Safi, LMA secretary Gamel Kheir and President Hafez Alameddine for their ongoing support in bringing our community together. Eid Mubarak!

BANKSTOWN +10

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—Canterbury Bankstown is home to over 370,000 residents and we are expecting to reach half a million by 2036. The Committee for Sydney hosted Bankstown+10 at Western Sydney University - Bankstown City Campus, as a platform for our community to discuss their aspirations and opportunities for the next 10 years. Bankstown+10 works in a collaborative environment to enhance and develop communities by ensuring the community spirit and culture shines through the transition into a CBD. Recently, Bankstown +10 brought together local community members, industry leaders, government, and policymakers to discuss the region's most pressing challenges. The day involved various panels regarding the future of our region such as the importance of housing affordability, connectivity with the greater Sydney region, education, health, small businesses, nighttime economy, and the arts. The event ended with a curator's tour of MultiFutures at Bankstown Arts Centre. We have an exciting future ahead of us and I know together we will make Bankstown a better place to live. Thank you to the Chief Executive Officer, Eamon Waterford, Chief Operating Officer, Hannah Jamieson, Event and Partnership Manager, Cassie Newman, and the team at Committee for Sydney for organising this event.

DOROTHY FISHBURN

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to sincerely congratulate a local Abbotsford resident, Dorothy Fishburn who is celebrating her 100th birthday on this day, the 21st of June 2024. Dorothy, as you celebrate this wonderful milestone, I hope you reflect warmly on your extraordinary life and look back on your memories fondly. I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating this extraordinarily special day with family and loved ones. I sincerely wish you a very happy birthday, and wish you all the very best. I look forward to meeting you and to sharing in your celebrations.

JUNE BRUNSKILL

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to warmly congratulate a local Chiswick resident, June Brunskill, who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on 24 June 2024. On this extraordinarily special occasion, we celebrate June's life and contributions. I hope June has a wonderful time celebrating this milestone with family, friends and loved ones. On behalf of our community, I sincerely wish June all the very best on the occasion of her 100th Birthday. Happy Birthday June!

JF WELLS AND ASSOCIATES

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to extend my sincerest congratulations to JF Wells and Associates on their 50th anniversary in business, and of service to our community. JF Wells and Associates is an accounting firm based in Five Dock specialising in all taxation matters. I would particularly like to congratulate Directors Michael Megna and Louis Bechara on this special occasion. I extend my appreciation and congratulations to the entire JF Wells and Associates staff. Your commitment to integrity and professionalism sets a high standard for all businesses in our community. As the team celebrates this significant milestone, I offer my sincerest congratulations to JF Wells and Associates. I thank them for their dedication to their clients, and wish Michael and Louis all the very best.

GHASSAN

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of Sydney, I thank Ghassan Kassisieh for his immense contribution to the LGBTIQ+ community during his time as legal director of Equality Australia. Ghassan has worked on law reform, advocacy and representation for LGBTIQ+ people across the country and at all levels of government. His work has helped strengthen equality and fairness for some of the most vulnerable in the community and educate members of parliament about the legal challenges LGBTIQ+ people face. He is well known as an LGBTIQ+ law powerhouse. I'm especially grateful for Ghassan's determination and focus in

ensuring New South Wales laws to ban LGBTIQ+ conversion practices were as robust as possible and for his work with stakeholders across the state to support drafting the LGBTIQ+ Equality Bill. Ghassan should be proud that he has improved the lives, wellbeing, safety, and rights of LGBTIQ+ people and their families. He is highly respected across the political spectrum, and his work with Equality Australia and in state and federal parliaments will continue to be a proud legacy.

CAROLINE DIAMANTIS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I'd like to acknowledge Caroline Diamantis of Balmain Community Pharmacy. Caroline is a long-standing and trusted member of the Balmain community having operated her pharmacy in the village-centre for many years. Local residents know they can rely on her passion and knowledge of community health care and that they are in safe hands with Caroline and her outstanding staff whenever they need medicine and supplies. It is obvious to all who know her that Caroline cares deeply about our community. She also has a deep passion for her industry and is a renowned leader in community and clinical pharmacy. Along with owning and running the Balmain Community Pharmacy, Caroline is the National Vice President and a New South Wales Board Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. She has been a committed advocate for female pharmacy owners and gender diversity in industry leadership positions, mentoring early career pharmacists into ownership roles, and for pharmacists to be acknowledged and remunerated fairly for their role in primary health care and the critical difference they make to health outcomes. I thank Caroline for her outstanding service to the community of Balmain.

MAX BARRY AND COURTNEY YOUNG – CM CARE

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge Max Barry and Courtney Young, founders of the innovative Northern Beaches disability support business CM Care. After working for a traditional support service, Max and Courtney became disillusioned by the red tape and outdated restrictions they encountered. Driven by a desire to see individuals with disabilities engage in more opportunities to socialise, the pair started CM Care. Four years on, CM Care is a thriving community where clients and staff are friends. CM Care offers a range of activities including retreats, excursions, weekly social gatherings, and their famous pub nights. The group has even hosted overseas trips to Fiji and Bali. I thank Max, Courtney and the whole team at CM Care for their steadfast dedication to overcoming barriers and stereotypes and creating such a positive community where everyone feels valued and supported.

AFFORDABLE COMPUTERS NARRABEEN

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge Justin Clarke and the amazing team at Affordable Computers Narrabeen. As the technology of our world and day to day lives continues to advance, the professional and competent team at Affordable Computers Narrabeen provide phenomenal support to customers with any and all computer related queries. Local businesses are so important to a thriving community. Affordable Computers not only offers computer expertise but a personal touch, providing a full service that involves both fixing issues and helping customers better understand their devices so they can avoid future problems. Their rave reviews say it all. Affordable Computers has been praised for their efficiency, fair prices trustworthiness, and for always going the extra mile. Pittwater is so lucky to have such a wonderful, customer-focussed local business available to us. Thank you to Justin and the team, I hope you will continue to serve our community for many more years to come.

NORTH SHORE ROWING CLUB

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker - I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of the North Shore Rowing Club. A Longueville based community run organisation that strives to connect people together through the graceful sport of rowing. President of the club, Dr Richard Sheldrake has always advocated for the improvement of the clubs' facilities and buildings. With the help of this year's \$20,000 Community Building Partnership Grant, the Club will be able to pursue the restoration of its social and community spaces.

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – I would like to acknowledge and tribute to the outstanding work and commitment that Greenwich Public School and its P&C have made to the education of their students. The P&C's application to the Community Building Partnership Grant has been successful this year. With the assistance of a total \$68,000, Greenwich Public School can provide shade sails for both their Kindy to Year 2 campus and their main Kingslangley Road campus, a well deserving project.

LANE COVE 12FT SAILING SKIFF CLUB

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of the Lane Cove 12ft Sailing Skiff Club. With an extra \$11,190 in their pocket thanks to the Community Building Partnership Grant program, they'll be able to transport their rescue response Boat around to different events and

racers using a brand-new trailer. In addition to this, the club will also be able to purchase another dozen marker buoys for weekly use during their sailing sessions. I'd like to thank the Lane Cove 12 Ft Skiff club for their application and their advocacy for physical and social activity within the Electorate of Lane Cove.

SANDY KNOWLES

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate Sandy Knowles. For over three decades, Sandy has shown incredible dedication and commitment to public education, significantly impacting our community. For the last 11 years Sandy has had an outstanding tenure at Terrigal Public School. Beginning as the Assistant Principal in the Support Unit and rising to the role of Deputy Principal, Sandy led the school with distinction and unwavering dedication. Sandys absolute focus on students, her deep connections with families, and her extensive knowledge of learning and wellbeing have been recognised through her merit-based appointment as Principal at Woy Woy Public School. Congratulations Sandy on your new appointment, the Woy Woy Public School community is truly fortunate to gain such a capable and inspiring leader. Thank you for your ongoing contribution to education excellence here on the Central Coast and I wish you all the best in your new role at Woy Woy Public School.

FAR NORTH COAST SURF LIFE SAVING

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the great work of the Director of Lifesaving David Rope, and the Far North Coast Surf Life Saving Branch – whose ten clubs protect ocean goers who access over 284 kms of coastline, from Yamba in the South to Fingal Heads in the North. Founded in 1934 Surf Life Saving Far North Coast has a proud history of community service. Their tireless efforts each year include an average of 10,000 preventative rescue actions, up to 100 after hours search and rescue call outs, and up to 800 first aid treatments. These incredible clubs also train and assess up to 8000 volunteers and monitor between 500,000 – 1,000,000 beach visitations by the public each season. Congratulations to Geoffrey Horsey who won the Branch Presidents medal for his sustained service, Dougal Forsyth won Lifesaver of the Year; Branch Volunteer and Youth Volunteer of the Year, Elyse McMaster and Toby Dix respectively, Patrol Captain of the Year Michael Crandell, Support Operations Member of the Year Gary Raso, Athlete of the Year Oliver Sharp, Masters Athlete of the Year Jo Kay, Youth Athlete of the Year Isabella Tate and Branch Club of the Year Cudgen Headland.

WATER WOMAN'S CAMPOUT

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise and congratulate Surfers for Climate, and especially Lucy Fine and Caitlin Ewing for the success of the all-female campout – Water Women Campout. Held at Flatrock Tent Park – a local treasure, this weekend saw over 100 local water women and a host of presenters and workshops, come together with the mission of empowering and mobilising water women for positive climate action, and the celebration of women in surfing and at the forefront of ocean protection. There has been incredible feedback and outcomes already including talk of a First Nations led women's circle, a tool kit around surf feminism for intergenerational climate action, and the establishment of the Women of Victoria Boardriders Committee. This historic event has inspired activation and connection that will help fortify our community; I am already looking forward to next year's event. Thank you to the passionate team at Surfers for Climate and Caitlin and Lucy as well as the national and international water women who attended or spoke at this impactful event.

PRANAVAN PRAKASH

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Congratulations to Pranavan Prakash for his outstanding achievement in winning the 34th Bateman Battersby Law Bursary. Pranavan's remarkable academic excellence is evident in his impressive ATAR of 98.70, achieved upon completing the HSC last year. We are thrilled to see him admitted to the University of New South Wales to pursue a combined Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws. The Bateman Battersby Law Bursary, established by the esteemed Penrith legal firm Bateman Battersby Lawyers, aims to encourage high school students in Penrith and the Blue Mountains to undertake legal studies at a tertiary level. This award not only recognizes academic excellence but also provides crucial financial support in the first year of legal study. Pranavan, your dedication, and hard work have made Penrith incredibly proud. Your success is a testament to your commitment and determination and you are in good company as many of the previous award recipients now practicing law in various fields. We are confident that you will continue to excel in your studies and make significant contributions to the legal field in the future. Once again, congratulations, Pranavan. We wish you all the best in your academic journey and future endeavours.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—Congratulations to all the winners of the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Business Awards, especially those in my electorate of East Hills. Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and we have many great, thriving small businesses in our community. The Business of the Year

award went to Yourway Design Aus, a manufacturing company that specialises in custom joinery and construction. The Revesby business also won in the Services & Trade category. A host of other Revesby-based businesses were recognised as top businesses. Haus of Savannah, a boutique run exclusively by women won the fashion category. The performing arts category was awarded to LD Dance Studios. Captured Memories by Kr won sole operator. The travel agency category went to Helloworld Revesby at Revesby Workers Club. DF Legal in Padstow secured the top prize for the Legal Services category whilst LJ hooker, also in Padstow was awarded top Real Estate Agency. Echo Board & Products in Condell Park was recognised as best in the manufacturing category. Congratulations again to all winners of the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Business Awards and thank you for contributing to our vibrant community in East Hills.

SEAS THE DAY

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—This weekend the world's largest female participation surf festival, Seas the Day, returns to Kingscliff within the Tweed Electorate. Seas the Day aims to encourage more women to take to the waves, celebrate their achievements and empower women to achieve even more. The two-day event includes shortboard and longboard surfing contests and a festival program filled with wellness, yoga, ice baths, breath work sessions, guest speakers, film and photography. Surfing legends Layne Beachley, Pauline Menzer and big-wave surfer Laura Enever will be there. The program also includes a celebrity surf challenge where female athletes from other sports, TV personalities and surfing stars will compete in the water. Seas the Day is an incredible family event providing a weekend filled with fun activities and is another example of an event that highlights the beautiful Tweed region and showcases the amazing coastal lifestyle we love.

TWEED BYRON AND DISTRICT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Thursday 6 June 2024 marked the last gathering of the Ladies of the Tweed Byron and District Bowls Association [TBDBA] at the Cabarita Beach Bowls Club after some 40 years. Bowls NSW and Women's Bowls NSW are combining under one banner and the ladies will now join the Northern Rivers Regional Bowling Association alongside the male bowlers. To celebrate four decades of bowling achievements the TBDBA bowlers held a luncheon to bring together past and present players to share memories and reflect on all their achievements as an organisation. Congratulations to all members of the TBDBA for everything you have achieved and the community connections you have provided and nurtured over 40 years. The Association's contribution to the community cannot be understated and I thank you for all the work undertaken to run championships, pennants and club level games and for the social benefits these bring to the Tweed. I wish the bowlers of the TBDBA every continued success under the new banner of the Northern Rivers Regional Bowling Association.

CANE HARVEST

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—The annual cane harvesting season has begun in the Tweed, with the first load of cane delivered to the Condong Sugar Mill on Monday 17 June for the first crush. The Mill is expecting a strong season this year, aiming for a crop of about 475,000 tonnes from across the Tweed Valley. This will result in some 56,000 tonnes of sugar in total and 22,000 tonnes will be direct consumption sugar for customers all over Australia. Sugar cane plays an important role in the primary production sector in the Tweed and the Condong Sugar Mill is a significant local employer. The Mill has ten new and current apprentices, making an important and valued contribution to the future workforce capability of the Tweed. Congratulations to growers on the start of the 2024 season and may agreeable weather conditions continue to ensure a successful, prosperous and safe harvest.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE – COMMUNITY ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 24 February 2024, it was great to address the Toongabbie Legal Centre Community Advocacy Workshop at the Australian Catholic University, Blacktown. In collaboration with LEAD Professional Development Inc, the Community Advocacy Workshop connected community workers and legal practitioners in Western Sydney to network, exchange resources and advance their skills. I was pleased to share my experiences and help map the best pathways for these advocates to share important community messages with Members of Parliament. We are fortunate to have many committed legal and community sector workers in Western Sydney. Our skilled and qualified community workers are called to this vocation, to amplify the voices of vulnerable people. Their work is crucial to achieve fair and just outcomes for every member of our community. Community organisations like Toongabbie Legal Centre are the cornerstones of our community. They offer affordable, culturally considerate and accessible services to drive representative solutions, increase confidence in legal processes and help people develop skills to be their own advocates. Thank you to Toongabbie Legal Centre Principal Solicitor Susai Benjamin OAM, Stephen Hodgson Community Advocacy Coordinator and Shamily Nagarsekar CEO of LEAD for your ongoing dedication to supporting our community.

TAMIL TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 11 February 2024, I was pleased to address teachers, parents and students from our local Tamil community at the Australian Tamil Teachers Conference in Wentworthville. Hosted by the NSW Federation of Tamil Schools, the Conference connected Tamil teachers to advance their skills and engage with emerging classroom management and teaching techniques. Prospect is the number one state electorate for Tamil speakers in all of Australia, with 4,360 people speaking Tamil at home. And I couldn't be prouder! Tamil is one of the world's oldest languages, having been spoken for more than 2,800 years. Tamil proficiency is also increasingly important for trade and commerce between Australia, Sri Lanka and India. Continued high-quality Tamil language teaching will play a crucial role. Community Language Schools cater to the linguistic and cultural needs of our wonderfully diverse population. These schools foster social cohesion and provide invaluable resources for students to learn and maintain their ancestral languages, while also promoting cultural exchange and understanding among all Australians. Thank you to NSW Federation of Tamil Schools President Shathieskaran Thevarajah, teachers, volunteers, parents, and students for supporting the continuation of culture through our community language schools.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – KEITH BAKER

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Keith Baker on receiving a Justice of the Peace Certificate of Appreciation by the Cumberland Branch of the NSW Justices Association on Monday 17th June 2024. The NSW Justices Association was established in 1911 to offer support, information and advocacy to Justices of the Peace across NSW. The Cumberland Branch of the NSW Justices Association performs 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. Justices of the Peace are key to the functions of our legal system, assisting courts and governing bodies to provide timely outcomes. The Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to outstanding members of the Association, who have demonstrated great loyalty and longevity. Keith has generously volunteered his time as a volunteer JP in the NSW JA – Cumberland Branch for 45 years. Congratulations Keith on this significant award. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community. I also thank NSW Justices Association State President, Dr John Brodie, and the Cumberland Branch for your considered advocacy and ongoing support for our community.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—In June I was delighted to meet two students from Cerdon College, Merrylands in my electorate who participated in the Parliament's Secondary Student Leadership Program. Daniella Magueri and Matilda Sibson were part of the inspiring program fostering leadership in our next generation. The program brought together 120 student leaders from across NSW with MPs. These students, representing schools from Ryde to Tamworth, had the unique opportunity to engage in a town hall meeting and learn about our parliamentary processes. After observing question time, the program extended beyond Parliament House, with an informative session from the NSW Electoral Commission. This program is a testament to the Parliament's commitment to nurturing future leaders. By fostering dialogue between student leaders and their representatives, we empower young minds to understand our democratic system and contribute positively to our society. I commend the Daniella and Matilda and all who participated in this valuable program. Let us continue to invest in the leadership potential of our young people – they are the future of our state.

RON MITCHERSON

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—It is with great sadness that I note the passing of a stalwart of the Lake Macquarie community, Ron Mitcherson. His life was one of exemplified courage, service and sacrifice. As a young man Ron served in the Army's Royal Australian Infantry Corps, completing a 12-month tour in Vietnam, where he faced unimaginable horrors while answering the call of duty. Transitioning from the battlefield to the streets, Ron then continued his commitment as a guardian of our community serving with the NSW Police for more than 20 years. Ron was President of the Toronto Diggers Club, a position that he held for eight years. He was also a Life Member of the club, having served on the Board of Directors for 19 years. He was also an active member of the Toronto RSL sub-branch for more than 30 years, and a great supporter of returned servicemen. For many years he was the driving force behind Toronto ANZAC Day service. I extend my deepest sympathies to Ron's family and friends. He will be dearly missed. Vale Ron.

JESSICA AND WADE TRACEY

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to acknowledge a truly outstanding achievement by Jessica and Wade Tracey, owners of the Morisset Newsagency, who for the second year in a row have been named Newsagent of the Year by the National Lotteries and Newsagents Association. Winning the award is a testament

to their exceptional customer service, professionalism and the high regard that they are held in our community. Jessica and Wade go above and beyond to make their Newsagency stand out from the others. They often deck out their store with a dazzling display of balloons or other themed decorations to promote a particularly large lottery or Powerball prize pool, while they themselves will be in full costume ready to greet customers. They also produce hilarious videos for social media, which has seen them accrue a huge following. Congratulations on this very well deserved award, and thank you for bringing some fun and frivolity to the Morisset community.

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN BASILIOS

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Basilios of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines who I had the pleasure of visiting on 29 May. The insightful discussions covered a wide range of topics including the provision of culturally and religiously inclusive education, aged care and legislative issues for faith communities. The conversation surrounding aged care was particularly fitting given the opening of St Nicholas Seniors Care Centre last year, providing 80 beds to service Sydney's Antiochian Orthodox community. The Antiochian Archdiocese is rightly proud that this is the first aged-care centre in NSW designed and completed in accordance with recommendations from the Aged Care Royal Commission. Also in attendance were my parliamentary colleagues the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, Mark Coure MP and Tina Ayyad MP. I recognise His Eminence Metropolitan Basilios' leadership and guidance of the Antiochian Orthodox community and thank him for sharing his insights on multicultural and multi faith issues.

FINGAL BAY SURF LIFE SAVING

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion)—I want to commend and recognise the Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club, who year after year provide a critical service to our local community and its many visitors. Closing the season out for the year I was honoured to attend and present at the club's awards night. I offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the following major award-winning volunteers: Club President Award: Adrian Futterleib; The Denis Jones Award for Junior Club Person of the Year: Susie Anderson; The John Anderson Award for contribution to Junior Services: Nick Angelos; Team of the Year: Brady's Bunch IRB Racing with Jack Lynch and Brady Stewart; Trainee Life Saver of the Year: Allan Budziarski; Trainer of the Year: Mike Bass; Patrol Captain of the Year: Duncan Scott-Lawson; Lifesaver of the year: Addison Wilks; Junior Lifesaver of the Year: Noah Worrall; Club Member of the Year: Michelle Edwards; And a special recognition for an impressive 55 Years of service was awarded to Eddie Bergsma OAM. Final thanks and congratulations go to President Jo Cooper and the entire committee for their strong leadership and dedication to keeping our beaches safe and our community strong whilst building leaders of the future.

BIRUBI POINT SLSC ANNUAL AWARDS

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion)—Because of the efforts of local surf life savers, not one person lost their lives on our beaches who was swimming between the flags. Tragically, this season there were lives lost elsewhere on our beaches, despite the best efforts of those who responded. It's been a challenging season for local surf lifesavers, especially those at Birubi Point SLSC. I was delighted to be able to thank club members at their end of season presentation, and to recognise the following award recipients: Surf Lifesaver of the Year - Greg Williams; Club person of the year - Kristy Arnall; Youth Lifesaver of the Year - Brad Delaporte; Youth Volunteer of the Year - Elizabeth Cummins; Trainer of the Year - Eric Gatehouse; Assessor of the year - Steve Fogwall. Special acknowledgement of 15 years of service went to Samantha Faragher. Most recently, this club's efforts were recognised at the Hunter Surf Lifesaving Awards of Excellence with Greg Williams being awarded Surf Life Saver of the Year, Stephen Fogwill, Assessor of the Year and Eric Gatehouse, Trainer of the Year. Congratulations to Club President Rohan Fisher and the entire committee for their strong leadership.

60TH ANNIVERSARY RAYMOND TERRACE VIEW CLUB

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion)—Just over 60 years ago on 9 June 1964, 15 women met at a local hotel in Raymond Terrace and formed a Voices Interests and Education of Women – or VIEW Club. One of the original members Wilma McNeil remains a member to this day. VIEW is a national women's organisation with the sole focus of supporting and advocating for the education of young Australians in need through the Smith Family charity. They fundraise for items like uniforms, shoes, books, excursions by holding annual stationery and book drives. Raymond Terrace VIEW Club's 39 active members support 4 young people across the nation as part of the 'Learning for Life' program and actively fundraise for other Smith Family Programs. Last week, to celebrate this significant milestone over 100 people met at the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club to celebrate 60 years of supporting the educational needs of young Australians. The theme of the celebration was diamonds, how fitting

this is as I'm sure you can agree, these hard-working women are indeed diamonds. Thank you and congratulations to: Jennifer Koster, Janice Graves, Glenys Francis, Wendy Hyland, Elizabeth Cooper, Lorraine Aspinall, Anne Faint and Isabella Miller.
