

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 6 August 2024

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Members

MEMBER FOR MOUNT DRUITT

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the recent birthdays of members representing the electorates of Mount Druitt, Macquarie Fields and Davidson. I note particularly that the member for Davidson had a significant birthday—the big 4-0. You are getting up there, Matt. I hope all three members had wonderful birthdays.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the guests of members who have joined us in the Chamber today. I extend a warm welcome to guests of the member for Orange, students and staff of the Regional Development Australia Central West 2024 Ten4Ten Leadership Dialogue. I had the opportunity to meet some of them earlier. I hope they enjoy question time. I also welcome to the Chamber guests of the member for Kiama from the Probus Club of South Nowra. I also welcome Roshini Veerabangsa and Latif Ismail, guests of the member for Granville. I acknowledge Ellie Bertolini and Anne Parmentier, guests of the member for North Shore. Finally, I acknowledge guests of the member for Lake Macquarie, members of the Toronto Macquarie Ladies Probus group. It is a big day for Probus clubs.

I also acknowledge attendees of the Introduction to the Legislative Assembly Public Sector Seminar, who are watching question time from the public gallery. This morning I had the pleasure of addressing them, along with other members of staff. I welcome them to Australia's first Parliament, particularly the Legislative Assembly—the beating heart of representative democracy in New South Wales.

Members

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF HORNSBY

Resignation

The SPEAKER: I advise the House of the receipt of a letter on Friday 2 August 2024 from Matthew John Kean resigning his seat as member for the electoral district of Hornsby.

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017 the seat of the member for Hornsby be declared vacant, by reason of the resignation of Matthew John Kean.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

GOVERNMENT SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

APPROPRIATION BILL 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2024

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL 2024

ELECTORAL FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2024

ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE) BILL 2024

NATIONAL PARKS AND HERITAGE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT (INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER) BILL 2024

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA TRUST BILL 2024

ENERGY SECURITY CORPORATION BILL 2024

RESIDENTIAL (LAND LEASE) COMMUNITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Assent

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

*Announcements***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS**

The SPEAKER: I advise members that a member of staff from the Department of the Legislative Assembly will be taking photographs during the swearing in of the new member for Northern Tablelands.

*Members***ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF NORTHERN TABLELANDS****Issue and Return of Writ**

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that, in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017, I issued a writ on 31 May for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Northern Tablelands in place of Adam John Marshall, resigned.

Nomination day	Thursday 6 June 2024
Polling day	Saturday 22 June 2024
Return of the Writ	Friday 12 July 2024

I also inform the House that the writ issued on 31 May 2024 has been returned with a certificate endorsed by the Electoral Commissioner advising of the election of Brendan Anthony George Moylan to serve as member for the electoral district of Northern Tablelands.

PLEDGE OF LOYALTY

Mr Brendan Anthony George Moylan took and subscribed the pledge of loyalty and signed the Roll of the House.

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALS AND THE NATIONALS WHIP

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I inform the House of the election on 20 June 2024 of Gurmeh Singh as Deputy Leader of The Nationals and the election of Richard James Williamson as The Nationals Whip.

*Question Time***SYDNEY METRO CITY AND SOUTHWEST**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (12:10): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. On 7 July, a day before the Minister's Hawaiian holiday, did the Minister rush to announce the Sydney Metro opening date to make sure the Premier and acting Ministers could not announce it in her absence?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: If the Leader of the Opposition can ask a question that does not contain inferences, imputations and ironical expressions, then it is likely to be in order. He should remove the words "before the Minister's Hawaiian holiday", otherwise it infringes upon Standing Order 128, and he knows that.

Mr Alister Henskens: To the point of order: The words "a day before the Minister's Hawaiian holiday" are relevant in the context of the rest of the question, which the Leader of the House did not hear because he jumped up straightaway. The question was about rushing things, having regard to that absence. The holiday is entirely relevant to the question, and including it in the question is within the standing orders and should be allowed.

The SPEAKER: I have heard the arguments and I will rule on the point of order. The reference to the holiday as it was made was unnecessary. It was not necessary to include where it was; that is private. If the Leader of the Opposition had said "before the Minister took leave", I would be likely to allow the question. In its current terms, the question is out of order. The Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to restate the question.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: On the day before the Minister took leave, did she rush to announce the Sydney Metro opening date to make sure the Premier and acting Ministers could not announce it in her absence?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:12): I am pretty sure I had more fun on my holiday than the Leader of the Opposition had in Wagga Wagga. I am pretty sure I had more fun with my family than he did with his National Party family because that has not been going very well. What an absurd question; however, I am prepared to take the serious issues that are raised in a serious way. We are talking about safety on public transport.

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: As I have said since the very day I became the Minister for Transport, my number one priority is safety, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, who said, "Safety must always come first, but—". In my book, there are no ifs or buts when it comes to safety.

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: Members of the Opposition are very confused. They would have us believe that opening a complicated driverless public transport service under the harbour and under the CBD of Sydney is as simple as cutting a ribbon or popping a champagne cork. In fact, members of the Opposition have done a bit of that recently; they have been popping champagne corks and having some Moët at the Union Hotel. I am working around the clock with Sydney Metro, Metro Trains Sydney—the operator of Sydney Metro—transport services, and Fire and Rescue NSW to ensure that all the safety assurance procedures are complete.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: I take my point of order under Standing Order 129. The question was not about what the Minister is doing to clean up her mess. It was asking why she rushed an announcement on 7 July.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her answer and address the details of the question.

Ms JO HAYLEN: I will continue to work around the clock with all the relevant parties and agencies, and the thousands of workers required to open a complicated, big public transport asset for the people of New South Wales to ensure that all the safety procedures are complete and that people can jump on board this brand new public transport service as soon as possible. I am not going to apologise for setting a target date. That is a very reasonable and appropriate thing to do. Members of the Opposition would say that it is just about cutting a ribbon. This is a complicated process, and we need to make sure that all of the elements are in place before allowing people to jump on board. I am sure the travelling public would understand that, even if those opposite do not.

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKPLACE PRESENCE

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (12:15): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the importance of New South Wales public service workers returning to the office?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:15): I thank the member for his question. On 5 August 2024, the Secretary of the New South Wales Premier's Department published a circular specifying that New South Wales government sector employees should principally and predominantly work in an approved office workplace or related site. We believe that was a commonsense approach designed in particular to ensure that younger workers in the New South Wales public sector are able to get experience from more experienced and more seasoned employees across the public service in New South Wales. That gives them opportunities for mentorship and support, enabling them to learn physically among their colleagues with a shared purpose and sense of mission inside the New South Wales public sector.

It is important to note that 85 per cent of the 400,000 public sector workers in New South Wales are frontline workers; they are essential workers and there is no prospect of them working from home. They are schoolteachers, Corrective Services officers, police officers and firefighters doing their shifts every day. There are obviously some during the pandemic who made a decision to have what is called a more flexible workplace in New South Wales. That rests on the premise that while those arrangements were in place during a global health crisis, they were not permanent additions to the arrangements between employer and employee in the New South Wales public sector. As a result of those changes, individual agencies will now develop their own policies to implement this change. Crucially, that work must begin immediately. I understand that across the public sector, secretaries are having meetings with their staff to implement this change.

It is also important to note that this does not extend to hard-won arrangements negotiated between unions and various governments going back decades. That includes part-time roles, job-share arrangements, compressed hours, purchased leave, variations to start and finishing times, as well as sabbaticals and career breaks. What we are speaking about are the temporary workplace agreements put in place during the pandemic that are over and above what was negotiated between the public sector and the New South Wales Government. Having looked at the public sector and, in particular, a report in 2023, I also think it is important to note the People Matter Employee Survey, which is an annual survey of the New South Wales public service. It found that only 54 per cent of respondents believed there was good cooperation between teams across their organisation. [*Extension of time*]

By common consent, that number is far too low for a modern and dynamic workplace. These changes are being pursued so that we can promote team work, mentoring, and a sense of shared mission inside the New South Wales public sector so that, at the end of the day, we can provide world-class public services to the taxpayers of this State. However, a few people earning a salary from the taxpayer will lose out as a result of these changes. In fact, one bloke was pretending to be the duty MLC for Wagga Wagga while living at home in Drummoyne—the Hon. Wes Fang. Can we speak a little bit about his treatment? He was sacked by the Liberal Party, even though he is a National Party member of Parliament.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. I will hear the point of order.

Mr Dugald Saunders: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. As amusing as I am sure the Premier thinks he is, the Hon. Wes Fang is not a public sector worker.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Premier is being relevant to the question asked.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Mr Speaker, can you believe it? No other leader of the National Party would put up with that—not Wal Murray, not Ian Armstrong, not Paul Toole—but Dugald gets knocked over like a steamroller. I know a leader of the National Party that quit the Coalition because he believed that Gladys was not killing enough koalas, for God's sake! Now we have a situation where one of their own gets knocked off by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Once again, this proves that the hard man of the New South Wales Parliament is Speako.

SYDNEY METRO CITY AND SOUTHWEST

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (12:21): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. During his stint in July as the acting Minister for Transport, what specific advice did he receive regarding the timing of the opening of the Sydney Metro? What, if any, guidance did he provide to the Premier's office as a result?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:21): I thought it was going to be a question on Health. But I will tell members why I did not really think it would be a question on Health, even though, when I last looked, I am the health Minister.

The SPEAKER: The member for Coffs Harbour will come to order.

Mr RYAN PARK: When the name of the member for Vacluse popped up as the shadow Minister, I said to my office staff, "I didn't know we didn't have one." They had gone four weeks without a shadow Health Minister. It is a small portfolio, give or take \$35 billion of the State's budget. Also, 170,000-odd people work in Health. There is nothing to see here!

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

Mr RYAN PARK: The fantastic Minister for Transport has already outlined the situation with the metro. Having worked in the transport space, let me say this: If any member thinks it is a wise idea to go against a rail safety regulator, they should have a long, hard look at the accidents and incidents that have occurred in this State, in this country and overseas. We take rail safety very seriously in this State.

Mr Tim James: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr Tim James: The question was expressly about advice received in the period the Minister was acting transport Minister. He has not said a single word to that effect. I ask that you direct him to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will answer the question directly.

Mr RYAN PARK: I know a lot of members wear ribbons in this Chamber. The member for Willoughby has one on today. It does not mean "I love New York", although we know he does. He is working from home when he is in Manhattan, but that pin does not mean "I love New York". It represents rail safety. Every now and again when the member for Willoughby decides to put a pin on and then asks a question—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

Mr RYAN PARK: —that states the Minister should not have listened to the rail—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. I will hear the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr Alister Henskens: Mr Speaker, you directed the Minister to answer the question. He has not answered the question, which was what advice he received while he was acting transport Minister on these matters.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is very easily distracted. He will return to the question asked.

Mr RYAN PARK: That sounds like my year 1 teacher. There is room for improvement. The advice the Government has received is that the rail safety regulator will make the determination when it is safe to operate a rail line in New South Wales. That might seem surprising to some people.

Mr Tim James: Mr Speaker—

Mr RYAN PARK: It should not be surprising to people in the gallery.

The SPEAKER: The member for Willoughby rises on a point of order. The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr RYAN PARK: I think members in the gallery would want a public transport system that is safe.

The SPEAKER: The Minister's time has expired, so it is a moot point.

Mr Tim James: I was seeking an extension of time. I got the call before the Minister had finished his answer.

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge that the member for Willoughby was on his feet.

Mr Tim James: He has not answered the question, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: On the basis of that remark, I will deny the extension of time. Although the Minister was having difficulty getting to the point, he directly answered the first part of the question. A member cannot ask a question in two parts so the question was out order, even though I did not rule it so. The Minister answered the question.

CONSENT EDUCATION

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (12:25): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House about updates to the New South Wales syllabus and the importance of consent education?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:26): I thank member for Blue Mountains for this important question. Last evening I was with many members of Parliament and a few hundred people celebrating public education at the Public Education Foundation awards. One of our most prestigious alumni of public schools, former High Court Justice Michael Kirby, spoke to us. He is a product of public education. In fact, he was the first person with a public school education to be appointed as Justice of the High Court.

Michael Kirby spoke about his wonderful teachers at Strathfield North, in his opportunity class at Summer Hill Public School and at Fort Street High School. He spoke about his year 6 teacher at Summer Hill who gave him—and he produced his recent copy of it—the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I can imagine that a young Michael Kirby was quite something, taking an interest in this declaration in year 6. It stuck with him at that time. I am going to quote him. Last night he said that the simple line that stuck with him from the declaration is, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

It is not an exaggeration to say that that is what consent education is about. It is not a radical new concept. It is not something that can be criticised as being woke. It is about human beings having respect for one another. It is about respecting the boundaries of others. It is about empowering people to recognise their autonomy, to hear no and to accept no. It is about having the tools to understand that your engagement with other people requires that consent. We all have many differences in this place, but I think that we can all agree that young people need that empowerment more than ever. Young women need it and young men also need it.

All members of our society need it in a time of online hate, exposure to harmful material for our young people, and insidious domestic and family violence. Our young people need to know that they have a right to insist on consent. They do not have to be subject to the controlling, insidious and violent behaviours of someone else. That is why I am so proud that, for the first time ever, the new curriculum mandates the explicit teaching of consent for our young people. *[Extension of time]*

That is the biggest change to the curriculum in 50 years. The syllabuses will be age appropriate. That means when we start consent education at kindergarten, it is about having the respect to ask to play with someone's toy. Of course, that will change as children get to the year 7 to 10 PDHPE syllabus. But it is all underpinned by the concept that consent must be freely given, clear, unambiguous, coherent and ongoing. It is not an exaggeration to say that this moment in time is a turning point for our community. If we are honest, this should have happened decades and decades ago. The world would be a different place if this had happened decades ago. Instead of being preoccupied in the '80s and '90s by debating whether sex education should even exist, we should have been looking at this. Our community should have confronted reality, and finally we are.

For too long our young girls have been told that they are responsible for their own safety. I am sure many female members in this place and of the public can relate to what I am saying. If you are going out, do not wear that. If you are going out to have a drink, do not get too drunk. Do not walk alone; have someone with you. Why do we have to be responsible for our own safety because of the actions of others? That is the message that people like me heard when we were teenagers. The onus was on us to protect ourselves. We have a right to expect that our bodies and our voices will be respected, and that is what this consent education is about. It is about changing the narrative and educating all children. It will be a great step forward for our young girls and boys.

FIRE ANTS

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (12:31): My question is directed to the Minister responsible for agriculture. Given that the biggest threat of new fire ant nests in the Northern Rivers is from human assisted movement of ants from within the Brisbane suppression zone, and given reports that the density of nests in that zone is getting out of control due to a lack of funding, what is the Government doing to ensure that the Federal and Queensland governments increase the funding for suppression efforts?

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (12:31): I thank the member for Ballina for that important question. I know that her constituents, particularly her agricultural constituents, would appreciate her questioning this matter. I know that fire ant intrusion into New South Wales is also a great concern for the member for Lismore, the member for Tweed and the member for Clarence. The issue of fire ants is very serious and requires a national approach. I acknowledge the concern expressed by the member about the concentration of fire ants in the Brisbane region. That is why it is so important to deal with biosecurity problems in a nationally coordinated way and that even those States that do not at the time share the problem contribute to addressing the problem.

This Government increased the funding from \$15 million to \$80 million to eradicate fire ants over four years, which is on top of an announcement in October by former Minister Watt of an additional Federal investment of \$268 million in the national program over four years to intensify activities. That funding will increase the program, at a national level, to include 350 new workers, a new depot, new vehicles, new aerial eradication contracts and an additional 1,400 tonnes of bait each year. It will obviously particularly focus on the Queensland outbreaks. Without these measures, it is estimated that fire ants could reach Grafton by 2026 and the Blue Mountains and Far West of New South Wales by 2035. That would be an incredibly serious threat to communities because fire ants cause huge economic loss and also pain and suffering.

The department in New South Wales has established a cross-border taskforce with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the NSW Police Force to increase compliance levels in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government has frequent conversations with our Federal counterparts regarding a range of biosecurity measures and will make sure that it continues to do so. New South Wales contributes more than any other State to the national biosecurity programs, at 16 per cent. We recognise that eradicating fire ants will take a whole-of-community approach and cannot be ignored if we are to try to avoid the massive costs that fire ants are likely to cause if they spread further and, indeed, in the areas where they already exist. The potential costs are quite enormous. *[Extension of time]*

An estimated annual cost of \$1.65 billion nationally is predicted should fire ants become endemic, with devastating effects on agriculture, infrastructure, health and tourism. New South Wales would be one of the first places to suffer if the current Queensland infestation was to spread further. In New South Wales we have been bolstered by six full-time equivalent team members specialising in intelligence, compliance, communication and technical areas. They are working full-time on fire ant eradication and are there to respond within hours to suspected ant reports.

There have been 1,800 calls to the NSW Biosecurity helpline and 982 reports of suspected ants, with 978 of those assessed as being negative since November 2023. Almost 1,200 surveillance events have been recorded in that time. The team has engaged with more than 4,600 people face-to-face, reaching out to over half a million people via social media, 57,000 through school programs, 10,300 via email, 48,000 via letterbox drops and 32,000 via SMS. That is directly aimed at trying to make sure that people are keeping an eye out for the fire ants and are aware of the danger that the member for Ballina mentioned in the question—that human transfer is the greatest cause of fire ants coming into New South Wales. The Government is strongly committed to addressing biosecurity issues in this State. Minister Moriarty is doing a great job in the area of fire ants. She is also tackling a number of really important invasive pest species—

[Opposition members interjected.]

I hear Opposition members interjecting but, let us face it, the former Government made a \$15 million contribution to the fire ants problem.

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

Mr STEVE WHAN: That contribution has now gone up to \$80 million. That is the commitment this Government has made.

RENTAL MARKET

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (12:36): My question is addressed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's plan to make renting fairer in New South Wales?

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (12:37): I thank the member for Parramatta for her question and for her strong advocacy for the 56 per cent of people in her electorate who rent. The Minns Labor Government is ending no-grounds evictions to make our rules fairer and clearer for both property owners and those who rent. More than two million people across New South Wales rent. More and more of our citizens are renting—33 per cent of the State. That is an increase of 17 per cent since 2016. This increase in renters is happening all across the State. Some areas are actually higher than the average of 33 per cent, like the 39 per cent of renters who live in the shadow Minister's electorate of Willoughby, the growing 47 per cent in the North Shore electorate and the 41 per cent of renters in the Vaucluse electorate.

Renting is happening all across our communities. It is not the case anymore that renting is something that only students or young people do as a rite of passage. Increasingly, renting is the norm for young families and our frontline workers—those who look after us when we are unwell, who keep us safe on the streets, and who look after and teach our kids. We cannot have a situation where millions of families could have their lives up-ended by having to move house at any moment for no good reason. It is not only financially expensive but also extremely disruptive to their lives.

That is why the Government is moving ahead to make the system fairer and more modern. Under our proposed changes, landlords will still keep the right to take back their property, but they will have to provide a commonsense reason for that. For instance, if a renter breaks the lease, does not pay the rent or damages the property, of course property owners can take back their property. If their families are moving in, they are renovating or demolishing the property, or if the property will not be a rental anymore or is being sold, then property owners have a right to that property.

The changes have followed a comprehensive consultation process. Over many months, more than 16,000 people across the State voiced their support for the changes that we are implementing. All States in the nation, except Western Australia, have put in place their own models to end no-grounds evictions. I am proud to be a part of this Minns Labor Government, which is moving ahead with changes that work for New South Wales. Other States moved ahead and so are we. *[Extension of time]*

When trying to move on rental reform, we often hear the doom and gloom argument about investing in property. I inform the House that property investment has stayed strong. We have learnt a lot from the experiences

of our other State colleagues. In fact, across all jurisdictions, investment lending as a proportion of total lending has increased. In Victoria, it is up 24 per cent; in South Australia, it is up 12 per cent; and in Queensland, it is up 18 per cent. In fact, CoreLogic states that the proposed changes will have minimal impact on investment. We want to deliver certainty and clarity to the rental market.

On top of ending no-grounds evictions, the Government is closing loopholes and modernising rental laws after 12 years of inaction. Today the Premier announced that we will close the loopholes that require renters to pay for their own background checks. Currently a number of technology apps being used ask renters to pay between \$25 and \$30 to do their own background checks—information that is already provided as part of a rental lease. Those optional charges come with the promise that applicants will "perhaps" be successful in securing a property. That is unfair and plain wrong. The Minns Government will change the laws to make it clear that renters cannot be charged for background checks.

The Government has done considered and measured work to bring our rental laws into the twenty-first century and in line with the rest of the nation. The shadow Minister was right to tell the media after the announcement was made, "Why did it take so long?" Opposition members had 12 years to do something, but nothing happened in those 12 years. If they want to talk long, let us talk about 12 years of inaction. We are getting on with the change. Members on this side of the House are committed to easing housing pressures, and we are taking the responsibility to make sure life is easier for renters. That is our priority and the priority of the crossbench, and I hope that it is also the priority of our Opposition colleagues.

SYDNEY METRO CITY AND SOUTHWEST

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:42): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. On 11 February the Fire Brigade Employees Union issued a code red directive that "effective immediately all activities related to the Sydney Metro rail network are banned". At a meeting of over 20 senior officials on 12 July, the National Rail Safety Regulator said that the Metro City opening date of 4 August was a tight timeline, and Sydney Metro's acting head of project delivery acknowledged this. Why then did the Minister wait until 30 July to announce that the metro would not be opened on 4 August?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:43): I thank the member for North Shore for her question. I know that her community is excited about what Metro City presents and, indeed, the extra bus services that are available to them, including in areas across the Lower North Shore and the north-west, that will connect them to the new metro service. As I have said previously, I was advised by Sydney Metro and Transport for NSW that 4 August was the best target date and that all matters should be settled and signed off prior to 4 August. Providing a target date is important.

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Dubbo that he is on one call to order. I call the member for Dubbo to order for the second time.

Ms JO HAYLEN: It gives guidance and direction to the many agencies and partners and, indeed, the thousands of workers involved in bringing this brand-new public transport service to life. When I announced on 7 July that we had a target date, I said that it was subject to final testing and regulatory approvals. Members opposite might like to laugh, but they are laughing at the suggestion that we would open a railway without the relevant safety approvals. I also said at the time, "Final confirmation of the opening date will be given when the operator successfully completes more than 100 remaining trial running exercises." I am pleased that not only are those trial running exercises complete, but the extra additional exercises that needed to be complete, in conjunction with Fire and Rescue, are also complete. That means that the safety assurance processes are now very close.

I appreciate that the member for North Shore's constituents, along with the constituents of many members in this place and, indeed, Sydneysiders, were excited and looking forward to jumping on this public transport service last Sunday. I wanted to open those gates and let them jump on board. I was disappointed too. However, I cannot do that. This Government will not allow that until the safety assurances are in place. Those opposite are proposing a series of questions that would suggest that they would do otherwise. Would they do otherwise?

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Ms JO HAYLEN: Would they open a public transport service without those assurances?

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: That is bad public policy, and it risks public safety. That is something we are not willing to do. This incredibly valuable, transformational public transport service will open soon. I know that the member for North Shore and her constituents, along with thousands and thousands of Sydneysiders, are looking forward to that opportunity, which will come to them very soon.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS POLICY

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (12:46): My question is addressed to the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety. Will the Minister update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is ensuring that workers' rights are protected in all workplaces across New South Wales?

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (12:46): I acknowledge the excellent work of the member for Mount Druitt. As the member representing the people of Mount Druitt in this place since 2015, he is a strong advocate for workers in his community, ensuring that workers in his community have access to safety. He is always talking to me about safety, particularly with the ongoing construction that is happening out in his neck of the woods, making sure that especially young people get that message about falling from heights, in particular.

Safeguarding every worker's right to be safe and healthy at work is the Labor Party's bread and butter. We keep those principles in mind in everything that we do. The Government has made a number of significant commitments to ensure that workers' rights are strengthened and to ensure that the people of New South Wales have faith in our industrial relations system. We have done a lot of work over the past 15 months. As I said last week at the State Labor Party conference, it is not about reversing what the Opposition did. It is about modernising our industrial relations system, particularly with the changes to practices and the important reforms that we are bringing forward to make sure that workers in this State have those important conditions. Let me make it very clear—and the Premier and the Government have made this very clear—there is absolutely no tolerance for criminal or corrupt behaviour in the construction and building industry.

Following allegations in regard to the New South Wales Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union Construction and General Division, the Government has taken the following tough actions. The Government has moved to suspend the union's affiliation to the New South Wales Labor Party to stop any donations or affiliation fees, and to jointly appoint an independent administrator to the branch. The Government has asked the Fair Work Ombudsman to review enterprise bargaining agreements in New South Wales and has referred all allegations of inappropriate behaviour on New South Wales construction sites to the construction compliance unit that sits within the Premier's department. As I mentioned, a bill will be introduced with respect to appointing an administrator. That follows an application yesterday in the Industrial Court seeking orders—in conjunction with the Federal Government—for an administrator. [*Extension of time*]

The Government does not relish taking that action; however, the integrity of the building and construction industry and of our industrial relations system is a priority. We are sending a clear and loud message that the alleged conduct will not be tolerated—not in the building industry and not on any worksites at all. That is why the Government has also announced long overdue protections for some of the State's most vulnerable workers. Later this year we will introduce a bill to legislate minimum rights and conditions for gig workers in the food delivery and rideshare sectors, delivery drivers and truck drivers. The gig economy is where we have twenty-first century technology, but our drivers are operating in nineteenth century conditions.

I acknowledge that the previous Minister responsible for this area made some changes a few years ago with respect to gig workers. But they have not gone far enough. We have to do more work. That is why we have been doing important, considered work to make sure that those gig workers have rights and good conditions. The Premier made a very important announcement at the Labor Party State conference last week about making sure that those gig workers have rights because at the moment they do not. They also do not have workers compensation rights. The Premier announced that. He got a standing ovation from delegates because it is a really important reform and we are modernising those systems at work. It is the technology Hungry Mile—no rights, no entitlements, no leave, no workers compensation. We will make those changes very shortly.

ROSEHILL RACECOURSE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (12:51): My question is directed to the Premier. He was recently briefed that to proceed with the Rosehill proposal would delay the Sydney Metro West for multiple years and cost billions of dollars in extra expenditure and that it would take up to 20 years to realise the new housing involved. On 7 December, at the Rosehill announcement, he said he was very confident that the memorandum of understanding would come to fruition. Will he now backflip on his confidence?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:52): Absolutely not. I make this point really clear. If we are going to build a \$26 billion metro, it is about time we had some housing on the same line. The previous Government put \$20 billion into the Sydney Metro North West, another \$10 billion into the city section and more out to Bankstown. That was its plan. It announced \$12 billion for Sydney Metro West—and exactly the same amount of housing on those public transport lines. Where was the housing projected to go? It was Western Sydney. "We won't take any more. We'll have brand-new public transport infrastructure and Western Sydney can have all

of the overflow when it comes to housing." That was the stated and articulated plan from the previous Government through its entire civic public transport building program. We made a decision to look at increased density around existing public transport. So have Paris, Los Angeles, New York and London. There is no prospect of Sydney growing and accommodating new young people into our population—

Ms Robyn Preston: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Hawkesbury rises on a point of order.

Ms Robyn Preston: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, relevance. Is the Premier confident that the Rosehill commitment will go ahead?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Premier's very first utterance answered the question directly.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: This is a joke for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it is up to the Australian Turf Club [ATC]; it is not up to the Government. It is the ATC's land. There is no compulsory acquisition taking place. We are not going to grab the land. It will make the decision about the future of the State. Secondly, the metro station box will cost money. It will not be free; it will cost additional funds. But what is the cost of not putting housing on new public transport routes? There will be more housing for the electorates of Bankstown and Liverpool, and more housing for the Illawarra and Western Sydney. This is the problem with the previous Government's approach to housing and planning: Nobody thought about where the future of Sydney would go. The question has been asked. We have made it clear what the Government's position is. Unbelievably, we still do not know whether the Coalition supports or opposes the Rosehill proposal. Before those opposite get up and ask questions, why do they not explain to the people of New South Wales what their position is?

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Dubbo that he is on two calls to order. I am reluctant to call him to order for a third time, but I will do so if necessary.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINEESHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:55): My question is addressed to the Minister for Local Government. Will the Minister update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is planning to employ a further 1,300 apprentices and trainees across the local government sector of New South Wales?

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (12:55): Yes, we can.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Terrigal is far too loud. That is a general comment.

Mr RON HOENIG: I thank the member for Campbelltown for his question. He has a deep-seated knowledge of local government and has served it well. I was recently in his electorate of Campbelltown; what an extraordinary and popular local member he is. As the House knows, local government is one of the largest employers in this State. Some 50,000 employees across 128 councils manage more than \$200 billion worth of assets and they spend more than \$15 billion a year delivering important services. Councils have a direct impact on built amenity, the cleanliness of our open spaces and the quality of life in our communities.

But in reality the sector has been neglected and struggling for a long time. Councils across this State have been crying out for help for years to address the worsening skills crisis, which reached critical levels on the watch of the previous Government. A shortage of skilled labour is threatening to jeopardise the essential role councils play in delivering services and in building the infrastructure needed to support growing communities as we continue to tackle the State's housing crisis. That is why I am proud of the Minns Labor Government for announcing that it is allocating \$252 million to recruit 1,300 new apprentices and trainees in councils across the State.

Whether it be plumbers from Penrith, finance trainees in the Tweed, electricians in Eurobodalla, childcare workers in Campbelltown or even, Mr Speaker, landscapers in Lake Macquarie, this is the biggest direct investment in trainees and apprentices by State government in living memory. Over the next six years, the funding will be provided directly to councils to train up the next generation of skilled workers—an investment that means more jobs will be kept within local councils, where they should be, reversing the trend of councils outsourcing jobs and services to contractors. More importantly, this investment by Labor will help young people in our regions by providing them with opportunities and pathways to embark on a skilled career close to where they grew up. *[Extension of time]*

It will see a future that ensures councils have a secure and sustainable pipeline of skilled workers to fill existing skills gaps and to plug the holes that will be left by long-time professionals retiring from the sector. The Office of Local Government is working with stakeholders in the sector to finalise funding guidelines. I anticipate

the first lot of apprentices will be online in early 2025. I encourage all councils across the State to take up this great opportunity to ensure the skills and expertise of the existing workforce can be passed on to the next generation of apprentices, trainees and cadets.

I have spent a long time in local government; I am a passionate believer in local government, and I am proud that the New South Wales Labor Government is delivering this significant boost to councils. I pay tribute in particular to the General Secretary of the United Services Union, Graeme Kelly, OAM, who has been a passionate champion for this sector and for this apprentice and trainee policy to be funded. Graeme and his union are unwavering in their support for councils, recognising the vital roles they play in building healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities across the State. What an amazing allocation of funds to provide local trainees and apprentices, particularly for our regions, who are crying out for this level of support.

MINISTERIAL TRAVEL EXPENSES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (13:00): My question is directed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

The SPEAKER: Government members will come to order and allow the member for Dubbo to ask his question.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: It could get loud. Labor Ministers spent \$44 million on taxis and catering in the last financial year. That could have funded another round of the regional seniors travel card, which plenty of people in the gallery would have enjoyed. How can the Minister justify that in this cost-of-living crisis?

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Maitland generally struggles to be heard. Members must reduce the level of white noise in the Chamber.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (13:01): I am so grateful to the member for Dubbo for that question. That is my favourite question ever because it gives me a chance to highlight how invested our Government is in meeting with our communities.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will come to order. Opposition frontbench members will come to order.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I spent my break out in the regions. In fact, in July I travelled over 5,000 kilometres in this State. I went to places like Packsaddle. Have Opposition members ever heard of it or been there? I went to Moree. Have Opposition members been there before? They have not been there and they were not invited by the last local member. Where is the new member for Northern Tablelands? I congratulate him. I met with 18 different councils. I met with the member for Clarence and his community.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order: As much as I am enjoying the travelogue, the question was very specific. That \$44 million on taxis and catering could have funded the regional seniors travel card, which the Government cut.

The SPEAKER: That is not the appropriate way to take a point of order, but I take the member's point. The Minister must be directly relevant to the question.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I do not know where the Leader of the Opposition gets his numbers from, and I do not know where he got his numbers from today. There has been a little reshuffle of Opposition members. The Leader of the Opposition wants to have a discussion, but the reality is that for people in regional New South Wales, on all of these trips, over every single kilometre—

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Dubbo to order for the third time.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: —no-one said, "I want a regional seniors travel card." They said, "I want better roads and better transport. I want all the things that those opposite failed to deliver in 12 long years of government."

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: This Opposition has absolutely no commitment to the people of regional New South Wales.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. The Minister has completely failed to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate that that may be the view of the member for Coffs Harbour, but it is not mine. The Minister tried to answer by questioning the figures. She answered the question but did not use the words that the member for Coffs Harbour wanted to hear.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I will never apologise for members on this side of the House being the party of the bush. We go out and meet with our communities, which Opposition members have never done.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (13:04): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on the work the Minns Labor Government has done to improve road safety following the inaugural road safety summit?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (13:05): I really appreciate that question as it is based on the real issues that we are facing as a community. New South Wales is not alone in seeing an uplift in deaths on our roads, and it is shocking. As I have said in this place before, I hear of these incidents in real time, as they come. Every single one of them has such an impact. Having met with different people across the State, I know of the impact of those losses on our roads. Yesterday I was in Tamworth with the member for Tamworth at a level crossing intersection which we are upgrading. That is a \$1.2 million upgrade, funded with the Federal Government, after someone died in that community there. I talked to the community about the impact of that fatality. It was terrible. Just yesterday the member for Cessnock had a fatality in his area.

It is a really difficult scenario for the Government to deal with, but we have held the State's first ever road safety forum. Experts from across the world came to talk to us about safer systems on our roads. But it is not just about talking and listening; it is about acting. We have increased roadside enforcement by doubling our mobile speed camera sites. We have 2,700 new mobile speed camera sites that will roll out across New South Wales, with 1,650 in regional New South Wales. We are partnering with regional councils to accelerate safer speed reviews on high-risk routes to make our country roads safer. We have invested \$30 million for the Future Mobility Testing and Research Centre in Cudal, near Orange. That is really important.

Heavy vehicle crashes accounted for more than 60 deaths this year. That investment will expand the old Hazelton Airlines airport so that we can test autonomous vehicles and telematics and safety features in the heavy vehicle space so that we know what works. That is the only government-owned and -operated testing facility of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. The Government has put in \$30 million to roll out that testing for heavy vehicle users so that manufacturers can really invest in the future of safety. We are doing level crossing safety trials, and more on that is happening every day. We have seatbelt detection cameras. Late last year in this House we changed the legislation to allow autonomous vehicle detection cameras that look for people on their mobile phones. Prior to this technology rolling out, we caught about 10,500 people not wearing seatbelts each year. *[Extension of time]*

In the past three weeks, the three weeks since this technology has been rolled out, we have caught 11,400 people not wearing a seatbelt. That is shocking in itself, but two people wearing seatbelts incorrectly, on the same seat, in the front of the vehicle; not wearing a seatbelt at all; wearing it while feeding a child; or sitting in the wrong direction are things that our first responders have to deal with when they are first on the scene at a road crash. They are the people who have to pick up those people and tell their families what they have seen. That is outrageous. We will always commit to doing everything we can for road safety. I want to give a big message to the community.

[Opposition members interjected.]

It is a serious topic. I thought there might have been something that those opposite were talking about that was of import, but obviously not. We know that there is more to do in this space, but I want every single member of this place to go to their communities and model good behaviour. Ensure that people are not speeding, not driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, not being distracted by their mobile phones, not being impacted by fatigue—we are putting money into fatigue management and putting extra heavy vehicle spaces for people—and make sure, of course, that they always wear seatbelts. There are so many things we can do. The police, transport and roads Ministers across the Government are always working on this. But we all must take personal responsibility as well. We actually have to make road safety something we all commit to every time we get behind the wheel of a car.

NATIVE FOREST LOGGING

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (13:10): My question is directed to the Premier. Last week Forestry Corporation of New South Wales was fined \$360,000 for breaching logging rules designed to protect native forests devastated in the Black Summer fires and was found to have a significant history of unlawfully carrying out forestry operations. Several more criminal prosecutions are underway, and 18 further potential breaches are being investigated. Does the Premier think it is acceptable for this State owned corporation to chronically break New South Wales laws?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (13:11): I thank the member for his question. In relation to the ruling of last week, obviously, it is disappointing. We expect Forestry Corporation to be a good corporate citizen. It is important for the State. The conditions on the South Coast were imposed on the Yambulla State Forest after the Black Summer fires, and were designed to protect parts of the forest that were not damaged as a result of fire so that we could protect whatever remaining biodiversity and wildlife was in that region. It is important to say that it is not as straightforward as perhaps many members believe when it comes to forestry protections. It is not simply a case of prescribing an area in large parts of our forestry network where you can or cannot log.

For example, if a glider was discovered on the South Coast, then it is incumbent upon Forestry Corporation to note where the glider is, what tree it is in and then put a 25-metre exclusion zone around the tree. Forestry Corporation does a survey prior to logging, which is important, to identify whether there are protected species within the proposed logging area. After the survey is completed, logging might continue, but it is still incumbent on forestry workers to decide whether there are endangered species in those areas. The gliders and some native vegetation and some native species are inconspicuous and hard to spot—a lot harder than the member for Oxley, who is very fashion forward today, with the white, like Richie Benaud.

In any event, I do not say that to absolve Forestry Corporation. Obviously, it is the case that, in all circumstances, New South Wales corporations and businesses must fully comply with the law. I raise all those issues so that members can be aware that it is not as straightforward as a recalcitrant department logging in a national forest or a national park, for example. It is more complex than that. Having said that, the Minister is in contact with Forestry Corporation. It is important that we comply with the law, notwithstanding that in some cases it is difficult to do that. The Government is committed to its existing policies in relation to this, in particular the Great Koala National Park, which is important for the State and the Mid North Coast. It has the support of the New South Wales Government and I understand that it has the support of the New South Wales Liberal Party, but it is unclear what the National Party's view is. I say that as a matter of fact. I understand that at its recent national conference it passed a motion against such a park.

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (13:13): My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is ensuring that the Rural Fire Service has the resources it needs to continue to keep our communities safe?

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (13:14): I thank the member for South Coast, who is an outstanding local member. She is also a member of the Bawley Point RFS brigade. In addition to that, during the Black Summer bushfires, she was a local hero and is, I believe, a cook and an organiser extraordinaire. It is no surprise that the local community wanted her in Parliament. It is great to see her here. Yesterday I joined the Premier and the member for Blacktown in Glendenning to launch a terrific initiative to equip RFS vehicles with cutting-edge satellite technology to make sure that crews are connected and safer during emergencies. It was so good that the member for Canterbury came and joined us as well. It was good to have her there. I think she logged into the wi-fi while we were there, through the satellites, but it did not work.

Vehicle-as-a-node technology is the latest in cutting-edge technology. We are making sure that crews can communicate in times of natural disaster. Our communities know that communications can go down. Sometimes crews enter remote areas where there is no communication. This technology will make sure that there will always be communication. Over a three-year period, 5,000 RFS vehicles will be fitted with the Starlink satellite technology. It is a \$69 million investment in partnership with the Telco Authority. Down the track, if communities lose their connectivity, we can then use the vehicles to make sure the communities too can access the satellite technology, which is not a bad thing if you are the former shadow Assistant Minister for Regional New South Wales, Mr Wes Fang, in Wagga Wagga. What that would mean is, if he did not have reception and the RFS was there and he wanted—

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Minister should be brought back to the question. It is about emergency services—a very important topic.

The SPEAKER: It is. The Minister has met the threshold for direct relevance. There is a question as to whether he has offended against other standing orders.

Mr JIHAD DIB: It means that if someone needs to sit down and post something on Facebook, they will always have connection. With that particular point, there was a reference to a disaster. But firing someone then rehiring them, then firing him again is an absolute disaster.

Ms Liza Butler: Mr Speaker—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Minister has now broken an unwritten standing order, which is the standing order against bad jokes.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I am being sorely tested as to whether I will grant an extension of time. I am sure the Minister will come back to the question and be more appropriate in his comments.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I will.

The SPEAKER: On that basis, is the member for South Coast seeking a two-minute extension?

Ms Liza Butler: I am.

The SPEAKER: I thought the member might be asking for the Minister to resume his seat. I grant an additional two minutes.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The member for Wahrenoona should not worry. If connectivity went down, he could still upload the podcast. His latest episode will be called, "Don't despair; Alister's there." On a serious note, though, we can all agree that the investment in vehicles as a node is incredibly important. Over the past year, the Minns Government has been able to roll out 200 new and refurbished RFS vehicles to brigades around New South Wales. Most of those are assembled right here in New South Wales: in Kirrawee, Tomago, South Windsor and Minto. Recently we also announced a \$400 million aviation contract to Coulson Aviation. That ensures we are locking in Australian support personnel.

We know that there is a fire season overlap between the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. We need to make sure we train up our local aviation crews, including through the 121 positions, to be able to support the RFS in their rural operation. It is incredibly important. I take this opportunity to thank the 116 Australian and New Zealand firefighting personnel who are over in Canada at the moment. There are fires again this year, and 1.5 million hectares have been burnt in 650 wildfires. We have been here before. I conclude by stating that this will be the last fire season for Commissioner Rob Rogers. After 45 years of service, this will be his last season with the RFS. I am sure that every member of this place, especially those who have come across Rob or his brigade, will join me in recognising not only his commitment but also his sense of service and dedication to the people of New South Wales. We wish him all the very best.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Government Response

Ms JO HAYLEN: I table the Government response to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure report entitled *Report on the Sydney Metro West project*.

Documents

UNPROCLAIMED LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 117, I table a list detailing all legislation unproclaimed 90 calendar days after assent as at 6 August 2024.

PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISER

Correspondence

The SPEAKER: I announce receipt of copies of correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser enclosing:

- (1) Advice provided to the Hon. Matt Kean, former Minister, dated 17 June 2024, received on 24 June 2024.
- (2) Advice provided to the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, former Premier, dated 20 July 202, received on 19 July 2024.

I order that the correspondence be printed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION

Reports

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

- (1) Report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Analysis of complaints made by or on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: An Observations Paper*, dated June 2024, received on 26 June 2024.

- (2) Report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Operation Harrisdale: A report under section 132 of Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, A car crash in the NorthConnex and allegations of a cover-up by senior police*, dated July 2024, received on 18 July 2024.
- (3) Report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Operation Tambre: A report under section 132 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016 concerning the conduct of Constable Daniel Keneally in fabricating evidence with intent to mislead a judicial tribunal*, dated August 2024, received on 2 August 2024.

I order that the reports be printed.

FORESTRY AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS

Amendments

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Forestry Act 2012, I announce receipt of amendment No. 8 to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for Riverina Red Gum, dated 31 May 2024, together with a statement of reasons, received on 28 June 2024. I order that the amendment be printed.

NSW OMBUDSMAN

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the following:

- (1) Special Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Protecting children at risk: an assessment of whether the Department of Communities and Justice is meeting its core responsibilities*, dated 5 July 2024, including a summary report, received on 5 July 2024.
- (2) Special Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Casebook July 2024: Investigations and complaint-handling case studies*, dated 30 July 2024, received on 30 July 2024.

I order that the reports be printed.

ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014, I announce receipt of the report of the Advocate for Children and Young People entitled *Moving cage to cage: Final Report of the Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements*, dated August 2024, received on 5 August 2024. I order that the report be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following:

- (1) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Government Advertising 2022-23*, dated 25 June 2024, received out of session that day and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Regional Digital Connectivity program*, dated 27 June 2024, received out of session that day and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Ambulance services in regional New South Wales*, dated 28 June 2024, received out of session that day and authorised to be printed.

OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with the Passenger Transport Act 1990, I announce receipt of the report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Bus Fire Safety Report – Bus Fire and Thermal Incidents in NSW in 2023*, received out of session on 1 July 2024 and authorised to be printed.

NSW BUSHFIRE INQUIRY

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997, I announce receipt of the *NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report: Implementation of the NSW Government's response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, Reporting Period January to March 2024*, received out of session on 8 July 2024 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Reports**

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 16/58*, dated 6 August 2024. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL WORKER HOUSING**Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 18 June 2024 Sally Anne Quinnell was elected deputy chair of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Essential Worker Housing.

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**Membership**

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That Richard James Williamson be appointed to serve on the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee in place of Gurmeh Singh, discharged.

Motion agreed to.

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

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

- (1) That business before the House this day be interrupted at approximately 4.00 p.m. to permit the member for Epping to give his valedictory speech.
- (2) That business before the House on Wednesday 7 August 2024 be interrupted at approximately 10.15 a.m. to permit the member for Northern Tablelands to give his inaugural speech.

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: EXTENSION OF LAPSING DATES

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide for an extension of the lapsing dates of the following items of general business:

- (1) General Business Order of the Day (for Bills) No. 9, Environmental Planning and Assessment (Affordable Housing) Bill 2024, in the carriage of the member for Newtown, with a new lapsing date of 24 October 2024.
- (2) General Business Order of the Day (for Bills) No. 10, Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Balloons) Bill 2024, in the carriage of the member for Balmain, with a new lapsing date of 24 October 2024.
- (3) General Business Notice of Motion No. 1454, Humelink Community Benefits Funding, standing in the name of the member for Wagga Wagga, with a new lapsing date of 23 September 2024.

Motion agreed to.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (13:26): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to extend the lapsing date for the Electoral Amendment (Voter ID and Electronic Mark Off) Bill 2024 and the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024 until 28 November 2024.

For the benefit of members, I have introduced two private members' bills. The first bill gives effect to recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to provide for electronic mark off when voters vote at each election, in light of the fact that the Electoral Commission reported that in 2019 more than 2,000 people voted twice. The bill also gives effect to a requirement to use some form of ID when casting a vote.

The second bill is an ICAC amendment bill that gives effect to recommendations from Operation Eclipse to insert into legislation requirements around lobbyists and ministerial and Parliamentary Secretary diary

disclosures. The motion is not about the substance of the bills but about the right of a member to introduce bills. Because of the nature of standing and sessional orders, the bills will lapse tomorrow. If they do, I can come back into the House and give another second reading speech on both bills, taking up the time of the crossbench and other members. Rather than reintroducing the bills, the House should simply extend the time for debate so the bills can be voted on. How members vote on the bills is entirely a matter for them. They can vote for or against them. But that is not the question. Today I am simply proposing that the lapsing dates for the bills be extended to allow a debate on the matters. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (13:28): The Government opposes granting any extension of time for the lapsing of the Electoral Amendment (Voter ID and Electronic Mark Off) Bill 2024 and the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024. In respect of one of the bills, the Government does not agree. In respect of the other bill, the Government does not agree because the member has ample opportunity to go through those matters with the Minister rather than propose the bill. Crossbenchers and Opposition members have a range of other matters in the pipeline. In the view of the Government, the member for Kiama will not be jumping the queue.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (13:29): It is an unsatisfactory situation that private members' bills lapse in such a short period. The Government has previously agreed to extend the lapsing date of a number of bills through suspension of standing orders. If the lapsing dates are not extended for the Electoral Amendment (Voter ID and Electronic Mark Off) Bill 2024 and the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024, we will have to go through the farce of bills being reintroduced and second reading speeches given again.

In the interests of the efficient use of the time of this Parliament, it makes eminent sense for the lapsing dates of the two bills to be extended. They are not frivolous bills; they deal with serious topics. One results from an ICAC recommendation for legislative change. The other deals with the very integrity and veracity of our electoral system and the fact that people can vote twice, which is an incredibly unsatisfactory feature. I do not understand why Labor does not simply use its numbers to defeat the bills if it is opposed to them. To force the lapsing of the bills under the standing orders through the effluxion of time rather than deal with the substantive matters is an insult to this Parliament and to the people of New South Wales. The time for the consideration of the bills ought to be extended, as the member for Kiama has moved. The Opposition will be supporting the extension.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (13:31): In reply: I am pleased that members of the Probus Club of South Nowra are in the gallery today. Residents from the electorate of South Coast are about to see their member join her Labor colleagues to vote against a bill that enhances government transparency and accountability, as recommended by the ICAC. She is going to vote against a bill that would do something to stop people voting twice. Those opposite will not even allow the debate. This is not the debate on the bill itself; it is the debate to have a debate—and she does not want that. Labor does not want that, which is entirely unacceptable. The job of members of Parliament is to debate legislation in this Chamber, not to defer it.

If it is the view of Labor members that I have to reintroduce these transparency measures time and time again, I will do exactly that. The community deserves the right to have those issues debated and not have the Government use some weaselly provisions of the standing orders to have them deferred. That is what Government members seek to do in this House today. My electorate will hear about it, as will that of the member for South Coast. In fact, the electorates of all Government members are going to hear about it. Members are here to do the job of legislating, not to play silly games more reminiscent of a student council than the Parliament of New South Wales.

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

The House divided.

Ayes41
Noes48
Majority.....7

AYES

Amon, R
Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Butler, R
Clancy, J
Cooke, S

Hannan, J
Henskens, A
Hodges, M
James, T
Kemp, M
Lane, J

Saunders, D
Singh, G
Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T

AYES

Coure, M	Layzell, D	Toole, P
Cross, M	McGirr, J	Tuckerman, W
Crouch, A (teller)	Moylan, B	Ward, G
Dalton, H	Perrottet, D	Williams, L
Davies, T	Petinos, E	Williams, R
Di Pasqua, S	Preston, R	Williamson, R (teller)
Donato, P	Provest, G	Wilson, F
Griffin, J	Regan, M	

NOES

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

PAIRS

Roberts, A

Hornery, S

Motion negatived.*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Port Macquarie-Hastings Ferries

Petition imploring that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to ask Transport for NSW to take over the provision of the Port Macquarie-Hastings ferry services, or to create a permanent funding stream for them, received from **Mrs Leslie Williams**.

Renwick Community

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to ensure that Wingecarribee Shire Council and Landcom deliver the original design and plans for the Renwick Community space, received from **Mrs Judy Hannan**.

Mudgee Health Service Magnetic Resonance Imaging Machine

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to deliver an MRI machine for Mudgee Health Service, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

Trundle Police Residence

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to ensure the repair or replacement of the police residence in Trundle, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

The CLERK: I announce that the following paper petition signed by fewer than 500 persons has been lodged for presentation:

Raffertys Resort

Petition opposing a 36-metre multistorey building at Raffertys Resort and requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to limit the new height of the building to 16 metres, received from **Ms Yasmin Catley**.

The CLERK: I announce that the following ePetitions signed by 500 or more persons have been lodged for presentation:

New Lambton Proposed Basketball Complex

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to reconsider the location of the proposed basketball complex at Wallarah and Blackley ovals at New Lambton, received from **Ms Sonia Hornery**.

Don Hearn's Cabins

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to halt the proposed demolition of South Coast small business Don Hearn's Cabins and to grant a new long-term transferable lease to the current lessee, received from **Ms Liza Butler**.

Tree Vandalism

Petition calling on the Government to increase penalties for urban forest tree vandalism and recognise trees as natural assets in the Local Government Act, received from **Ms Trish Doyle**.

The CLERK: I announce that the following paper petition signed by 500 or more persons has been lodged for presentation:

Moruya Police Station

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to keep Moruya Police Station operational during business hours, received from **Dr Michael Holland**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a paper petition signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison—Balranald Pedestrian Safety Crossing—lodged 4 June 2024 (Mrs Helen Dalton)

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to ePetitions signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Prue Car—Opportunity Classes—lodged 4 June 2024 (Mr James Griffin)

The Hon. Penny Sharpe—Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone—lodged 4 June 2024 (Mr Gareth Ward)

The Hon. Paul Scully—Housing Supply—lodged 4 June 2024 (Ms Kobi Shetty)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 1382 to 1412 have lapsed.

[Notices of motions given.]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Bills

RETAIL TRADING AMENDMENT (ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Sophie Cotsis, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (14:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It is my privilege to introduce the Retail Trading Amendment (Anzac Day Trading Hours) Bill 2024. The bill will extend Anzac Day retail trading restrictions and require all non-exempt shops to remain closed for the entirety of the day. One of the central tenets of what it is to be an Australian is a recognition of our history, traditions and national story. Anzac Day is special. It is unique. For me personally it is absolutely sacred. It is a day in which we as a nation come together to remember and pay tribute not only to those we lost at Gallipoli but also to those who have served and continue to serve in all military and peacekeeping operations to secure the freedoms and liberties we enjoy in Australia every day. I acknowledge my colleague the member for Campbelltown, Greg Warren, who served for over a decade. I thank him for his service.

Given the solemnity of the day, Anzac Day has long been legislated as a restricted trading day in New South Wales. It has allowed Australians to pause and reflect on what our service men and women have contributed to Australia, and it is a day that commemorates that service. Since the commencement of the Retail Trading Act 2008, Anzac Day retail trading restrictions cease at 1.00 p.m. and all retail shops can open and continue to trade from that time. This has led to a creeping commercialisation of Anzac Day, which impacts on the solemnity of Australia's most sacred of days. While the most notable Anzac tradition is the attendance at a dawn service—in Martin Place and in all our communities—some Anzac Day events occur in the afternoon and in the evening. The Ode states:

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

That is a reminder to all Australians that Anzac Day is a day of remembrance. Members of this House hope that remembrance will be honoured for the whole day and not just part of it. The bill before the House reinstates Anzac Day as an all-day restricted trading day. Unless a shop is exempt under the Act, it will no longer be allowed to open at 1.00 p.m. The bill reaffirms Anzac Day as one of Australia's most significant days and ensures that it remains a solemn day, reserved for observance and reflection. The details of the bill are straightforward, consisting of the removal of three references to the phrase "before 1.00 p.m." The removal of these references has the effect of prohibiting retail trade on Anzac Day subject to any exemptions prescribed by the Retail Trading Act.

Firstly, the bill amends the definition of "restricted trading day" by removing "but only before 1.00 p.m." after "Anzac Day". That will mean that Anzac Day will join Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day in having all-day retail trading restrictions. Secondly, the bill amends section 4 of the Act, which lists the days and times in which a shop is required to be closed on a restricted trading day. The bill removes "before 1.00 p.m." before "Anzac Day", with the effect that shops will be required to remain closed for the whole day unless exempted by another provision of the Act.

Lastly, the bill will amend section 14E of the Act, which relates to the approval for banks to open on restricted trading days. Under part 3A of the Act, a bank can apply to the secretary for approval to open on a bank close day, one of which is Anzac Day. However, under section 14E, approval cannot be granted for a bank to open before 1.00 p.m. on Anzac Day. As a result, the bill removes "before 1.00 p.m.", which means that banks cannot seek approval to open on Anzac Day at all. The Act will retain all its existing exemptions to ensure that the community is not left without its essentials on the day.

Our chemists, petrol stations, fruit and vegetable shops and takeaway food shops, among many others, can continue to trade as normal, as can small shops and licenced venues such as pubs and clubs. Shops that demonstrate exceptional circumstances can continue to apply to the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service for an exemption so that they can operate on Anzac Day if it is in the public interest to do so. One additional day of no retail trading on Anzac Day is unlikely to make a major impact for consumers as many essential services can and will continue to trade.

The Government also recognises that, while many Australians would seek to honour our veterans, the trading hours of their businesses or the businesses they work for inhibits their ability to show the level of respect on Anzac Day that they would otherwise show. By limiting the types of businesses that can operate on Anzac Day and by requiring workers to consciously opt to work on this day, we are strengthening worker rights and their ability to contribute to the collective pause that is Anzac Day, a moment where the entire community can join in remembrance and gratitude. The bill reaffirms this commitment to our veterans, to those who returned forever changed and to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The bill before the House proposes amendments to the Retail Trading Act that have been the subject of extensive public consultation through a formal Have Your Say process. Of the 299 submissions made by businesses, veterans' unions and the public, 276 submissions supported further restrictions to trading on Anzac Day. Having listened to the community's views, the Government is pleased to ensure that our laws are in step with community attitudes and expectations on Anzac Day trading. I acknowledge the diversity of views raised in the consultation, especially by some retailers. I thank them for their considered engagement with the process.

I acknowledge the Australian Retailers Association and many others with whom I work closely for the contribution they make to our community. I thank them for their important feedback. I acknowledge that they may have various views. I also particularly thank the excellent retail workers across our State for their incredible work. I have met a number of veterans who work in retail, who have explained to me the importance for them, their families and particularly their children to participate in the remembrance services as a family on Anzac Day. That is critical. We must make sure that our veterans, including those who fought in the Gulf War, in Afghanistan and our peacekeeping troops, and their families are involved and participate in Anzac Day services. I take that seriously.

All members of Parliament attend Anzac Day services. For many colleagues, the day will start with the dawn service, and some of us can go to nine or 10 service events both on the day and in the week leading up to it. Over the years I have noticed an increase in the number of schoolchildren and teenagers involved. From our babies to our seniors, and particularly the next generation, it is about understanding how important Anzac Day is. It is important to remember and recognise those who fought. Some people have family members or neighbours who are veterans that have recently served.

Anzac Day is so special because it does not matter our background, our religion or where we come from. It is that one day when we all come together and are inspired by mateship and the importance of coming together. All Australians should have time to reflect and to listen to the stories on an important national day. As a parent, I have tried to instil in my children the importance of attending Anzac Day services and showing respect for our Elders and for the contributions that have been made by those before them. Whether it was with their school or whether it was as a family, we would go every year, because it is important for children to understand.

We have all seen the increased engagement of young people and students—particularly our primary schools and high schools—with our local RSLs, our returned service men and women, and our war widows. I love it when I see our young kids walking together with our veterans. I have also listened to engaged conversations between young kids who were born in 2010 or 2011 and veterans in their late seventies or eighties. It is a beautiful thing to see. I am passionate about this. As a democracy, we have a duty and an obligation to respect those who fought for our freedom. Thousands did not come back to our soil and are buried overseas. We must respect that. We must be vigilant every single day about our democracy and our freedoms, and I hope that everyone supports this important bill.

I also acknowledge the strong advocacy of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association, particularly its secretary, Bernie Smith, who has been solid on this issue for a long time. He has engaged extensively, and he has put forward important arguments about how special this important day is. I acknowledge his work, his delegates and members. Before the election, in March 2023, the Premier and a number of colleagues attended and met with the 500 delegates, a number of whom were veterans who work in retail. I acknowledge Bernie for introducing us to his delegates who are veterans, and I thank them for their service and for their contribution to Australia. I acknowledge the extensive work of Bernie Smith and his members. Bernie understands and continues to say that Anzac Day is for remembering and not shopping. At present, retail workers are forced to choose between working and commemorating Anzac Day. That should not be the case, not for a national day. The bill rectifies that and will allow retail workers to pay their respects.

I thank our veterans and our veterans groups. I particularly thank our RSLs, which do an extraordinary job. I represent a number of RSLs in my electorate, as do other members. We have important relationships with our RSLs and those who run them. I thank them for their volunteering on many things in our community. They are the central hubs of our communities. In some places in our rural and remote communities, RSLs are the place to be and the place to go. They are the town square. I thank our veterans for their important work organising their RSL members within community.

I particularly thank those members and veterans who over the past few years have raised important issues such as mental health, housing and access to support. I want them to know how much our Government deeply cares about our veterans. We will continue to work with them every day. I acknowledge the Minister for Veterans, Minister Harris, for his work in this important public policy area. I also acknowledge Mick Bainbridge, president of RSL NSW. I thank Mr Bainbridge for his support, his efforts and his strong advocacy in this important matter because his voice reaches across a broad range of communities and sectors. I thank him for what he does for veterans.

Overwhelmingly, our veterans and their organisations support this change. In particular, I acknowledge the Australian War Widows Inc., formally War Widows Guild of Australia Inc., and the Families of Veterans Guild for their advocacy for this change. Many of us have neighbours who are war widows, and many of us have met war widows. It is tough for them. We pay respect to them and to their families for the contribution that they have made. Our war widows have lost their life partners. Many of them have had to be single parents and shoulder the burden and the grief. Where they have young children, it is particularly important to tell the story of their family and the contribution that their family has made to our Australian community. I would like the Australian War Widows to know how much all of us in this place—this is not politics—care about and love them.

It is my sincere hope that the passage of this bill proves to veterans that the Minns Labor Government cares deeply about their contribution to our nation and our State. I again take the opportunity to thank our public service staff, some of whom are in the gallery today. They are wonderful professionals who do very important work. I also thank my amazing and exceptional staff, as well as the unions, veterans, our retail businesses, industry associations and the wider public, who we have consulted in drafting the bill. I acknowledge, once again, our veterans and thank them for their contribution to Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

**NSW SELF INSURANCE CORPORATION AMENDMENT (SPECIAL LIABILITY INSURANCE)
BILL 2024**

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Sophie Cotsis, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (14:51): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The primary purpose of the NSW Self Insurance Corporation Amendment (Special Liability Insurance) Bill 2024 is to create a new insurance scheme, with an associated statutory fund, that provides insurance coverage to out-of-home care and youth homelessness service NGOs that deliver services on behalf of the New South Wales Government through the Department of Communities and Justice in respect of certain abuse-related liabilities. I acknowledge my very good colleague and community services Minister, the member for Port Stephens, for the extraordinary work that she, her staff and her department do. They do very important work looking after children, in particular those who are at risk and vulnerable. The bill is absolutely critical. I have carriage of it from the insurance point of view, but the Minister and I, and our offices, have been working in a considered way, and are focused on making sure that we do everything we can to support this sector.

At present the Department of Communities and Justice contracts around 150 service providers, non-government organisations, that provide out-of-home care support for 7,300 children and young people and homeless accommodation services to around 4,300 young people each year. Those NGOs and their workers perform an essential service for the people of New South Wales, day in, day out. This bill is about ensuring that essential service can continue in New South Wales. There is an urgency to this bill. The reason is simple: Non-government service providers must have appropriate insurance coverage to deliver services on behalf of the New South Wales Government, but in recent years most commercial insurers have withdrawn public liability insurance due to historic claims for physical and sexual abuse from the market for out-of-home care providers. It follows the significant increase in the number and size of claims and settlements in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The withdrawal of commercial public liability insurance from the market means some providers would be forced to stop delivering services. If the Government did not step in with a replacement insurance solution, it would put vulnerable children and young people at risk of remaining in an unsafe home, or of homelessness if they leave. We cannot allow that at all. I acknowledge that the former Government established a short-term indemnity scheme in December 2021 to mitigate the immediate risk to service delivery of that essential service. The short-term scheme allows the Department of Communities and Justice to provide temporary indemnity to participating service providers for abuse liabilities. However, we all know that we need a long-term solution. Through this bill the New South Wales Government ensures a long-term solution is in place.

The Government has committed to offering a longer term solution to address insurance coverage for physical and sexual abuse claims for NGOs providing out-of-home care and youth homelessness services on behalf of the State. The bill establishes a statutory function for the NSW Self Insurance Corporation, known as SICorp, to offer insurance to service providers delivering out-of-home care and/or youth homelessness services

under contract with the New South Wales Government. The insurance will cover liabilities arising from physical or sexual abuse of a person in out-of-home care or receiving youth homelessness services. The bill, however, provides that the special liability insurance does not apply to certain liabilities arising before 30 June 2007 or if the liability is covered by some other insurance issued before the commencement of new division 3A.

The special liabilities insurance scheme will provide ongoing protection for service providers. It will support service providers to offer continued and uninterrupted critical services for children and young people. It will enable better governance, underwriting controls and risk management. The bill will require a fund to be established in the Special Deposits Account. The Treasurer will have the authority to determine investment strategies for that fund. Service provider premiums are, however, estimated to fully offset the cost of providing cover. The powers granted to SICorp reflect existing functions analogous to provisions for the Home Building Compensation Fund and the Construction Risks Insurance Fund. The scheme will be administered by SICorp and operated by Insurance and Care NSW. The scope of the insurance will be limited to physical and sexual abuse liability of service providers that are contracted or subcontracted by the Crown to deliver out-of-home care and/or youth homelessness services.

It is unlikely that commercial insurers will return to the market in the next five years. No viable national or sector-led solutions have been identified. The New South Wales Government intervention is required to address the risks associated with the out-of-home care and youth homelessness service sectors in the longer term. The bill provides for the Minister responsible for the administration of the SICorp Act to review the scheme within five years to determine whether the policy objectives of the scheme remain valid and the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing the policy objectives. That will involve the Minister assessing the commercial market and determining whether the scheme can be wound down. The bill takes the opportunity to make clarifying amendments to the provisions relating to other non-government schemes administered by SICorp and has no impact on their operation. That will also be done in consultation with the community services Minister.

The purpose of the bill is to offer a long-term solution to address insurance coverage for physical and sexual abuse claims for NGOs providing out-of-home care and youth homelessness services. The bill will ensure that non-government organisations have access to the insurance they require to continue delivering essential out-of-home care and youth homelessness services. It will also support the entry of new service providers—in particular, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations—and increased Aboriginal service delivery, which is in line with the Government's Closing the Gap commitments. That is a good thing. It will ensure that the approximately 7,300 children and young people in out-of-home care and around 4,300 people in youth homelessness accommodation can continue to have access to those services and are not left vulnerable in dangerous homes or at risk of homelessness. This is also really important for the sector as well. It gives the sector confidence and certainty. Minister Washington is very keen that we move on this. But we must make sure that those providers are given the security, certainty and confidence that the Government is involved and will be able to provide those services strategically in the longer term.

I acknowledge that the bill is the culmination of two years of detailed exploration and work led by icare, New South Wales Treasury and the Department of Communities and Justice. I acknowledge also the service providers who engaged in consultation on the creation of the new insurance scheme. I thank the Minister for Families and Communities and the Minister for Homelessness for their support in bringing forward the bill. The Government is committed to continued engagement with the sector peaks and service providers as the scheme is implemented and reviewed. The Government's door is open for any further support that is required. But, of course, it needs to make sure that it reviews the scheme and supports the sector. Ultimately, this is about keeping vulnerable children and young people safe. That is a key priority for this Government. The bill will ensure the New South Wales Government and contracted non-government organisations can continue to provide care and protection for vulnerable children and young people. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 4 June 2024.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (15:02): On behalf of the Opposition, I contribute to debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. From the outset, I acknowledge from the other place the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, Natalie Ward, who will provide greater commentary on the bill and on the Opposition's position. The Opposition will not be opposing this legislation. The bill seeks to amend the Transport Administration Act 1988 to change the Transport Asset Holding Entity, or TAHE, from a State owned corporation to a New South Wales Government agency called the Transport Asset

Manager New South Wales, or TAM. The Government claims this fulfils an election commitment. However, it is really just a name change and a shifting of the accounting methodology for the agency.

On behalf of the Opposition, I will now outline some brief comments on the key contents of the bill. The bill inserts into the objectives of Transport for NSW the promotion of active transport and the activation of public spaces. I highlight that the approach to promote active transport and public space activation is bipartisan. The former Government had the first active transport Minister. The New South Wales former member for Pittwater Rob Stokes did a great job. He was very fit and active in that portfolio. We know the benefits of active transport to the social, economic and environmental vibrancy of the city. While we do see the challenges in the implementation of active transport across the city, which I will not get into in this debate, its promotion should remain a key focus for the Government, and it is worthy of consideration by Transport for NSW. The Opposition does believe, however, that while active transport is a worthy objective, it must not subsume the other key objectives for Transport in the months and years to come.

The bill creates a new government agency, Transport Asset Manager, to replace TAHE, which was a State owned corporation. I am sure the Government will claim that the abolishment of TAHE was a key election victory. However, if we compare this bill with the current legislation governing TAHE, we see they have broadly similar functions. I will put on record some comments on the governance arrangements of the agency. The bill provides the power for the Minister to appoint the CEO of TAM. The Opposition will keep an eye on this appointment, considering previous appointments that we do not need to go over today. However, I do acknowledge that the Opposition has been briefed.

Similar arrangements exist in legislation for positions including the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW, the CEO of Multicultural NSW, the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority and the Commissioner of the New South Wales State Emergency Service. The Opposition has been briefed that it is intended that the Secretary of Transport for NSW will run the recruitment process for the chief executive of TAM under delegation and make recommendations to the Minister regarding that appointment. As such, Opposition members have no issue with the proposed powers. However, we are interested in the implementation of the recruitment and appointment of the CEO.

The bill sets up TAM to have an advisory board of up to seven people, to be appointed by the Minister. The advisory board will serve to provide advice to the Minister on matters concerning TAM. Those positions will be remunerated in line with the relevant Premier's Department circular. The Opposition does have concerns about this board, considering the changes in governance structure to the previous TAHE board. The TAHE board previously had jurisdiction over the CEO. However, it now appears to be only for advice, as required, to the Minister.

That raises questions over exactly what nearly \$500,000 of taxpayer's money will be spent on when the board provides advice only and has no direct responsibility for the operation of the agency's function—but if that is what the Government is looking for, so be it. Again, I highlight that the Opposition will be taking a clear look at the appropriate selection of individuals for this board as it does not want another jobs for mates scandal yet again in Transport for NSW. In closing, as I have said, the Opposition is not opposing this legislation. However, Opposition members do have further comments on the bill. I will leave it to the shadow Minister in the other place to articulate those.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:06): I speak in favour of the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024, which I thank the Minister for Transport for bringing to the House. The recent Sydney Trains review found that the asset management of our trains is not up to scratch, and we can thank the former Government for that. This is no surprise to me, as I have had a front-row seat watching the Liberals' so-called management of our State-owned assets for the past 12 years. It is quite amazing that those opposite did not sell the trains during their time in government. I am sure it was on the list at some point, but they never had the opportunity.

One of the main reasons for the new legislation is that Sydney Trains management is currently hindered by a complex operating model that adds cost in an already challenging environment. The panel that undertook the Sydney Trains review recommended that we design a new operating model for asset ownership, and the Minns Labor Government absolutely supports this recommendation. This new model will reduce complexity and minimise the duplication of its functions. The Government will achieve this by converting the Transport Asset Holding Entity, or TAHE, from a State owned corporation into a statutory corporation called the Transport Asset Manager, or TAM, as the member for Vacluse highlighted in her contribution to debate.

The TAM will be a single entity with clear accountability, allowing it to take a strategic approach to the management of rail assets across the full cycle. The decision to transition to a new operating model delivers on the Minns Labor Government's election commitment to reform the Transport Asset Holding Entity. Importantly,

the bill also incorporates active transport and the improvement of public space as functions and objectives of Transport for NSW. As a passionate advocate for more active transport options for the residents of my electorate in Shellharbour and the broader Illawarra, these changes are most welcomed.

This bill makes clear that Transport for NSW will lead the way on active transport, including promoting ways for people to switch from driving to walking or cycling where possible and, importantly, where it is safe. Under these changes, Transport for NSW will be able to develop and implement critical programs, projects, campaigns and strategies that will allow the Minns Labor Government to realise our commitments related to active transport. These changes are most welcomed by pedestrians and cyclists across the electorate of Shellharbour, from Wongawilli and Horsley in the north, down to Shell Cove in the south. People are keen for better footpaths and cycleways to allow them to get out of their cars and walk or cycle. We have the perfect weather for this. The Minns Labor Government wants to help these people, to ensure that walking and cycling are the preferred ways to make short trips in a safe and efficient manner.

The New South Wales Government estimates that more than 1.5 billion walking and bike trips are taken per year across the State. We are committed to doubling this number of active transport trips within 20 years. We are committed to improving the walkability, safety and accessibility of our neighbourhoods so that more people can choose active transport options. Not only do active transport options allow people to get more exercise and stay healthy; leaving the car at home allows more space on the roads for less-abled people, delivery vehicles and emergency services. These options will also improve the vibrancy of our neighbourhoods and will contribute to our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 by reducing car use and air pollution.

Active transport and the activation of public spaces through programs such as Safer Cities, Vibrant Streets and community improvement districts will also support the overall wellbeing of our Illawarra communities. I will continue to work hard to improve active transport for my community. My colleague and good friend the Minister for Health and I are working on ensuring that cycling and walking options are incorporated into the surrounds of the new Shellharbour Hospital site. At a local government level, I am currently working with Labor councillors and local government candidates in Wollongong and Shellharbour on numerous projects to make walking and cycling easier for local residents and visitors alike. I am committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure fair funding from all levels of government to allow active transport projects to be built. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (15:11): I make a brief contribution in support of the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. This crucial piece of legislation has the potential to significantly reshape our transport infrastructure and administration. The Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 represents a pivotal step forward in ensuring that our transport systems are efficient, sustainable and capable of meeting the evolving needs of our communities. The Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 is designed to do just that by introducing a series of comprehensive reforms aimed at enhancing the overall efficacy of our transport systems. One of the primary intentions of this bill is to streamline the administration of transport services. The object of this bill is to amend the Transport Administration Act 1988 as follows: to enable Transport for NSW to promote active transport and improve the activation of public spaces, and to convert the Transport Asset Holding Entity of New South Wales into the Transport Asset Manager of New South Wales [TAM] and provide for TAM's functions.

Currently our transport systems are managed by a complex web of agencies and departments, often leading to inefficiencies and a lack of coordinated effort. This bill proposes the consolidation of these entities into a single, more cohesive administrative body. By centralising the management of transport services, we can eliminate redundancies, improve communication and ensure that our resources are utilised more effectively. Schedule 1.1 to the bill gives Transport for NSW two new objectives. They are to promote active transport and its integration with other modes of transport and to improve the activation of public spaces. The bill amends the functions of Transport for NSW to enable the agency to do the following for an active transport and activation purpose: develop, conduct, implement and coordinate programs, projects, strategies, and campaigns; develop, implement, and coordinate plans and proposals; conduct and coordinate activities; allocate resources; develop and implement new technology; and evaluate activities.

Transport for NSW will also be able to provide advice and assistance to public and local authorities for an active transport and activation purpose. With the approval of the Minister, the agency may also administer grant schemes and enter into partnerships. Most of the amendments related to active transport will commence on assent. This includes investment in public transport infrastructure, and the development of more bike-friendly and pedestrian-friendly urban spaces. Active transport, which includes walking, cycling and other non-motorised forms of movement, plays a crucial role in fostering healthier communities and promoting environmental sustainability.

Engaging in active transport offers numerous health benefits, such as reducing the risk of chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. It encourages physical activity, leading to improved mental wellbeing and overall fitness. From an environmental perspective, active transport significantly lowers carbon emissions and decreases air pollution, contributing to the fight against climate change. By opting for walking or cycling over driving, individuals can help reduce traffic congestion and noise pollution, making urban areas more liveable and pleasant. Promoting active transport is essential for building healthier, greener and more connected communities. Governments, urban planners and individuals must prioritise and invest in safe, accessible infrastructure to support and encourage walking and cycling, thereby enhancing the quality of life for everyone.

Moreover, the bill seeks to enhance accessibility and inclusivity within our transport systems. It is essential that transport services cater to the needs of all citizens, including those with disabilities and those living in underserved areas. The amendments proposed in this bill include measures to improve the accessibility of public transport, ensuring that it is affordable, reliable and available to everyone, regardless of socio-economic status or physical ability. Safety is another cornerstone of the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. The economic benefits of this bill cannot be overstated. A well-functioning and efficient transport system is crucial for economic growth and development. By reducing travel times, lowering transport costs and improving connectivity, we can create a more dynamic and competitive economy. Furthermore, the bill recognises the importance of innovation and technological advancement in the transport sector.

The Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 is a forward-thinking and necessary piece of legislation. It addresses the critical challenges facing our transport systems today and lays the groundwork for a more sustainable, efficient and inclusive future. In conclusion, the Transport Administration Amendment Bill presents a comprehensive approach to modernising our transport systems, making them safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable. Supporting this bill is a step towards a better, more connected future. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (15:18): It is with great pleasure that I speak on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. As the daughter of a train driver and a former employee of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, I am very proud to speak about public transport every day of the week. The Transport Asset Holding Entity [TAHE] has a long history. The Public Accountability Committee held an inquiry into the matter back in 2023. A number of former Government and current Opposition parliamentarians were members of that Committee. At the time, the Committee Chair was Mr David Shoebridge, a former member of the other place. The Chair's foreword in the Committee report states:

The Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) is a financial and organisational mistake that needs to be undone. TAHE was established by the Coalition government with the promise that it would provide a commercial return on rail assets, strengthen the rail safety framework and deliver a positive real impact on the state budget. Almost two years into TAHE's operations and it has achieved none of these goals. It is now abundantly apparent that it is not fit for purpose. The continuation of the TAHE experiment places an unnecessary, and unacceptable, financial and safety risk for NSW.

The foreword goes on:

In its enthusiasm to produce this accounting turnaround the Coalition failed to give due consideration to the accounting standards that needed to be met to make TAHE commercially viable or the safety requirements that are vital in a public rail system. It was alarming to learn that, even when alerted to these issues, the government refused to change its position on the establishment of TAHE.

...

This inquiry was not the first time concerns about TAHE have been raised. Senior public servants, the Auditor-General of New South Wales and external consultants have been raising concerns about TAHE since it was first conceived.

...

For this reason, it is essential for the NSW Government to unwind TAHE as soon as practical to prevent the ongoing bleeding of public finances to sustain it.

That report was published in April 2022. The Public Accountability Committee made six findings, including:

Finding 1

That the NSW Government established the Transport Asset Holding Entity with the primary aim of improving the state's fiscal position in the budget papers, rather than for other purported efficiency and safety benefits.

Finding 2

That the NSW Government implemented its policy decision of creating the Transport Asset Holding Entity without due consideration of the real financial impact on the budget and the applicable accounting standards and rules that would apply to the entity.

Finding 3

That it is inappropriate for the Transport Asset Holding Entity to have property development as its primary business focus, given it holds some of the state's most critical transport infrastructure and should be focused on the rail system.

Finding 4

That the NSW Government failed to give proper consideration to safety, accountability and risk mitigation matters before implementing its policy decision of creating the Transport Asset Holding Entity.

The committee made four recommendations. The first was:

Recommendation 1

That the NSW Government unwind the Transport Asset Holding Entity, due to the further negative financial impacts it will cause to the General Government Sector budget and its inability to credibly make a commercial return.

It has taken the Minns Labor Government to once again clean up the mess of the former mob. New South Wales residents expect the Government to administer in their interests and have good governance. This bill will amend the Transport Administration Act 1988 to convert the Transport Asset Holding Entity from a State owned corporation to a statutory corporation called the Transport Asset Manager of New South Wales [TAM]. It will incorporate active transport and the improvement of the activation of public spaces as functions and objectives of Transport for NSW. The bill also makes changes to the functions and objectives of Transport for NSW to ensure that it is able to take the lead on promoting active transport and improving the activation of public spaces.

Currently, Transport for NSW's functions do not explicitly include active transport. This bill puts it beyond doubt that Transport for NSW will lead on active transport and promote a mode shift to active transport. Through transport initiatives, programs and services, the New South Wales Government can improve the walkability, safety and accessibility of our neighbourhoods through TAM, including for first- and last-mile connectivity. This supports behaviour change, mode shift and public transport patronage. These active transport and public space activation initiatives, programs and services have the added benefits of reducing congestion around urban centres, reducing emissions, supporting community health and improving the vibrancy and amenity of our neighbourhoods.

Great precincts and districts can improve mental and physical wellbeing; foster public life and equity; support local jobs; showcase local content, businesses and supply chains; and allow us to connect with other people and our environment. This bill will enable us to create walkable, safe, sustainable and welcoming places that are beautiful and inviting for everyone to access and enjoy, which is a priority of this Government. Transport for NSW also continues to support, fund and work with our local councils to ensure that they deliver and expand local walking and bike riding networks under the Get NSW Active program.

The bill will remove TAHE's status as a State owned corporation and establish TAM. The previous Government used TAHE questionably to say the least. We know that the former Government—and current Opposition—has no love for anything public, including public health, public education and public transport. The Public Accountability Committee questioned whether TAHE was even legally enforceable as an entity and considered its serious negative impact on the State's budget. Apart from the financial benefits to the taxpayer and the transparency of transport assets, this Government will ensure that the State's assets are properly maintained and—as it is Rail Safety Week—all of its public transport workers and passengers are kept safe.

This Government is undertaking the rail recovery work, maintenance and construction not done by the former Government, with \$97 million invested. So much has to be done urgently. Overhead wires have fallen down, tracks need to be repaired and high-priority defects need to be addressed, just to name a few issues. Effective asset management is delivered by a government with transparency and accountability. The Minns Labor Government supports a safe, resilient and reliable rail network for passengers and the movement of goods across the State, as well as active transport for all. I thank all public transport employees, particularly the frontline workers, infrastructure teams and maintenance crews. I thank the Minister and all her staff for their vital work in introducing this bill.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (15:27): I make a contribution to the debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. As we know, this bill is the third part of the Government's proposal to eliminate TAHE and rename it TAM without substantially changing the day-to-day functions of the organisation. The bill sets out government arrangements for TAM, alongside the creation of an advisory board. Before I go on, I will address the comments made by the member for Heathcote that implied this side of the House does not care about public facilities. I remind the admittedly new member that the Tweed electorate benefited from a \$750 million brand new hospital, \$120 million in the public school system, ambulance stations, police stations and more. I think the member's comments were a little bit unfair, but I will let it go to the keeper. The more we can do to eliminate crossovers in government departments the better. The bill talks about activation. The definition of "activation" in the bill is:

activation, of a public space, means the carrying out of works or activities to enhance the functionality of, or the conduct of human activity or operations within, the space, including works or activities to promote the following—

- (a) the quality, amenity, vibrancy, accessibility, built form, infrastructure and perceptions of safety of the space,

- (b) the resilience of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems in relation to the space,
- (c) the use of technology, and the collection and use of data, in and about the space,
- (d) events in and about the space.

active transport means the movement of people, or people and goods, by the following—

- (a) one or more modes of transport, powered or partially powered by human activity, including by the following modes—
 - (i) walking,
 - (ii) running,
 - (iii) cycling,
 - (iv) scootering,
 - (v) skating,
- (b) the use of a micromobility device.

Example— an e-scooter

That brings up an interesting point. We have a significant problem with e-scooters in the Tweed. The Queensland Government has licensed e-scooters. So they are legal in Queensland but illegal in my electorate of Tweed. The fine is about \$500 if a person is caught walking one. As you know very well, Mr Temporary Speaker, Queensland is across the road from my electorate—it is like walking from this side of Macquarie Street to the other and being in a different State. We have asked the New South Wales Government for some clearer definitions, and I know that e-scooters trials are being conducted in New South Wales at the moment. Members can walk out of Parliament House and see green Lime bikes and other hire bikes everywhere. It is the same with e-scooters in Coolangatta—lots of people use them.

The reforms in the bill are good. I thank the Minns Government for the recently announced multimillion-dollar planning study. The Queensland colleagues of those opposite will face an election in October and promises have been made. In fact, my good friend the Hon. Steven Miles announced today that the Queensland Government is going to buy petrol stations. Our transport Minister should note that two days ago Mr Miles announced that people could travel on public transport for 50¢. I looked for 50¢ to bring into the Chamber—although it would be considered a prop—but could not find one anywhere.

We are dealing with the fact that the light rail will eventually come to my electorate from Coolangatta. For the information of those members who do not get up north too much, it is right near the Gold Coast Airport. We have planning money to bring the light rail into the Tweed. It could be a connecting point for our area. I will tell members how the system works at present. If a person wishes to travel by bus from Tweed Heads in New South Wales to Queensland, they must buy a paper ticket because their Opal card will not work. However, a Go card from Queensland will work on the same system. When they get to the Queensland border, they must buy a Queensland ticket to travel another 100 metres. How ridiculous is that? By the way, New South Wales bus drivers have to spend \$1,000 every three years to renew their licence. It costs \$200 in Queensland. Few Queensland bus drivers want to work in New South Wales.

As much as I support this bill and the notion of active transport, I remind members that there is a little more to New South Wales than Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. Duranbah in the Tweed electorate—or "Dee-bar", as the locals call it—is one of our best surfing beaches. Jack Robinson, an Australian Olympic surfer who has done extraordinarily well, comes from my area, as does Chloe Covell, the leading Olympic skateboarder. But we need to do more. I implore this Government, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to talk to their colleagues over the border to make the transition seamless because it is really difficult for border communities. I support the bill.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (15:33): I speak in debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. It was wonderful to hear from the member for Tweed. I congratulate him on his elevation to the shadow Ministry. What a shame he was not in the Ministry during the 12 years of the former Government.

Mr Geoff Provost: I thought you were going to be nice to me.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I am being nice. You had such great ideas. The member will be pleased to know that we are looking at cross-border issues in the Tweed and working with the Cross-Border Commissioner. I am aware of the issue that the member raised regarding ticketing. If only we had had a government that was—

Mr Geoff Provost: You haven't signed the cross-border agreement yet. That was 18 months ago.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Mr Speaker, I note that was before we came to government. If only the party of the bush was in government—and here we are. I thank the member for Tweed. The bill before the House has two functions. It will convert our old friend TAHE, the Transport Asset Holding Entity, from a State owned corporation to a statutory corporation called the Transport Asset Manager New South Wales and also incorporate active transport and the improvement of the activation of public spaces as functions and objectives within Transport for NSW. I am really pleased to do this.

As alluded to by the Minister and previous contributors to this debate, on coming to government we found that the assets of TAHE were essentially run down. The Minister for Transport has been pushing the Rail Repair Plan to bring the State's metropolitan and outer metro rail infrastructure back together. The Government is starting to rebuild rail in New South Wales. In order to do this, we must ensure that TAHE is structured to work better. We want to convert it into a non-commercial, public, non-financial corporation similar to Sydney Trains, NSW Trains and Venues NSW. The bill is the first step in us meeting our election commitment to reform TAHE. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering on its commitments in this space.

I turn to active transport. As the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, active transport is a key part of my responsibility to provide safe infrastructure for people in the regions to get active. Some 51 of the 88 grants under the latest round of the Get NSW Active program were rolled out in the regions. That is a \$60 million investment in our State's active transport network. Some \$10 million of that will go to schools so kids can get to school safely, not be cut off from their school and unable to walk there easily. We have to catch up on a lot of things. When I moved to regional New South Wales in 1998, people in country towns probably did not see active transport as such a big issue. They could always get a park outside the local shop or drive around town and get where they needed to go. Now, as people move from metropolitan areas to the regions, our regional communities are becoming more congested. We must ensure that congestion does not become a disincentive for people to use the road networks.

I remember travelling to Mungindi, which is on the border of New South Wales and Queensland—a bit further inland than the electorate of the member for Tweed. A council worker there had come from Melbourne. He told me that if Melbourne had the same footprint as roads in Mungindi or parts of Moree, there would be shared pathways, a couple of traffic lanes and a tram, whereas in regional New South Wales it tends to be a free-for-all. I took that advice and have been looking at active transport options for people around the State. In Cobar I was most horrified to see an older gentleman on a mobility scooter driving along the road and being passed by a B-double. There was no lane to separate them. Not having proper facilities for people to use active transport—a scooter, a bike, a mobility scooter or even walking—is a problem.

At round tables I have held, many of our First Nations people have spoken about the opportunities that e-bikes provide for cheaper, more reliable transport. Again, that requires an investment in regional active transport by the State Government. That is why I am really proud the Government is doing that. With the Get NSW Active program, the Government has said that 45 per cent of the grant funding must go to regional New South Wales. The Government has also put a cap on the number of projects that councils can receive grants for. That is to ensure that councils that are good at writing grant applications, but that perhaps do not have the need for the grants, are not winning all the funds. We will try to spread the money across the State, unlike members opposite did.

The Government is also delivering a grant that helps councils apply for development projects rather than just delivery. A council may have never had an active pedestrian transport plan. Some of the plans approved in the latest round were around getting councils into the twenty-first century by asking how we move people around our communities without it just being in a car. Active transport is the realistic option. With the ageing population, we often hear about driver shortages in the transport industry, such as heavy vehicle drivers, bus drivers, et cetera. We know that a lot of people who age will face the prospect of not having a licence, and walking and active transport will become much more important to them. We want to make sure they are safe when they undertake active transport.

The other part of the bill that fits in nicely with the direction that the Government is taking on transport is the rollout of the Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plans, which are about not putting one mode of transport above the others but asking how people move in their communities. How do they get to education? How do they get to their hospital or to their medical appointments? How do they get to their work? How do they get their goods to market in that freight space? We then need to not say that that should be by bus, car, train, light rail, ferry, walking or cycling, but we should look at all communities and map that out. Active transport will be a very big part of that.

The New South Wales Government is committed to having walking, cycling and other forms of active transport being the preferred way for people to make trips. We want active transport to be viable, safe and efficient options on longer trips. The Government is progressing with trials to make getting bikes on trains an easier process in the regions, which is something people in cities tend to take for granted. I commend the bill because it

demonstrates the Government's commitment to having integrated transport, ensuring that people can move around the State with ease, efficiency and within their means.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (15:42): On behalf of The Greens, I contribute to debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 and indicate our support for the bill. In my capacity as The Greens spokesperson on active transport matters, I flag that I will move amendments to improve the bill. The bill represents the third and final stage of the transformation of the Transport Asset Holding Entity of New South Wales, otherwise known as TAHE, into a government agency rather than a State owned corporation. There have been long and considered discussions in this place about the problems arising from this entity and the need for reform. I do not intend to revisit those; suffice to say, The Greens appreciate the work done in unwinding the TAHE and that appropriate reform could not come sooner.

After the bill is assented to, TAHE will become known as the Transport Asset Manager New South Wales [TAM]. The new objects and functions of TAM are broadly in line with the objects and functions of RailCorp, which was TAHE's predecessor. However, a couple of elements provide TAM with greater discretion regarding disposal of assets that The Greens will be seeking to amend in the other place. My colleague in the Legislative Council Ms Abigail Boyd, who has portfolio responsibilities for Treasury and Finance on behalf of The Greens, will have more to say on that matter when the bill is debated in that place. My Greens colleague Jenny Leong, the member for Newtown, also intends to speak to some concerns around TAHE. I will focus on the active transport elements of the bill.

The bill also includes provisions to enable Transport for NSW to promote active transport and improve the activation of public spaces. It will insert definitions of "active transport" and "activation" into the Act. It will also insert new objectives to promote active transport and its integration with other modes of transport, and to improve the activation of public spaces. It will also insert new active transport and activation purposes into schedule 1, which includes promoting active transport, promoting a shift from other modes of transport to active transport and improving the activation of public spaces. I have consulted with stakeholders in the active transport policy space on the provisions of the bill, including Bicycle NSW, WalkSydney, Better Streets, 30Please and the Committee for Sydney. I thank each and every one of those organisations, as well as other stakeholders that have shared their feedback, for their commitment to the work and for the time they have spent in discussing the bill with me and my office.

There is universal agreement that the bill represents a positive step towards Transport for NSW considering its role in delivering shared streets but that the bill needs to go further to meet its objectives. It needs to ensure that active transport is not just promoted but actively pursued by Transport for NSW. Further, the activation of public space must consciously include reducing reliance on the use of private vehicles. The bill presents an opportunity to reflect that not all stakeholders in the New South Wales transport system are paying customers. Transport for NSW does not seem to see the difference in that language. There is a difference; language is important and we need to make sure that it is explicit that people who walk or ride, or little kids who hop on a bus or train for free, do not need to be paying customers to be considered when we are looking at the decision-making of transport.

The bill is a chance to place the concept of mode shift as a higher order consideration in all of Transport for NSW's decision-making processes. I will move amendments to the bill to make those improvements. I encourage all members to consider them carefully and to support them. Finally, it is notable that the bill's active transport provisions do not explicitly consider people with disability. Despite the fact that it is covered by the Federal Disability Discrimination Act, it should be absolutely clear that the accessibility of our transport infrastructure for people with disability and many other restrictions to mobility must be considered up-front, and that consideration should be embedded. I will be moving amendments in relation to that important matter as well.

Transport for NSW has a poor track record when it comes to accessibility of our transport network, having missed nationally agreed milestones, continuing to contract for stock that is not accessible and failing to provide information as to when the network will be fully accessible. Quicker progress on these issues might be facilitated by making it clear that Transport for NSW has a responsibility to ensure accessibility of the entire transport network, including those public spaces surrounding infrastructure that the bill would seek to activate. In addition, the list of active transport modes should include motorised mobility devices, such as chairs and scooters that people with disability use. Just as with bikes and other forms of active transport, easier access for motorised mobility devices reduces the need for cars to get people to and from transport hubs.

With amendments that I will introduce on behalf of The Greens, the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 will be much improved. There is still much work for us to do to challenge this motonormativity and start building futureproof transport infrastructure that considers people and not just cars. Let us acknowledge that it is not just those who pay tolls and fares who need our laws and transport administration to look after them; it is everyone.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:47): I am pleased to speak in support of the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Minister for Transport for introducing the bill to the House. The bill serves two purposes. First, the bill overhauls the Transport Asset Holding Entity [TAHE] and, in its place, establishes a new entity called the Transport Asset Manager of New South Wales [TAM]. Secondly, the bill gives new objectives and functions to Transport for NSW to enable it to lead on promoting active transport, such as walking and cycling, and the activation of public spaces.

I will first talk to the reform of TAHE. The Government made a commitment to reform the management of rail assets to remove the requirement for a commercial return. The bill achieves that commitment. There is no longer a requirement to provide returns to Government in the form of income tax equivalents or dividends. The Government has chosen to maintain a dedicated asset manager to provide effective governance for rail asset management. The new business will no longer be a State owned corporation but will be a statutory corporation that is a government agency governed by a chief executive appointed by the Minister for Transport. That is consistent with recommendations from the Walsh review of Sydney Trains, which concluded that there is a need for a single accountable function to undertake strategic asset management.

The creation of a new entity is intended to support transparency and information sharing between the asset manager and the transport operators. TAM will have a function similar to that of TAHE, including to hold, manage, operate and maintain transport assets; establish, finance, acquire, construct and develop transport assets; promote and facilitate access to its rail network; and acquire and develop land. TAM will need to perform this work in a way that provides for the common objectives of our public transport authorities. The Minister for Transport will have the power to give directions, ensuring alignment with government policy.

Under the new arrangements TAM will manage the procurement and maintenance of rail assets. That is important as the Government embarks on significant works to improve the quality and performance of the network. Establishing TAM as a public non-financial corporation provides the organisational structure, management discipline and accountabilities of a State owned corporation without the requirement for financial dividends. Public non-financial corporations are accountable to the Parliament, reporting annually and being subject to scrutiny through budget estimates. Under the Act, TAM will work within a framework of sound, ethical financial and risk management practices and undertake effective compliance and auditing programs.

Under the new arrangements, there is no need for a fiduciary board representing the shareholders. Instead, an advisory board will focus on world-class asset management with safety and performance to deliver a safe, reliable and resilient rail network for passengers and freight operators. The bill makes clear that TAM will not only undertake its activities in a safe and reliable way but also exhibit a sense of social responsibility and conduct its operations in compliance with ecologically sustainable development. TAM will be required to operate in accordance with a commitment to regional development and decentralisation.

The bill also gives Transport for NSW new objectives and functions to enable it to promote active transport and to activate public spaces. The activation of public space may be an unfamiliar concept to some, so let me explain. The bill provides that activation includes any works or activities to enhance the functionality of a space. That includes programs like Safer Cities: Her Way, which Transport for NSW is leading in collaboration with councils. The program funds public improvements designed to make women and girls feel safer in their cities and communities.

The bill provides that activation also includes the use of technology, and the collection and use of data. A great example of that is a project called Asset AI that is trialling artificial intelligence to revolutionise road asset maintenance and operations. It enables early detection of road defects, empowering councils to streamline and accelerate road maintenance to improve the safety of road users. Street sweeping vehicles in regional New South Wales and south-west Sydney are using dashboard-mounted cameras linked to a machine learning program to assist councils to better maintain local roads. My colleague the Hon. John Graham, Minister for Roads, notes that the system will begin to draw on weather data and learn to predict issues like potholes or cracks before they form to help councils prioritise repairs based on potential future risk.

The bill will finalise the transfer of the team leading this work from the department of planning into Transport for NSW. Those exciting initiatives are keeping New South Wales at the forefront of technology-led solutions for some of the most essential services for all communities. The bill establishes TAM as the effective steward of rail assets within the transport sector. It also puts beyond doubt that Transport for NSW is leading the promotion of active transport and the activation of public spaces. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:52): I acknowledge the earlier contribution of my Greens colleague the member for Balmain to debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024 and indicate The Greens' support for the bill. The bill makes a series of amendments to the Transport Administration Act 1988 to facilitate the transformation of the Transport Asset Holding Entity of NSW, or TAHE, from a State owned

corporation into a statutory corporation and government agency. It includes provisions to enable Transport for NSW to promote active transport and improve the activation of public spaces.

In relation to the first of those two objectives, the bill renames TAHE the Transport Asset Manager New South Wales, or TAM, and confers upon it a series of objectives and functions that are broadly aligned with those of RailCorp, the predecessor to TAHE. TAM will replace TAHE as the owner of the New South Wales rail asset portfolio and will have financial and final accountability for rail asset management across New South Wales. I note that the bill follows other steps taken by this New South Wales Labor Government in the form of a directive to the TAHE board and amendments to the Act passed late last year, which The Greens supported, to ensure that the safety and reliability of transport assets in New South Wales are the entity's primary objectives—rather than the commercial imperatives driven by the former Government and, in particular, the former Premier, from whom we will hear shortly.

Under the former Government too many State owned corporations and government departments were run by businesses pursuing a profit motive. Any shifts from that mentality are welcome. Any entity with ownership of our public rail assets must be focused on enabling a safe and efficient network on which communities can rely and not on delivering a commercial return, which was the focus during the many years of the previous Liberal-Nationals Government. The Greens have long been critical of the accounting acrobatics and shocking lack of transparency enshrouding TAHE. The timing of this debate, given the business program of the Parliament today, cannot be lost on members.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Order! I appreciate that our visitors in the public gallery are excited to hear the valedictory speech of the member for Epping. However, the contribution by the member for Newtown must be heard.

Ms JENNY LEONG: It is imperative that the TAM does not replicate those problems under a different name. It is crucial that the operations of the TAM are guided by values of transparency and greater integration with other government efforts that directly benefit our communities rather than by the culture of secrecy and a desire to cook the books. To that end, I note that two of the five objectives set out in the bill pertain to a broader sense of responsibility to community: the first to "a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community" and the second to the "responsibility towards regional development and decentralisation" in TAM's operations. The Greens look forward to seeing those objectives in action.

In anticipation of the valedictory speech of the member for Epping, I am keeping to the script. My comments are much softer than the rant that I would otherwise give right now in relation to TAHE. But I will come back to that in the second half of my speech. The Greens are looking forward to seeing the objectives in action, particularly in relation to future dealings with public land included in the TAHE property portfolio. In the electorate of Newtown, which I represent, TAHE's ownership of land along the rail corridor has resulted in parcels of public land being segregated and siloed without a holistic and integrated approach to planning. We need social responsibility for this activity that is integrated with other government departments and plans. The Greens hope that we can work to deliver that moving forward.

We hope the new agency can play a key role in ensuring that public land is put to proper and good use, like building genuinely affordable housing to meet the needs of our communities. We know that the TAM cannot achieve that goal alone. There needs to be an entire approach to integrate land ownership among government agencies. Sadly, under the previous Liberal-Nationals Government, public housing estates were sold off and privatised, and slated for demolition and redevelopment. I am happy to keep talking about the Liberals' privatisation agenda. I can talk about the fact that they wanted to sell off public housing. I could say all sorts of things. Before concluding for the moment, I welcome Liberal Party members to my wonderful electorate of Newtown as they farewell and celebrate the former Premier at Thai Pothong restaurant. Unlike the Liberal Party over many years, we have an open border policy and welcome all types of people. May they enjoy a lovely meal on King Street. I will return to my speech later.

The SPEAKER: It being 4.00 p.m., debate is interrupted for the valedictory speech of the member for Epping. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The SPEAKER (16:00): Order! In accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, business is interrupted for the presentation of a valedictory speech by the member for Epping. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I note that many members of the Legislative Council have joined us, and I think they might be the problem. It is lovely to welcome members from the other place to the Chamber today. I welcome members and guests to the Legislative Assembly for this very significant moment. I extend a very warm welcome

to guests of the member for Epping. I first mention Helen Perrottet. It is lovely to finally meet you. I also welcome Amelia, Annabelle, William, Harriet, Beatrice and Celeste Perrottet. Charlotte, however, is an apology. I am told that she prefers school camp over listening to another speech by her dad. I also acknowledge and welcome John and Anne Perrottet.

We have an august line-up of guests in the gallery, and many former and current members from the other place are present. I will not be able to acknowledge everyone as I cannot see them, but I welcome all. It is a wide and eclectic list of very significant names, which is a reflection on the member for Epping, who draws friends and admirers from across the political spectrum. I acknowledge former Prime Minister Paul Keating, former Premier Mike Baird, former Deputy Premier Troy Grant and former Ministers Rob Stokes, Brad Hazzard—although I have not heard him—Stuart Ayres, Gabrielle Upton and Adrian Piccoli. Welcome back. Former Federal Minister Graham Richardson has joined us, as well as former Federal member and Mayor of Hornsby Philip Ruddock. The Federal member for Berowra, Julian Leeser, is here, as well as former members Wendy Lindsay and Nathaniel Smith—who is protecting the corner of the gallery. Nobody is going to take that corner off him. We are all present to hear from the member for Epping. I now call the member for Epping.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping) (16:03): Good afternoon, everyone. It is great to see so many people in the Chamber today. I am sorry that the seats were limited, but my family takes up about half the gallery. That was not always the case. When I came to Parliament with Helen for my maiden speech 13 years ago, we drove here in a Corolla; we are leaving in a minivan. As Peter Costello said, one for mum, one for dad and one for the country. But I went further and had one for every electorate I represented and an extra one just in case the drive from Epping got too long.

I still remember the first time I walked into this place and felt the gravity of being elected to the New South Wales Legislature, the oldest Parliament in Australia. The reality is that no matter how long we are here for, we are only in this place for a very short time. I believe the best use of that short time is to do things that will stand the test of time. Over the past 13 years, whilst there have been highs and lows, I am proud to have been part of a government that made good use of its time and fundamentally transformed New South Wales. We reshaped our city and our State in just over a decade and laid the foundations for a promising future. Think back to how Sydney was in 2011 compared with today. The city has changed dramatically thanks to our vision, our willingness to innovate and our focus on putting people at the centre of our decisions. I do not believe that any government since Federation has ever built what we did, and no government probably ever will again.

Over 12 years, our Government took a Bradfield-like attitude to governing, from building Australia's longest road project in WestConnex and the longest road tunnel in NorthConnex, to the Metro North West, Metro City and Southwest, and Metro Western Sydney Airport, the light rail in our city and our west, and a second crossing under our harbour, the Western Harbour Tunnel, with schools, hospitals, galleries, museums, convention centres, fish markets and stadiums to boot. We inherited one city and we created three. We live in the best city in the best State in the world, and now with world-class infrastructure to match.

Whilst our pace of building was second to none, we also revolutionised service delivery through Service NSW, a global success story that is now being emulated by other countries. This transformational agenda was there from the start until the end. Barry O'Farrell laid the foundations for our Government's investments. Mike Baird pioneered financial reforms that unlocked our State's potential. Without his vision, our State would not be where it is today. Gladys Berejiklian led us through challenging times, including natural disasters and a once-in-a-century pandemic. What sets me apart from them, in a league of my own, is that, while they won elections, I lost them.

These leaders were supported by an incredible team of Ministers, MPs, staffers and public servants who can all be immensely proud of their contribution. The results of their hard work are visible today, and that story is still unfolding as there are dozens and dozens of projects still to be opened over the next decade that will redefine our State. From the bottom of my heart, I thank the current Government for the enthusiasm that you have shown in turning up to all the opening ceremonies and cutting the ribbons on our behalf. You are very welcome. Obviously, Jo, I wrote that before you messed up the metro opening.

Today I don't just want to talk about all the great things we did because obviously we would be here well into the night. Instead, I want to share some lessons from my experience in Executive Government, what I have learnt on this journey and some thoughts for those who may follow. Many of these are things I wish I knew when I came into this place many years ago. The first and most fundamental lesson is that the lifeblood of politics is imagination and ideas. What I have learned is that the real opposition in government is not the Opposition; it is the status quo. The status quo is like a safety blanket: comfortable and familiar. But comfort does not lead to progress. To make the future better, you need ideas that challenge the way things are. Some think that being a conservative is about clinging to the past. To me, it is about understanding the immense value of the best of the past and carrying it with you to build a better future. It is about preserving what is good and innovating everything

else. That is why our Government had so many firsts, like the State's first Future Fund, the first one-stop shop for government services and Australia's first metro—and the second, third and fourth.

Governments and especially Ministers should not just accept things the way they are simply because that is the way they have always been. I now believe the most important question a Minister can ask is why. Why do school hours have to be from nine to three? Why does Canberra run GPs but States run hospitals? Why does the Cahill Expressway actually even exist? Asking why makes you challenge things that are just part of the furniture—like, why do you pay the Government, on average, \$75,000 in stamp duty just to buy a home? Originally it was a little admin fee to get some documents stamped. Today it is a dead weight on the Australian dream, stamping out any chance of owning a home.

To prove this point, imagine if the situation was reversed. Imagine if the status quo today was paying a small levy each year to help fund State services, but then the Government proposed to replace that small annual amount with a hefty up-front tax, on average, of \$75,000. That government would probably lose every single seat in this Parliament. Major reform takes time, and you need to bring the public on the journey. Our approach of giving first home buyers the option to pay an annual amount was incredibly popular, particularly with young people, and began the process of normalising a new system. In the election, we committed to extending it to give first home buyers that choice for life and, if we were successful, we would have rolled it out more broadly. Over time, it would increase home ownership rates, boost economic productivity and become the new norm.

I also believe that for big ideas to take hold, Ministers need to be bold. Mike Baird deserves credit for fostering an environment where Ministers regularly spoke at policy forums and debated ideas beyond their responsibilities and outside of government policy. I enjoyed debating Rob Stokes—wherever he is—and obviously beating Rob Stokes in public debates on architecture, city planning and development. But by doing this, we also became our own opposition and, regardless of whose side of the argument you were on, you ultimately ended up supporting a Liberal.

I once wrote an op-ed listing the 10 buildings in Sydney that I wanted to knock down as part of my crusade to bring beauty back to architecture. The good news today is that we have knocked one down and there are nine to go. I think Ministers should give two headline speeches each year on issues they are passionate about because it encourages critical thinking, cultivates public discourse and, ultimately, leads to better policy—you just have to make sure that you give the Premier's office five minutes notice so they cannot say they weren't informed.

The Legislative Assembly should have more dedicated time when policy ideas can be debated. A lot of time in this place is spent on day-to-day business like private members' statements, formalities and community recognition notices, but there is no real avenue for members to discuss the substantive issues facing our State and our country outside the boundaries of predictable partisan politics. Our civic life would be all the richer if Parliament was a genuine battleground of ideas and elected officials genuinely debating them.

When it comes to new ideas, I have learnt that sometimes it is not your place to finish big reforms but only to start the journey. For example, John Hewson started the GST and John Howard finished it. That is why I know the days of problem gambling in this State are numbered. It is now a matter of when, not if. I look forward to the day those machines of misery, in their factories of despair, are no longer feeding off some of the most vulnerable people in our State.

I have also learnt that achieving major change in politics requires fighting a war against the invisible. While you might imagine a better future, most people are just busy enough with the here and now. If change means disruption, it is hard for some to see the vision beyond the dust and rubble. But this is not new. While construction was underway on the Opera House, critics panned the project, calling it a second-rate building and a piece of Danish pastry. Also, Service NSW was going to kill off those precious motor registries that apparently everyone loved. I never understood it. Thank goodness it did! The M2 was labelled as the road to nowhere, and the then transport Minister Bruce Baird even received bullets in his letterbox. Yesterday's controversy becomes today's comfortable. That is why I believe one of the most important roles of a politician is to have vision—a vision of the future we need to get to, and the determination to prosecute the case that in the long term it will all be worth it.

Just the other day I was in Melbourne, and I received a notification on my phone from Uber, saying it had been eight years since my first journey. It took me back to a time when Uber was not legal in New South Wales, and, as a young Minister, I gave a speech where I called for its legalisation. The place went into meltdown. Alan Jones was off his rocker. He said I was a lefty masquerading in the Liberal Party, "Perrottet, whatever you want to call yourself, you should not be supporting Uber"—"Yoober", as he called it. Ultimately, a year later Mike Baird legalised Uber. Alan was meant to be here today, but he probably could not get a "Yoober" here.

The second lesson is that Ministers should not be passengers of the public service. It is so easy to end up being a hamster on some government department's wheel and, before you know it, your time in this place is over. It is a trap I fell into early on, and my first meeting with the department still haunts me. I walked into a boardroom packed full of public servants. There were folders overflowing the desk, stuffed with briefing after briefing on all these department initiatives that all of a sudden had become my initiatives. Diligently, I toiled away all day and late into the night, but no matter how many folders I got through, more folders would appear. Before long, I realised I had simply become a barrister for the department. Not only had I adopted their agenda wholesale, but I found myself passionately advocating for it in Cabinet even when I absolutely disagreed with it.

We turned this all around. We made the department put our agenda at the top of the list and at the front of the folder. The department could not have meetings on their agenda until they reported on the implementation of ours. This is not a criticism of the public service but rather a by-product of them bringing an agenda in the absence of one from a Minister. Ministers must be persistent and determined as well to hold the public sector to account for implementing reforms, because even simple ideas can face immense resistance.

I was shocked early on in my career to learn that the New South Wales Government actually still issued cheques. In fact, we even had people in my department whose job it was to lick the stamps for the envelopes that the cheques were to be sent in. I asked the department for a drop-dead date from which no more government cheques would ever be issued. They informed me this would be a very complex task—blah, blah, blah. I am very supportive of the public service, and I know there are many of them here—love you all. They promised that they would investigate this very difficult task and report back to me. I remember joking to my chief of staff when we were about to walk into a meeting with them a few weeks later that we were about to get a 10-page slide deck on why it could not be done. But I was wrong—we received a 20-page slide deck on why it could not be done. We just went out and announced an end date for issuing cheques, anyway. Sure enough, guess what, it turned out it could be done and New South Wales began banking like everyone else in the twenty-first century.

For me, one of the big lessons in reform was that you must focus on implementation just as much as on the original idea. It is a lesson I learnt the hard way with our workers compensation reforms. To be clear, the old system did not work and almost bankrupted our State. The losers of that system were the injured workers who needed support. We wanted to fix it, and whilst our intentions were right, it is fair to say the implementation was not. It is an important reminder that with reform, the job is never finished. There is always more to do, to fix and to improve.

I also believe that the public service does not actually want Ministers to be passengers. They want to be engaged and get things done. A project that I was incredibly passionate about was revitalising Macquarie Street East, which connects the urban side of the city to the greenery of the Domain. The first project to get off the ground was putting a bar on top of the State Library. This was immediately opposed by NSW Labor—immediately—who said we were privatising the Mitchell Library. Then the arts Minister at the time, after what I would say was just the slightest bit of public pressure, capitulated and scrapped it. But, following the election, I quietly sat down with the new State librarian, John Vallance, who is here—a brilliant public servant. We agreed that we would just do it anyway and not let anyone know until it kind of just, like, appeared—as it did.

Now we have one of the best rooftop bars anywhere in the world right here in Sydney. And it is not just a bar; it is a celebration of Sydney's history and beauty. Now, despite opposing it, every Thursday night Labor members are up there having drinks after Parliament—even birthday parties. Happy birthday, Sam. Who knows, they might even hold their little State conference there one day too. We should actually outsource the running of that bar—but I will not go there. You want an engaged public service who can give you frank and fearless advice, but they also want Ministers to set the vision so the public service can get on with their job of making New South Wales a much better place.

A third lesson is the importance of getting out of the Macquarie Street bubble, ditching the formal policy briefs and meeting people where they are, listening to their stories in their own communities. The impact of their challenges and trials are all the more real when you see it with your own eyes and, if only for a moment, walk in their footsteps. You learn stuff on the ground that no neatly documented brief can bring to life. I found this incredibly helpful in the development of our response to the flooding in the Northern Rivers. On arriving in Lismore, I had never seen such devastation. But, with the ugly and brutal destruction of homes, livelihoods and communities, the beauty of friends and strangers coming together determined to help others was even more powerful. I saw the very best of the Australian spirit—the selflessness, the spirit of service. That will stay with me forever and the people of Lismore will always have a special place in my heart.

Importantly, the community made a significant difference to the recovery. The Reconstruction Authority was established and shaped by the days, weeks and months we spent on the ground listening. Ultimately, the response was community led, not government directed, and it was all the better because of it. I acknowledge all the local members who represented their communities with distinction during that time, particularly Janelle Saffin

and the mayor, Steve Krieg. I thank Steph Cooke and Paul Toole for their work during that time, and Alicia McCumstie in my office.

Our very popular Active Kids voucher program is another example. In that case it was about listening to mums and dads at the sidelines of sporting games—where I spend a lot of my Saturdays—and hearing again and again that the cost of sports and uniforms was a major issue facing families. After we introduced that policy, I was out in South Windsor and met a grandmother there who introduced me to her granddaughter, who had just finished her first ever game of netball. She told me that the club had donated the uniform and that as a result of this program she now could afford the costs of registration. Active Kids did not cost much in the scheme of things, but it made a big difference to many children and led to the development of further programs like Learn to Swim, and Creative Kids and Back to School vouchers.

People have different views, but we did not means-test those family support policies because income is not the sole determinant of wealth or capacity to pay. The middle class in this country pays the lion's share of tax and do not ask for or get very much in return. These policies were designed to help all families in New South Wales; that is exactly what they did. Another example of a policy informed by firsthand experience was our record palliative care investment, designed with direct engagement with frontline nurses. Every person across New South Wales deserves access to the best care at a time when it matters most.

As the Minister, I also found it helpful to get a greater understanding of the important work of the public service by visiting frontline staff myself. But I occasionally liked to rock up unannounced. One day, after reports that I was going to privatise the stonemasons—which I may or may not have been planning to do—we decided that we would visit them at their stone yard in Alexandria. We arrived unannounced midmorning and the place was deadly quiet. There was tumbleweed rolling around the yard. We buzzed at the gate and at first they would not let us in because they thought it was a prank. We finally got through and this bright young woman, who looked a little shocked, came out and let us into an office. We walked down a long corridor and she said, "Can you just stay here for a little while?" I said, "Yeah, no worries."

Thirty minutes later, sitting there, I was getting pretty bored of looking at the "Vote 1 Greens" stickers that they obviously had not had time to take down before I arrived. She eventually returned 30 minutes later and took us on a tour of the yard, which was now buzzing with activity. Workers had appeared from everywhere. The noise from the machines was absolutely deafening. After we concluded this very impressive tour, we got back into the car and my media adviser, who did not join us and had hung by the car, was laughing in the back seat. I said, "What's so funny?" He said, "Well, after you walked down that long corridor and were stuck in the office, that young woman came running out and said, 'Perrotet's here! Perrotet's here! Start the engines! Start the engines!'" The moral of the story is if you want to know what is going on, do not tell them you are coming and you will learn a lot. In fairness, I did that very day and was so impressed with their work that we decided to keep the stonemasons in public hands.

The fourth lesson—and something else I wish I knew earlier—is that, while ministerial responsibilities can seem daunting, plenty of people are willing to give you good advice. You only have to ask. I found it useful throughout my career to learn from others who had gone before me. Former Prime Minister John Howard was a constant source of wisdom. He encouraged me to take a real focus on those who do not have a voice or a lobby group—middle Australia, the forgotten people of Robert Menzies. But I learned a lot from the other side too. Former Prime Minister Paul Keating encouraged me to realise the power of imagination in politics. He once said to me, "Dom, I had to teach my bastards to care about money and you need to teach your bastards to care about people." This may sound strange because obviously John and Paul are completely different, but sometimes I feel like I am their political love child.

I also found it useful to have an office environment where staff could give me honest feedback and criticism—sometimes constant criticism. My staff were never shy about letting me know how I was doing, especially in my public appearances. Eventually I could just tell by the look on their faces when I came into the office. But I also found it helpful to get perspectives from outside of government and politics, for example, consulting industry leaders and establishing a business advisory group to gain insights and advice. During the pandemic, this group became absolutely vital in our development of a range of financial packages.

COVID was a health crisis, but it was an economic crisis too. I saw firsthand the double-edged sword created by government policy and we are still seeing some of the impacts of that period today. Credit goes to former Premier Gladys Berejiklian for fostering an environment where senior Ministers could discuss and debate our response from various perspectives during daily crisis Cabinet meetings. This approach helped New South Wales address the health needs of our people while remaining more open and more free than other States. As hard and as challenging as that period was, it was incredibly rewarding to work alongside such dedicated Ministers and public servants.

Whilst we did not always agree and, in fact, often disagreed—Brad—everyone's perspective was fairly considered and I believe that led New South Wales to having one of the strongest responses not just in the country but globally. I got to witness what others did not: a dedicated group of people who worked around the clock doing everything they could to help our people through. And it was a real team effort: Gladys, Brad Hazzard, John Barilaro, Stuart Ayres and Victor Dominello, supported by Tim Reardon, Kate Boyd, Mike Pratt, Susan Pearce, Elizabeth Koff, Kerry Chant, Emma Hogan and Mick Fuller.

While we did not get everything right, I believe we got more right than wrong. And, without dwelling on every decision we got wrong, I believe it is important to point out one mistake which was made by governments here and around the world. That was the strict enforcement of vaccine mandates. Health officials and governments were acting with the right intentions to stop the spread, but if the impact of vaccines on transmission was limited at best, as it is now mostly accepted, the law should have left more room for respect of freedom. Vaccines saved lives but, ultimately, mandates were wrong. People's personal choices should not have cost them their jobs. When I became Premier, we removed them—or the ones we could—but this should have happened faster. If a pandemic comes again, we need to get a better balance, encouraging people to take action whilst at the same time protecting people's fundamental liberty.

The final thing I wish I learned earlier in politics was how effective it can be working across political and jurisdictional lines. As a member of Parliament, you are not paid by your party; you are paid by the taxpayers who elected you. The temptation in opposition is to just oppose—to choose politics over what is right. But you do not need to compromise your convictions to work with all parties to get things done. There is much that we can do in a bipartisan way to drive our State and nation forward, and I am grateful to have had the opportunities to be part of such efforts. For example, establishing the board of State Treasurers not only united the politicians from both sides but the public service as well, breaking down the silos across the Federation. This body proved to be incredibly important during the pandemic, where we shared what worked and what did not, and we were able to help each other in developing our financial and economic responses.

It also led to the States having a more proactive role in driving rather than responding to the then COAG agenda by finding common ground between State Treasurers. We were able to get Canberra to commit to legislating the "no worse off" clause following changes to the GST distribution model. I believe that change was the worst public policy decision since 1851, when this Parliament passed a law to create a separate colony of Victoria—just days before the Victorian gold rush began. Call me a cynic, but there was something going on there. The Victorians were hiding. That is worth about \$150 billion today. Just imagine if that decision was not made: New South Wales would have all the gold, there would be no Victoria, Canberra would not exist, and Sydney would be the nation's capital, as it always should have been!

Despite the issues with Victoria, I thought it was important to work in a bipartisan way with the Premiers. You probably could not get two people more philosophically different than Dan Andrews and me—Dictator Dan and Domicron—working together. We worked together in the pandemic to develop and reform policy in the areas of preschool education and health care. Unfortunately, we do not see this bipartisan relationship at the Federal level. Good policy is suffocated by bad politics. It is all short-termism, all the time. We are failing to meet the moment on a number of fronts, with Canberra becoming a cemetery of reform. Asia is rising, and there is a significant risk that Australia will be left behind. If we do not address this with courage and conviction, then our future prosperity is at risk. Doing nothing is a choice that we cannot afford to make, and a well-run Federation is key to securing a prosperous future.

Federation is the operating system of our country, and we must get it right. If we established Australia today, no-one in their right mind would set up the Federation the way it is. Currently we have Federal and State health systems that do not even work alongside each other; rather, they actively work against each other. If we cannot reform the Federal health system after a one-in-100-year pandemic, we never will. The Federal Government's creeping encroachment into service delivery as well has been an abject failure. The National Broadband Network, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Building the Education Revolution and pink batts all demonstrate the challenges of running nationwide delivery programs across diverse States from Canberra. Paul Keating said, "Never get in the way of a Premier and a bucket of cash." I would say, "Always get in the way of a Prime Minister and a federally funded fiasco."

The challenges that we face as a nation are complex, and they cannot be solved by one level of government, one public service department or one side of politics. The Federal Government needs to set the vision and the States need to be held accountable for the implementation, tailoring solutions with a local focus. Prime Ministers, Premiers and Treasurers may have the best intentions, but they do not have an environment where policies for the long-term benefit of our country can be developed. It certainly cannot occur with a revolving door of leaders sitting around the National Cabinet or Federal Treasurers meetings. This is what I propose: To create the right conditions for fully effective Federation reform, we need to move to a harmonised election cycle. Firstly,

immediately move to four-year fixed terms at a Federal level. This gives them more time on reforming and less time on campaigning.

Secondly, we need continuity at a State level, so the States and Territories should move to four-year fixed terms, held within six months of the midpoint of the Federal electoral term. This will allow State Premiers and Treasurers to work together and collaborate across party lines over a four-year period to improve financial and service delivery arrangements, driving prosperity. The division of responsibility should also be re-examined, with the Federal Government acting more as a financing arm for State service delivery. The incentives should be in place for States that reform, and we should have a fund set up by the Federal Government to help facilitate it. The Federal Government should also determine consistent metrics and establish league tables, where States can be publicly compared on outcomes, particularly in the areas of health, education and housing. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and comparability will drive State accountability. This is a blueprint for future reform of the Federation but, more importantly, it is a blueprint for the future success of our nation and its people.

Now to some acknowledgements. I could not have served the people of New South Wales without the support of so many incredible people. Firstly, to the communities of Castle Hill, Hawkesbury and Epping, who I had the good fortune of representing, it has been a privilege to serve you. I thank the Liberal conferences and all of those who supported me: in Castle Hill, particularly David and Wendy Faulkner-Dick, Will Darby, Ric Alloggia, Pat Doherty, Tim and Gerard Abrams, and Les and Gill Dyball; in Hawkesbury, Bob and Judy Newland, John and Margaret Berenschott and Sean Fannin; and in Epping—it is a bit long because I had three—Ross Barwick, Michael McAuley, and especially Damien Tudehope, whose friendship I have greatly valued.

I thank the public service, but particularly the secretaries I had the good fortune of working with: Martin Hoffmann, Rob Whitfield, Mike Pratt, David Deverall, and Michael Coutts-Trotter. I give a special shout-out to NSW Treasury—hands down the best Treasury in the country. One of the things I loved about Treasury was how diligent they were in fact-checking almost everything I said. We used to send them our question time responses so they could verify our economic and financial figures. I once included a line saying that I was the best Treasurer in the history of the State—to which they wrote back, "We are unable to verify this claim." Just on Treasury—they are doing a great job, and I am going to see them next week—forecasting is their biggest challenge, as Mike Baird will know really well. I believe the Treasurer should be the one that makes the forecast and be accountable for that within a range set by Treasury—but I will not go into that.

To the press gallery, you have had a greater turnover rate whilst I have been here than Premiers. But I thank the editors of the papers, particularly Ben English and Bevan Shields. To our ministerial colleagues—too many to mention—so many of you have been a great source of support and counsel in good times and in bad. To the National Party and, in particular, my Deputy Premier, Paul Toole, your efforts always ensured that regional New South Wales had a seat at the Cabinet table. Sometimes I wish it was just that: one seat at the Cabinet table. But I have seen firsthand the passion of the National Party. They will always be the party of regional New South Wales—just not in Albury, Goulburn, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga. I wish Dugald and his team all the very best. I thank the Liberal Party for giving me the opportunity to contribute to public life, especially Chris Stone for his support over many years and during the election. I wish Richard Shields all the best in his new job—good luck!

I would like to wish Premier Chris Minns and the Government all the very the best. I would just like to wish Mark Speakman all the very better, and his leadership team, led by Natalie Ward, Damien Tudehope, Robyn Preston and Alister Henskens, all the best. To those in the business advisory group and other industry leaders who are always available to impart their wisdom and advice—David Gonski, Matthew Grounds, Michael Carapiet, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, Vivek Bhatia, Frank Calabria, Tim Sims, Luke Mangan, Luke Mackey and Justin Hemmes, among many—thank you very much.

I thank my personal protection team, who all became very good mates—Adam Leach, Ritson Renshaw, Chris Moore, Tim Black, Sam Carroll, Will Cook, Corey Kinsela and Luca Altamura. I thank my drivers, particularly Tim Dwyer, who my kids called "Tim Driver". Given the amount of time we spent together, they started referring to Tim as "Dad's best friend". That is pretty sad, actually. I love you, Tim. I thank all of those who worked in my electorate offices, who carried a massive load, particularly over the nine years I served as a Minister.

I thank my ministerial staff. I thank Charis, the most exceptional executive assistant anyone could ever have. She knew what I was going to do before I knew what I was going to do. I thank Tim Cannon, my brilliant speechwriter, whose words captured wit, heart and depth. Obviously, after this speech, I am clearly missing him. I thank Monica Tudehope, one of the best policy minds we had in government, an architect of the five best budgets this State has ever seen. Treasury can fact-check that. I especially thank my chiefs of staff, Steve Joseph and Bran Black.

But I particularly thank Nigel Freitas. He has been my right-hand man for my entire political career. Your unwavering loyalty and dedication have been invaluable, and you can be incredibly proud of the contribution you made to New South Wales. To all my other staffers—there are too many to mention: Ben Wicks, Yaron Finkelstein, Benn Ayre, Julia, Juliet and Michelle. If I start, and I have already started, I am going to leave people out. To all of you I say that I count myself so very fortunate to have been surrounded by such brilliant, inquisitive minds and passionate, energetic people, who just got things done.

I thank Mum and Dad for making so many sacrifices for me and my siblings, and giving us every opportunity in life and instilling in us the Catholic values of service and sacrifice. I thank Chelsey and the Griffin family, whose support has carried our family for many years. To my seven amazing children, who I dearly love—Charlotte, Amelia, Annabelle, William, Harriet, Beatrice and Celeste—there is nothing more important in my life than you. It is so wonderful over the last decade to see your personalities and little characters develop and flourish. I am so very proud of each of you.

Finally, I say to my beautiful wife, Helen, that being married to a politician is hard; being married to me is harder. I have never properly appreciated or thanked you for the sacrifices you have made for me and for our family, and for putting your own career on hold to support mine. You carried the mental load at home for so many years whilst continuing to work, toiling away, late at night, as a major in the Australian Defence Force. You always stayed up when the kids went to bed and rose before they woke. You made so many sacrifices, with such selfless love and care, over all these years. I can now understand why you seemed so happy during my concession speech. But, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you. On behalf of the people of New South Wales, as well, I thank you. I love you so very much.

Finally I thank all of those who have been part of my journey and helped me along the way. You are and will always be incredibly special to me. Thank you for everything. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to be a member of this place. I am going to miss it very much. I got into politics not to review but to reform. I am so very proud to have been part of a government that has completely reshaped our city and State. Politics is about winning the future. You do that by having ideas, and may the best ideas win. Thank you.

Members and officers of the House stood and applauded.

Bills

TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:48): I continue my contribution to debate on the Transport Administration Amendment Bill 2024, which was interrupted by the valedictory speech of the former Premier, Dominic Perrottet. The Greens are very keen for these new objectives to be enacted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I ask that members leave the Chamber quietly.

Ms JENNY LEONG: These changes will hopefully have impacts for the electorate of Newtown and beyond. In the electorate of Newtown, there is a rail corridor that includes lots of parcels of public land. Recently our community welcomed the announcement that some of the public land near Carriageworks will be developed to deliver more than 200 social and affordable homes. That will make a not insignificant dent in the growing social housing waitlist in our inner-city community. This is the kind of socially responsible activity, integrated with other government departments and plans, The Greens hope will continue to ensure that the Transport Asset Management New South Wales [TAM] delivers more moving forward. We hope that this agency can play a key role in ensuring that public land is put to appropriate use, including through building housing to meet the needs of our communities.

We know this is not possible and cannot be achieved through this legislative reform alone. An entire ecosystem of land ownership and government agencies must also be reconsidered and evaluated. Under the previous Liberal-Nationals Government, public housing estates were slated for demolition and redevelopment and tenants were left facing the risk of eviction. Nearby, where publicly owned land was available, Homes NSW was identifying public housing to demolish because it sat in a separate silo of government and was owned by the Transport Asset Holding Entity [TAHE]. In the electorate of Newtown plans to develop Tech Central—again on public land in the same rail corridor—prioritised the delivery of office space and commercial retail space over public space and genuinely affordable housing. If agencies such as TAM are actually there to address "the interests of the community", they must work collaboratively with one another and other departments to avoid replicating this mistake.

I turn now to the amendments foreshadowed by my colleague the member for Balmain. They are sensible and straightforward amendments and I urge the Government and Opposition to consider them closely. In its current form, the bill absolutely fails to recognise the nearly one in five people living with a disability in New South Wales who use active and public transport. Too many members of this place can list local train stations and bus interchanges in the electorates we represent that are not accessible to those who use mobility aids. This needs to change. To this end, the foreshadowed Greens amendment would expand the proposed definition of "active transport" to include manual wheelchairs and motorised mobility devices such as chairs and scooters. It would also amend the bill to ensure that accessibility is front of mind in any efforts to activate public spaces near transport infrastructure.

The amendments foreshadowed by the member for Balmain also lay the framework for Transport for NSW to play a leading role in driving a mode shift away from private vehicles and towards public transport. The amendments will ensure that Transport for NSW takes a people—rather than customer—centric approach to designing the transport system and puts the needs and expectations of people first. Active transport is crucial to ensure that our communities are healthy, sustainable and connected. The Greens absolutely support any efforts to make walking, cycling, riding or scootering, and wherever people need to go, easier and more accessible and to integrate these alongside other modes of public transport.

All too often the responsibility has fallen on resident action groups and community members to lead the push for active transport against a road-obsessed transport system, with the government of the day dragging its feet in response. I will never forget the irony of running into the then Nationals roads Minister in the middle of the campaign against privatised toll road WestConnex. He was having a lovely time, wandering around and going for a walk in Redfern. He was enjoying the city streets while imposing on the community a privatised toll road that sluggish them with an incredible expense and an unhealthy toll road. [*Extension of time*]

The Greens want to expand the proposed definition of "active transport" to ensure government departments and Transport for NSW take an approach that centres on people, as opposed to customers. We need to design a transport system that puts the needs of people first. I recall and remind the current New South Wales Labor Government that when the inaugural Minister for Customer Service was anointed in this Chamber, the former Opposition members joined with the Greens in mocking and laughing at the idea that we would have a Minister for Customer Service because of our long-held commitment to the idea that the people of New South Wales are citizens and people; not customers and consumers. Sadly, since the change of government, we have not seen that neoliberal rhetoric shift back to a people-centred approach to delivering public services. I encourage the current New South Wales Labor Government to recognise and audit that language to return to a people, community and citizen focus, rather than a customer and consumer focus.

All too often, the responsibility to push for change has fallen on resident actions groups. I recognise the work of the Friends of Erskineville, the Alexandria Residents' Action Group and Redwatch in the Newtown electorate. For more than a decade they have been fighting the good fight to urge the Government to deliver an active transport bridge across the tracks at Redfern between the Eveleigh and Erskineville sides of the station to create a connection between Carriageworks and that part of our community. It is important that Transport for NSW not only promotes but also actively pursues active transport solutions wherever possible.

I urge all members to support the amendments foreshadowed by the member for Balmain. All in all, this bill is a step in the right direction towards transparency in the management of our rail network and other assets and towards a future in which active transport is the cultural norm. It is the start of a shift away from the dangerous actions of TAHE and the jobs-for-mates approach of the previous Liberal-Nationals Government. We need to commit to the idea that public land is indeed for the public interest and that public infrastructure and public agencies must work for and with our communities to deliver for the people of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:56): I support the Transport Administration Bill 2024. The bill will amend the Transport Administration Act to convert the Transport Asset Holding Entity [TAHE] from a State owned corporation to a statutory corporation called the Transport Asset Manager New South Wales [TAM]. It will incorporate active transport and the improvement of the activation of public space as functions and objectives of Transport for NSW. These changes are crucial to ensure a more efficient, sustainable and passenger-focused transport system for New South Wales. The TAHE website states:

For more than 150 years, our public transport and freight rail networks have been a driving force behind NSW's growth.

From the cities to the regions, our assets are used by millions of people every year.

TAHE is proud to continue this legacy, as the owner of an extensive portfolio of railway network assets across NSW, including tracks, trains, stations, and significant land holdings around stations such as retail spaces.

The reality of TAHE is very different. The previous Liberal-Nationals Government established TAHE as a statutory State owned corporation on 1 July 2020 to replace the former rail infrastructure owner, RailCorp. Under the previous Liberal-Nationals Government, more than \$5 billion in intra-government transactions were needed to prop up TAHE's previous accounting treatment. A former Auditor-General, writing in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, labelled TAHE a "vehicle of deception" that hid the true cost of operating the railways from State's accounts. The January 2023 report of the Audit Office of New South Wales found:

The design and implementation of TAHE, which spanned seven years, was not effective.

The process was not cohesive or transparent. It delivered an outcome that is unnecessarily complex in order to support an accounting treatment to meet the NSW Government's short-term Budget objectives, while creating an obligation for future governments.

The benefits of TAHE were claimed in the 2015–16 NSW Budget before the enabling legislation was passed by Parliament in 2017. This committed the agencies to implement a solution that justified the 2015–16 Budget impacts, regardless of any challenges that arose.

Rail safety arrangements were a priority throughout TAHE's design and implementation, and risks were raised and addressed.

Agencies relied heavily on consultants on matters related to the creation of TAHE, but failed to effectively manage these engagements. Agencies failed to ensure that consultancies delivered independent advice as an input to decision-making. A small number of firms were used repeatedly to provide advice on the same topic. The final cost of TAHE-related consultancies was \$22.6 million compared to the initial estimated cost of \$12.9 million.

The Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee found that the then New South Wales Government failed to give proper consideration to safety, accountability and risk mitigations prior to creating TAHE. Millions of dollars were spent on consulting firms, including PwC, KPMG and the Boston Consulting Group, to prop up the TAHE budget trick. Last year the Treasurer said:

We're slashing the State's net debt by more than \$4 billion by fixing TAHE.

This Government prefers to spend the public's money fixing the state's essential services, not propping up a budget con that went terribly wrong.

We're determined to bring an end to this saga. The State's reputation for budget honesty was tarnished unnecessarily by the previous government's decision to use TAHE to hide the true cost of operating the railways from the State's accounts.

The SPEAKER: It being 5.00 p.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for the public interest debate. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later time.

Public Interest Debate

NO-GROUNDS EVICTIONS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:00): I move:

That this House supports making renting fairer in New South Wales by ending no-grounds evictions for both periodic and fixed-term leases.

As the member for Coogee, I am one of the members of this House with one of the highest percentages of renters in their electorate. Some 48.5 per cent of residents in my electorate rent, almost 50 per cent. Since 2016 the number of people renting across our State has exponentially increased. This has happened systematically. Despite that, for more than a decade the Coalition Government that was in place did absolutely nothing to address this. Today it is with absolute pleasure that I stand in this Chamber to talk on this public interest debate motion and speak to a piece of reform which is critical not only for my electorate but for people all over our State.

Our Government is taking steps to create a fairer and more modern rental market by implementing its planned rental reforms, promised at the last election. The Government is putting an end to no-grounds evictions in New South Wales. For those who may be a little bit scared about this, New South Wales is not actually the first jurisdiction to do so. South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania have all introduced reforms to deliver more secure rentals. As I said, this is important reform that we do. We know that the need for secure housing and certainty is incredibly important to the number of people living in rentals long term. The Premier has confirmed a bill will be introduced in September and protections will be in place early next year. Legislation to implement the proposals has been drafted and will be subject to consultation. The Government welcomes this process.

New South Wales has the largest rental market in Australia, with more than two million renters, or one-third of people in the State. This is a 17 per cent increase since 2016. More people are renting than ever before. The proposed change will give renters improved stability and certainty about living in their rental homes. No-grounds evictions have long been a source of uncertainty and anxiety for renters. By banning no-grounds evictions, we will shift the balance of power towards renters, granting them the security that they deserve. It will ensure that tenants can be evicted only for legitimate and valid reasons. This is important, as it fosters a more transparent and fair rental market, where tenants are treated with respect and dignity. For the benefit of members,

I will read out some stakeholder reactions to demonstrate how important this is. Dominique Rowe, CEO of Homelessness NSW, states:

Stopping no-grounds evictions is a sensible move that will help prevent tenants who have done nothing wrong from being at risk of suddenly losing their housing and facing homelessness.

Hear, hear! David Borger, Chair of Housing Now, states:

With around 33% of the NSW population renting, it's crucial that we create a rental market that provides security and stability for tenants. The current system, which allows for evictions without cause, has left many renters in a state of constant uncertainty, unable to plan for their future. These reforms will help ensure that renters who follow the rules and take care of their homes can live without the fear of sudden eviction.

Those members with electorates like mine, where there are significant numbers of renters, would know through their electorate offices that this has been a major cause of tension and fear for people. Leo Patterson Ross of Tenants NSW states:

We are thrilled to see the government taking real action to address this problem ...

The proposed reforms are reasonable, and they are fair.

The Committee for Sydney states:

The government's taken a series of actions over the past year that will go a long way to solving the housing crisis, but it's going to take time to see results. Ending no-grounds evictions will materially improve the lives of the third of Sydneysiders who rent for the better immediately.

In making these reforms the Government wants to ensure that tenants are treated with respect and dignity. These residential tenancy laws already allow for an owner to end a tenancy for a range of reasons, including where the renter is doing the wrong thing, such as not paying their rent or damaging the property. The Government will introduce additional reasonable grounds for ending both periodic and fixed-term leases. These new reasons will include where a property is needed for the landlord or their family to live in; or where the property will be sold, requires a significant renovation or repairs, will be demolished or is no longer going to be used as a rental home.

These changes, which require a landlord to always have a valid reason to end the lease, will be one of the most significant reforms to New South Wales tenancy laws. This reform will move New South Wales towards a new approach to tenancy that is modern, balanced and embraces renting as a permanent form of housing for many people. A reason would need to be given when ending either a periodic or fixed-term lease so that no New South Wales renters are left without. This change will give renters improved stability and certainty about living in their rental home.

Owners and agents will be fined if they do not comply with these rules. Other supporting features include evidence requirements and a restriction from re-letting for some types of terminations. It is also proposed that the notice period for renters to leave at the end of a fixed-term lease will be extended from 30 to 60 days for leases of six months or less, and 90 days for leases for longer than six months—more reform to give stability and certainty to our renters. All of these provisions will be consulted on with tenant advocates and industry representatives to ensure we get the balance right. In addition to ending no-grounds evictions, the New South Wales Government is doing a lot more. I commend this motion to the House.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (17:07): The Minns Labor Government has made matters worse for the renters of New South Wales. The Liberals and Nationals recognise the immense frustration among renters and those seeking affordable and secure housing, exacerbated by the inaction of the Minns Labor Government. Currently we are facing a rental and cost-of-living crisis, with millions of renters across the State struggling. Rents continue to skyrocket, yet the response from the Minns Labor Government has been so lacking: just one meagre reform made to date. For those reasons and others I will come to shortly, I propose to amend the motion. I move:

That all words after "House" be omitted, inserting instead:

- (1) Notes that renting in New South Wales under this Labor Government is in crisis, with rising rents, lower supply and falling DAs for new homes.
- (2) Notes that Labor's only law change has been the appointment of the Rental Commissioner. During Labor's tenure, rents in Greater Sydney have risen over 13 per cent. The availability of rental housing for median income earners in New South Wales dropped from 35 per cent in 2022-23 to 28 per cent in 2023-24. That contrasts sharply with the Liberal-Nationals Government's record high of 48 per cent in 2020-21. Renters in New South Wales have been sorely let down by a government that has not delivered on its rental reform promises. Supply of rental homes is the key issue here; we must keep that front of mind. That too has fallen markedly under Labor. Last month, Australian Bureau of Statistics data confirmed that building approvals in New South Wales hit a 12-year low in the last financial year. This Government has increased taxes on new builds and is changing land tax arrangements, making supply even more challenging. Meanwhile demand grows higher on the back of Labor's higher immigration intake. But Labor has no answers for the mismatch between supply and demand.

The only Labor reform for renters to date has been the appointment of a Rental Commissioner. That is the only reform committed pre-election that has actually been delivered, and even that was underfunded and under-resourced. The Rental Commissioner said that a big package of rental reforms was coming in the first quarter of this year. We are still waiting. Last week, conveniently right at the time of the Labor conference, we saw two releases in this space, but both were nothing more than commitments to consult further and take steps for reform to come in 2025. That is right, two years after those reforms were promised we are still waiting, and this is pressing. Any reform must be well considered to maintain a balance in the rental market. There are one million renting households in New South Wales. The incidence of no-grounds evictions in New South Wales is 28,000 per year—28,000 among one million. The reform needs to be proportionate to the issue.

Most property owners, as we know, are mum and dad investors, and most do give reasons when ending a lease, and there are many good reasons to do so. The great majority of no-grounds evictions, well over two-thirds, are given to renters at the end of a fixed-term lease. That is the nature of the contract that has been entered into. When two parties sign a fixed-term lease, they do so freely and with clarity and certainty. Upon the conclusion of that term, the property owner should be free to end the lease consistent with that contract. For this reason, noting also additional tenant protections during fixed terms and noting our support of extending notice periods for fixed-term leases, any prohibition should not extend to fixed-term leases. That has been the approach in other jurisdictions across Australia. To change that would be a real risk to supply.

Last week a select committee in this place heard the concerns of property owners and real estate agents loudly on this reform. Strong evidence was presented that spoke to the risk of this reform making matters even worse, reducing supply for renters and making conditions more difficult. Data and dynamics in the Victorian rental market since the Dan Andrews Government prohibited no-grounds evictions in 2021 demonstrates the effect on supply of rental properties when reform is not done right. One in four rental properties in Victoria is being pulled from the market, and it is described as a cliff that the renters of that State will have to face. It is essential not to implement policies that could further destabilise the market, reduce rental supply and worsen conditions for renters. That is where Labor has failed to bring this in any timely fashion. Not only is it failing to tell us when it will come in but it also does not have the policy position right. In all, we have seen more Labor failure, delay, false promises and false hope, and nothing more than abject failure. I commend the amendment to the House.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (17:12): I support the member for Coogee bringing this public interest debate topic forward to support making renting fairer in New South Wales by ending no-grounds evictions for both periodic and fixed-term leases. The member for Willoughby has clearly demonstrated that scaremongering is what the Opposition does best. When the Opposition does not have a good counterargument, it makes it up as it goes along. The common counterargument is that the changes will result in fewer investors. I sat on the same inquiry as the member for Willoughby last week and, as the Minister clearly stated during question time, claims that investors will leave New South Wales are unfounded. Other States and Territories have their own reforms around no-grounds evictions, and data shows that across all these jurisdictions investor lending as a proportion of total lending has increased. In Victoria, it is up 24 per cent; in South Australia, it is up 12 per cent since they announced reforms last year; and it is up 18 per cent in Queensland.

In less than 18 months of being in government, we will bring this legislation forward because around one-third of people in New South Wales rent and they deserve secure and fair housing. The Minns Labor Government is delivering on our commitment to the people of New South Wales to improve rental laws and make renting fairer by ending no-grounds evictions for both periodic and fixed-term leases. The changes will give renters more stability and give owners clarity on why a lease can end. The changes will be one of the biggest reforms to the rental market in a decade that will help ensure we get the balance right between renters and landlords.

The Faith Housing Alliance has stated that the reforms will provide greater security to renters, putting an end to no-grounds evictions for both periodic and fixed-term leases. It sees the proposed reforms as critical to the physical and mental wellbeing of private market tenants, correcting a current power imbalance. Many members in this place represent a large percentage of those tenants. In my electorate of Parramatta, over 56 per cent of residents are renters, and, similarly, over 40 per cent of residents in Coogee, Vacluse, Strathfield, Ryde and North Shore are renters. It is completely understandable that the member for North Shore made a submission to the select committee on the no-grounds evictions bill. It states:

It's time for NSW to introduce a reasonable grounds test for evictions that reflects the need to provide stability and security for renters, balanced with the need to protect the investment interests and property rights of owners.

Last Thursday night I attended a renters forum in Parramatta hosted by the Sydney Alliance and attended by the Rental Commissioner of New South Wales. One thing was clear: There are people in our electorates who are living in fear. The fear is real, and the fear is that if they speak up to real estate agents or their landlords about a leaking tap, a broken hotplate or a shower that is not working, their rent will go up or they will be asked to move

on. One young woman spoke about the mould in the bedrooms of her family's rental and how her mother is developing allergies. They have taken all steps possible to improve the ventilation and remove the mould, but it keeps returning. Their rent right now is manageable, but they are scared to speak up to their landlord despite the risk to her mother's health because of the fear of eviction and not being able to afford rent in another property in the same area.

Another woman shared her story of living in a share house with 12 bedrooms, one kitchen and two bathrooms. When they try to heat their bedrooms, the electricity meter keeps tripping, so they have to go cold. The same happens when they turn the microwave on in the kitchen. She found the property through Gumtree and is too scared to speak up because she will need to move and will not be able to afford to live anywhere else. This is not an excerpt from a nineteenth-century Dickensian novel; this is happening across New South Wales in 2024. It has to stop. The Premier has confirmed that a bill will be introduced in September and protections will be put in place early next year. We will put a stop to renters being forced to pay for background checks, we will ensure the first portable rental bond scheme in this nation and we will make sure that in less than 18 months of being in government, we will bring legislation to this House that will take the fear out of the lives of renters across New South Wales.

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (17:17): I make a short contribution to the public interest debate, and I thank the member for Coogee for raising the issue. All members are faced with this issue in their electorates. The housing crisis is felt Australia-wide, and it is critical we do absolutely all we can to address it. But we must do so in a way that is responsible, that is fair and that does not have unintended consequences. From my perspective, shaped over a decade of experience as a property manager in a regional area, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of market fluctuations. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly brought an unprecedented surge in property sales and rental prices, particularly in regional areas. This surge has led to a dramatic increase in rents, which I have never seen before, with average prices for a three-bedroom home skyrocketing from \$380 per week to \$600 per week. The shift has displaced longstanding, good tenants and highlighted the stark reality of our current rental market and current housing crisis.

Both the Government and the Opposition have pledged to address this crisis, particularly through reforming rental regulations and ending no-grounds evictions in New South Wales. While this commitment is commendable, we must be cautious. Rising rental costs have put immense pressure on low- and middle-income households, contributing to financial stress. Over 35 percent of renters are now experiencing rental stress and spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent. I am a renter. I have rebuilt my life, so I am now in the rental market. At times it can be filled with a lot of uncertainty. In the past five years, I have moved three times due to my property going on the market and being sold quickly despite being on a fixed-term lease agreement for each of those properties. There are no real assurances for a renter.

While I acknowledge that renters should be able to have stability and security, it is essential that any reform implemented does not add to our housing crisis by further eroding landlord rights regarding their investment property. Strong evidence was presented to the select committee that spoke of the risk of this reform leading to a reduction in the supply of rental properties. Feedback from local stakeholders in my local electorate also reflects these concerns. Mum and dad investors are the majority of investors in rental properties in this State. Giving tenants more and more security can often lead to mum and dad investors placing their properties on the market, creating greater gaps in our rental property market and adding to the housing crisis. It can have a more detrimental impact than we think.

To be clear, I am supportive of banning no-grounds evictions on periodic leases. This is a balanced and reasonable approach. But banning no-grounds evictions in their entirety is a significant change. A fixed-term lease is a contract entered into by a landlord and a tenant that offers security and stability for both parties. The costs associated with moving are enormous with bond, rent in advance and cleaners, removalists and connection fees. In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, we must understand that receiving an eviction notice with no grounds is extremely distressing and unsettling. With mental health issues also at the forefront, we must take that into consideration. The Opposition acknowledges the need for practical solutions to the affordability challenges faced by renters across New South Wales.

Further support for tenants could include the rental bond rollover scheme that has been discussed, extending the termination notice period from 30 to 45 days, or introducing three- and five-year standard agreements to encourage longer leases. This would create better protections for tenants and maintain balance in the rental market. Given that over one million people live in rental properties, this Government must do more to ensure there are no unintended consequences for, or detriment caused to, renters, owners or the rental market when removing no-grounds evictions in their entirety. If this Government will get on with the job, we stand ready to support sensible, balanced action to deliver a package of broader rental reforms that support both tenants and landlords.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:22): I offer The Greens' enthusiastic support for this public interest debate and thank the member for Coogee for bringing the motion before the House. Many years ago, when I was elected to this place and The Greens were advocating for a comprehensive end to no-grounds evictions, the Coogee electorate was a Liberal-held seat. I remember sitting in our office in Newtown identifying the potential to look at the rentals numbers in what was then a marginal seat as a way to try to convince the former Liberal-Nationals Government to move on rental reform, which was one of our key targets. Instead, the then Government failed to move, the electorate of Coogee was delivered a Labor member, and the Liberal-Nationals Coalition was eventually put onto the Opposition benches.

While it has taken over 500 days, according to our latest count, for a comprehensive plan to come from the Minns Labor Government to deliver on its commitment to end no-grounds evictions, and after having called for this reform since 2014, I am pleased that by the end of this year we will see that reform delivered. I acknowledge the commitment of the Minns Labor Government in responding to the lengthy campaign driven by housing experts such as the people at Everybody's Home; Make Renting Fair; the Sydney Alliance, as the member for Parramatta mentioned; the Tenants' Union; and Shelter. These incredible advocates and organisations have been pushing for this reform for many years. Ending no-grounds evictions comprehensively in New South Wales is the most significant and consequential change that we can make to start addressing the cooked rental market in New South Wales and to deliver a level of security and dignity for the one-third of people in New South Wales who rent.

These bans need to be comprehensive because the real estate industry benefits and profits directly from an insecure rental market that churns through tenants. When a business model is based on the idea that money is made from open inspections and doing up new lease agreements, then it is constantly benefitting from an insecure rental market. We must call out those vested interests that are profiting from rental insecurity, and the real estate industry is absolutely one of those. It makes a pretence when it talks about mum and dad investors being the ones who will suffer from a ban. The mum and dad investors are the ones paying huge amounts of money to the real estate industry that profits from a cooked housing market. Often the mum and dad investors have a next generation of young people who cannot afford to live and rent in the same place as them because their children are suffering as result of this rental crisis.

In addition, mums and grandmothers are, sadly, in the largest growing cohort of people who are facing homelessness in this State—older women. We need to break with this idea that rental insecurity is something that just impacts young people and recognise that it impacts across generations. This reform will be significant and groundbreaking. I am so pleased and thrilled that we have been able to work with so many people to deliver on this reform. I seek to amend the amendment moved by the Opposition spokesperson, the member for Willoughby, for those that seek to profit from the housing crisis that we are in. I move:

That all words after "House" be omitted, inserting instead, "supports the third of people in New South Wales that rent and will protect renters' rights by passing comprehensive reform by the end of the year that ensures that no renter is evicted in New South Wales without being provided with a valid reason."

The Greens do not support the attempts by the Opposition to again grandstand on this issue. We hope that this reform is delivered through the House with ease.

Mr Nathan Hagarty: Point of order: I note that the amendment moved by the member for Willoughby makes no mention of no-grounds evictions, whereas the original motion specifically refers to no-grounds evictions. The amendment should be ruled out of order because it is too broad and makes no mention of no-grounds evictions.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Leppington for giving me time to consider the matter. While the amendment does not explicitly contain the words "no-grounds evictions", it does generally relate to fairness and housing issues. Therefore, in accordance with precedent, the amendment is in order. The House will deal with it as it sees fit.

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (17:29): I make a contribution to the public interest debate to support the motion moved by the member for Coogee. These rental reforms are a key part of the efforts of the Minns Labor Government to address the housing crisis and support renters. I address the contribution of the member for Willoughby. He claimed that the Minns Government has not done much about the housing crisis. I do not know what planet he has been on recently. He obviously has not heard of the Transport Oriented Development reform. I heard a lot of opposition from members opposite for exactly those reforms to the planning system to deliver more housing.

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

Mr JASON LI: I also address the contribution of the member for Myall Lakes. I sympathise with being a renter. I was a renter in Strathfield for about a year. I know what it feels like and I know the insecurity that she talked about. There was an interesting contradiction in her contribution. Part of her contribution was her personal

view about the importance of these reforms and of giving security to renters, but the other part seemed to be talking points from her side. The heart of what she was feeling—

Mr Matt Cross: She's the shadow Minister.

Mr JASON LI: That makes it worse. Most leases are six or 12 months in duration. As we all know, the process of moving house and having to uproot your life is one of the five most stressful things that anybody can do. If most leases are six or 12 months, the majority of renters experience the anxiety of having that insecurity hanging over them that every 12 months or every six months they may be evicted on no grounds and have to uproot their lives and join the queue in an undersupplied housing market. These reforms seek to address that. I acknowledge a comment made by the member for Willoughby. He said that this will reduce rental supply. A survey by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute found that 47 per cent of landlords say that tenancy law is completely unimportant in considering whether to sell their investment properties or that tenancy law is the least important reason in their decision whether or not to dispose of their property. In the consultations to the reforms, I note that 30 per cent of landlords and property investors actually support them.

The SPEAKER: The member for Willoughby will come to order. He has had an opportunity to make a contribution.

Mr JASON LI: We have addressed the first reason for these reforms, and they are basic reasons around decency and fairness in the midst of a generational housing crisis. There is also a strong economic reason. As we have heard, between the years of 2016 and 2021, 35,000 young people between the ages of 30 and 40 have deserted New South Wales. The principal reason for that is because of the cost of housing.

Mr Tim James: Since you came to government. That's why they are leaving. The writing is on the wall.

Mr JASON LI: We did not all drop from coconut trees. This housing crisis was a decade in the making. The structural failure to deliver sufficient housing supply for growing populations did not happen overnight. It happened over 12 years of neglect from the government of those opposite. I finish on this point: This proposed legislation strikes the right balance between the rights of renters and the rights of landlords. If a tenant does not pay their rent or causes damage, the landlord only needs to give two weeks notice to terminate their lease. That does not change. If the landlord has a legitimate reason for wanting to terminate the lease, they can still do so. This legislation strikes the right balance between protecting landlords rights and, most importantly, providing security to tenants.

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (17:34): I have looked forward to making this contribution to the public interest debate and supporting the amendment moved by the member for Willoughby. I will start by saying that one in three people in New South Wales are renters. I am passionate about supporting renters. For the full disclosure of the House, my wife and I, Gessika, are renters but we are also aspirational about owning our own home one day. In my first speech in this place, I spoke of Sir Robert Menzies and the forgotten people. He spoke about homes material, homes human and homes spiritual. He also said:

The home is the foundation of sanity and sobriety ... its health determines the health of society as a whole.

I said it then and I will say it again now. The Liberal Party needs to be the party of home owners but also the party of renters. I believe that renters are the forgotten people. I, like many members of this House, have many constituents coming to see me to talk about being evicted and their experience of being renters. Something needs to happen. We need to do everything that we can to support renters and to make sure that renters also become home owners. We know that saving for a first home while being a renter is making things much harder. I welcome all and any debate in reform to help renters. On the day Chris Minns was sworn in as Premier, Leo Patterson Ross, leader of the Tenants' Union of NSW, said:

Each month over 2,300 renting households face a 'no-grounds' eviction, resulting in immediate costs of almost \$9.5 million.

He went on to say that it actually costs \$12 million to the New South Wales economy and "reform to end no-grounds must be acted on and implemented as a priority". The Government had a mandate on this. How long did this priority take the Government? Did it take 30 days? No. Did it take 60 days? No. Did it take 90 days? No. Did it take 120 days? No. It took over 500 days for the New South Wales Labor Government to enact a priority! What has the Government been doing? During this time, I note that *The Sydney Morning Herald* published the headline, "Thousands evicted without grounds as NSW rental reforms 'drag'". The article stated:

A year into the Minns government, tenants can still be lawfully evicted for no reason or have an application refused because they have a pet, with no date in sight for NSW's long-awaited rental reforms.

The article goes on to quote Leo Patterson Ross talking about the situation in New South Wales. He said:

But it is a year since the election, so it is dragging.

The article goes on to state that there have been 28,000 evictions since the election. That is under the New South Wales Labor Government. A couple of weeks ago was the NSW Labor conference. I have no doubt that the Labor Party General Secretary, Dom Offner, probably called the Premier and said, "Premier, we need an announcement for the Labor conference. Focus groups are telling us we're a Seinfeld government. The cupboard of achievements—we've not delivered anything. What can you come up with?" As members know, Seinfeld was a show about nothing. This Government is absolutely about nothing. Finally, Labor members can say in this House, "We don't have legislation yet. We're announcing that we're going to have legislation." Well done.

I note that in my research for this motion I came across a website called connectwithanoulak.com. I had a look at what the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading has on the website about rental reforms. He included a contribution of his in *Hansard*, which is very good and transparent of the Minister. In his contribution to debate on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Eviction) Bill 2024 he said, "The Government will oppose the bill." That was the bill introduced by the member for Newtown. The Labor Party is making The Greens look good. That is how bad it is. Credit to the member for Newtown for introducing legislation that the Government said it was going to introduce, but then did not even support.

As part of its election campaign at the last election, the then Liberal Government proudly put forward a policy relating to reasonable grounds evictions for periodic leases and committed to consult on a list of reasonable grounds with key stakeholders, including landlords. We had that election commitment and, deadset, it would not have taken us over 500 days to introduce a bill in the House. We are still waiting. I look forward to the bill being introduced in this place in September.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:39): In reply: Here we are, kicking off the beginning of the sitting week. I start by acknowledging the contributions of members representing the electorates of Parramatta, Myall Lakes, Newtown, Strathfield, Willoughby and Davidson. The Coalition Opposition is up a creek without a policy. I am a bit confused. The member for Willoughby does not want it—he is a no for ending no-grounds evictions. The member for Myall Lakes says, "Yes, I want it but not so far." The member for Davidson says, "It was not soon enough." That is the New South Wales Opposition. That is its housing policy—there is not one.

Mr Matt Cross: Where is your policy? Where is your bill?

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Here it is. I presented it to you. I am confused. We have "No", "Yes, but it is too far" and "It is not quick enough." Where are we? What is the policy? We do not get it.

Mrs Tanya Thompson: Balanced.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: You want it balanced? So "No", "Balanced" and "Not fast enough"—am I correct?

Ms Jenny Leong: Whatever the real estate wants.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: And also whatever the real estate wants. This is where the Opposition sits today: up a creek without a policy. In less than 18 months, the Government has hit the ground running—unlike those opposite. We have some of the most radical housing reforms, which those opposite also oppose. We have record investment in housing and social housing. Again, this investment will go to the most vulnerable people in our society—50 per cent is earmarked for those who are experiencing domestic violence.

The SPEAKER: The member for Myall Lakes will come to order.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: We are ending no-grounds evictions. I acknowledge what the member for Myall Lakes said. As someone who has spent a huge part of my life in regional New South Wales, I appreciate the complexity—

Mr Matt Cross: Coogee?

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Do you want to start me on this?

The SPEAKER: The member for Coogee will direct her comments through the Chair.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: If the member for Davidson would like to know how to castrate cattle, I am happy to educate him.

The SPEAKER: We will deal with that outside the Chamber.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: But I understand and appreciate where the member for Davidson comes from and the complexity of regional New South Wales. This is why consultation around the bill will be welcome.

Mr Michael Daley: I heard him ask, "How do you do that?"

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: That is not appropriate, Attorney General. The reality is that for 12 years the Government just sat around, which is the root cause of the problem. Those opposite did not build housing. They got rid of social housing. They have done nothing to support renters, and since 2016 we have seen the number of renters increase.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Coogee. I apologise to Hansard. I will read with interest the member's closing remarks regarding animal husbandry.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:42): I acknowledge the Attorney General's comments. There are no cattle in Newtown, but once some bulls ran down King Street. That is a story for another time.

I seek leave to withdraw The Greens amendment. After hearing the contribution from the member for Coogee, we are convinced by the Government's argument in the original motion.

Leave granted.

Amendment withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: The member for Coogee has moved a motion, to which the member for Willoughby has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes34
Noes52
Majority.....18

AYES

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

James, T
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Moylan, B
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D
Singh, G

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

NOES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, L
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T
Finn, J
Greenwich, A

Hagarty, N (teller)
Hannan, J
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Kaliyanda, C
Kamper, S
Kirby, W
Leong, J
Li, J
McGirr, J
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
Minns, C
O'Neill, M

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

PAIRS

Ayyad, T
Perrottet, D

McDermott, H
Hornery, S

Amendment negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Community Recognition Statements***EVA WOLINSKI**

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (17:52): I take this opportunity to recognise the wonderful contribution of my first work experience student, Eva Wolinski of Ulladulla High School. Eva is currently in year 10 and personally reached out to express her interest in politics and a desire to gain a better understanding of the life of a member of Parliament. I am not entirely sure there is a shallow end in the workings of an electorate office, but Eva took to it like a duck to water and dove straight into the deep end and made valuable contributions in her brief time with me. Eva joined me visiting several local community groups and activities, attended meetings and took photos. Eva provided a fresh perspective, including teaching my team some timesaving tricks with our technology. I hope Eva considers a career in public service or politics and that the insights she gained spending the week with me inspired her. I wish Eva well in her studies as she completes high school and I am sure her future will be bright.

PSSA PRIMARY FOOTBALL (SOCCER) LIVERPOOL TEAM

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (17:53): I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Liverpool Girls soccer team, who recently showcased their remarkable talent at the zone championship for Primary Schools Sports Association Girls Football (Soccer). The team advanced to the final match undefeated, displaying skill, unity and sportsmanship throughout the competition, and finished as runners-up after a hard-fought match. The players—Sophia Eagle, Kiara Senior-Mcglinchy, Lara Connell, Layla Dewhirst, Amilia Sbrinowski, Sophia Harradine, Elliyah Nassif, Valentina Miletic, Jessie-Jax Kysil, Layla Issa and Emily Vidler—exhibited outstanding teamwork and a spirit of perseverance. They are the next generation of soccer superstars, setting a high standard for themselves and their peers. Their achievements have inspired young athletes across our community to pursue their dreams with the same vigour and commitment. Keep striving for excellence. I congratulate them.

EVIE MCGRATH

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (17:54): I congratulate Evie McGrath from the Stingrays Rugby League Football Club Shellharbour, who has signed a development contract with the Wests Tigers 2024 NRLW squad, on her wonderful achievements. Evie has had an incredibly successful 2024, being a part of the Illawarra Steelers Tarsha Gale Cup premiership winning team, representing the New South Wales country under-19s and starring in the New South Wales under-19s team that defeated Queensland 46 to 4 at Leichhardt Oval on 20 June 2024. On behalf of the whole of the Shellharbour community, I congratulate Evie and wish her well with Wests Tigers. Go the Tigers!

STEVEN CHIDDY

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (17:55): Today I thank and congratulate retiring senior firefighter Steven Chiddy on over 40 years of service to Fire and Rescue NSW. Steve joined the then NSW Fire Brigade in 1983. He worked in stations across Sydney, including over 20 years at Dee Why. Steve worked at many major incidents, including residential and commercial property fires; storm and flood incidents, including the 1999 Sydney hailstorm; and all major bushfires to have hit New South Wales over the past 40 years, including the tragic fires of 2019-20. Steve is also a recipient of the National Medal, the Fire and Rescue NSW Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and several certificates and commendations for service. His last day was at Dee Why station on 10 July, a 24-hour shift that included a house fire and a powerline down, and visits—thank goodness—from his family and senior officers. Steve's retirement plans include travelling Australia with his wife, Cindy, in his new camper and spending precious time with his family. Enjoy retirement, Steve.

FAIRFIELD BULLS FOOTBALL CLUB

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (17:56): The Fairfield Bulls Football Club is one of the significant sporting organisations of Fairfield City, uniting people through a common cause of having fun and looking after each other. Founded in 1971 by Assyrian migrants, the Fairfield Bulls Football Club has provided thousands of people from different ethnic backgrounds with an outlet for physical activity and social connection. Beyond the

players, the club has strengthened ties between members of the community, bringing in thousands of spectators to support their local football team. I commend all the coaches, players, volunteers and families of the club. Special mention also goes to its life members: Ben Daoud, Mirza Joseph, Sargon Makko, Emmanuel Kanna, George Yalda, Michael Mammo, Hormis Touma, Admon Chino, Eddie Simon, Ashur Harmis and Nick Elisha. I thank them for truly making a difference.

CONNOR BEISLER

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:57): At a time of the Olympic Games, I have come to report a gold medal from Dungog. I congratulate Dungog's Connor Beisler on securing the gold medal for best apprentice baker at this year's Baking Association of Australia awards. Connor won the national title in June at the Moonee Valley Racing Club in Melbourne. The 19-year-old from Barrington Bakery, Dungog, is continuing a family tradition in more ways than one. Connor is a third-generation baker and has followed brothers Tristan and Kye into the competitive kitchen. As part of his award, the Dungog teenager also receives a scholarship allowing him to visit an artisan bakery and farm to expand his studies of bread. After spending some time at his grandfather's hot bread shop, his desire to leave school eventually sealed the deal for early-morning starts along with other family members in the bakery. I wish Connor all the best.

TRIBUTE TO PETER BRENNAN

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (17:58): I pay tribute to a valued member of our community and the Australian Labor Party, Peter Brennan, who passed away on 23 March. Born in the United Kingdom, Peter was a mechanical fitter and a British Army veteran who served in West Germany. He later moved to South Africa with his wife, Rosemary, and their two sons, working for several companies during apartheid and advocating for the fair treatment of non-white South Africans. In 1986 he immigrated to Sydney, Australia, where he worked for Visy paper and UGL Rail Services, where he contributed significantly to the maintenance and safety of Sydney's trains. Known for his versatility and calmness under pressure, Peter notably managed a major gas leak incident at the Auburn rail facility. An active union delegate and later treasurer for the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, as well as a dedicated member of the Labor Party, Peter was a respected figure in our community. He will always be remembered as a migrant success story who made meaningful contributions to his workplace, the labour movement and the south-western Sydney community.

PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (17:59): I congratulate our local eastern suburbs Olympians who are currently representing Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympics: Rohan Browning in athletics, Bronte Campbell in swimming, Noah Havard in the canoe, Grae Morris in foil windsurfing and Olivia Price in sailing. Getting selected for the Olympics is an incredible achievement. It is a testament to their skill, discipline and determination that they have been able to make this team. I wish them all luck in their events. I know many of them have already medalled. Our community, State and country are so proud of them. Go the Aussies!

LIVERPOOL NAIDOC WEEK

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (18:00): As we continue the important work of reconciliation, occasions like NAIDOC Week are an important opportunity to highlight the relationships that make our communities strong and resilient. This year the Liverpool Rangers Soccer Club collaborated with Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council to design a special jersey for the NAIDOC round. Designed by Gandangara members and proud Rangers parent Tanya Dennis-Ikhinmwin, the jersey tells the story of the club and the local area. I had the privilege of attending the smoking ceremony to kick off proceedings at Ireland Park. It was fantastic to see so many don the jersey and celebrate this year's NAIDOC theme, "Keep the fire burning". I congratulate club president Matt McMahan and treasurer Adam Geary for their continuing commitment to making the Rangers a hub of equality and inclusivity in Liverpool. A special mention to Ruby Hughes for being one of the youngest and most enthusiastic participants. I look forward to seeing this brilliant initiative evolve in years to come.

TAMWORTH SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:01): Yaama. I congratulate three outstanding First Nations women in my electorate who were recently recognised as NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award winners. Aunty Pearl, Aunty Audrey, and Aunty Marj are incredibly dedicated, hardworking Elders in the Tamworth Aboriginal community. They have fostered the wellbeing of their community for decades. The aunts are well respected in the local community as strong voices and caring matriarchs with a particular focus on health. Their work as committee members of the Gomeroi Gaaynggal program has been incredibly important to Indigenous health in Tamworth. The program supports health and wellbeing outcomes for Indigenous women and babies, and has no doubt improved outcomes in an incredibly important area. I sincerely thank Aunty Pearl, Aunty Audrey and Aunty Marj for their efforts and congratulate them on their award.

LOCHINVAR ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (18:02): Last weekend I was honoured to join Lochinvar Rovers Football Club for a gala dinner in celebration of their fiftieth anniversary. Lochinvar Rovers was started by local police officer John McLauchlan and his wife, Judy, along with Albert and Wendy Doel. It has grown from a one-team club to one with 535 registered players. Over the past 10 years I have worked with the club to secure grant funding to improve the grounds and amenities for players and the broader community. I am informed that they have secured around \$1 million in that time. Saturday's gala dinner was hosted by former Scottish football player and Newcastle Jets and Central Coast Mariners manager, Laurie McKenna, along with special guest speaker Paul Wade, a former Socceroos captain. Paul's suitcase of international jerseys took us on the journey of his footballing career, which enthralled the crowd. Congratulations to newly awarded life members Jamie Little, Terry Miller, Lisa Duhig and Daniel Cherry. They join Anne Peters, Wayne and Judy Goodwin, Glenn Maher, Ted Stocks, John and Daphne Bush, Helen Brooker and Edie Hunt as life members. Three original players including Glenn Maher, Stephen Kauter and Christopher Peters were also there on Saturday night. Congratulations and all the best for the next 50 years.

KIAMA BLOWHOLE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (18:03): Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the largest blowhole in the world, the Kiama Blowhole. As Visit NSW describes it, "Every so often, nature likes to show off." The Kiama Blowhole is the perfect place to see it, with plumes of water reaching heights of over 30 metres. The name Kiama comes from the Wodi Wodi Indigenous name Kiarama, which means "where the sea makes a noise"—and it certainly does, with nearly one million visitors coming to this place each year to hear it. Now ranked on Australian Traveller's top wonders list, members might not be surprised that I have heard calls from the community for a permanent camera to capture the magic spot and share the wonder with the world, virtually. The blowhole is but one of the many incredible things about our community. We are thrilled to celebrate the recognition of this incredible natural wonder that draws visitors from right around the State, the nation and the world.

CAMDEN RED CROSS

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (18:04): Today I recognise the dedication and service of the Camden Red Cross, which celebrated its 110th anniversary of the group's formation. In August 1914 the Camden Red Cross was founded in response to the outbreak of World War I. Camden rallied together, holding sewing circles and spinning yarns, which the members would then knit to make socks. Each pair took eight hours to make, and Camden sent 476 pairs to the Western Front, providing much-needed comfort to Australian troops on the front line. This was even recognised recently in a Heritage NSW blue plaque. Today the group's seven members are still knitting. Run by long-serving member Judy Wilson, the Camden Red Cross has survived to become one of the oldest still-functioning Red Cross branches in the country. Under the coordination of Vicki Katon, volunteers in the Camden area knit trauma teddies for sick kids and adults in hospitals. When they are not knitting, the group is working towards supporting the community in whatever other means they can. At the anniversary we celebrated the service of the members, including Judy Head, who commemorated 56 years of service.

TOUR DE WILLOUGHBY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (18:05): As a strong supporter of active transport in my community, I was delighted to have participated recently in what we have come to know as the Tour de Willoughby on 3 July. An initiative of Bike North, this local ride gave me and others a firsthand experience of the issues, advances, challenges and opportunities for bike riders across Willoughby. I particularly thank Bike North president Phil Hart, advocacy coordinator David Thomson, and members Steph, John, Roger and Andrew for a terrific ride throughout the streets of Willoughby. Bike North is an impressive community group with over 500 members, which organises more than 40 rides each month and advocates for cyclists in northern Sydney and beyond. Thanks to the advocacy of Bike North and others, I am so pleased that a new two-way separated cycleway between Chatswood and St Leonards via Artarmon will be built after \$6 million in State funding was secured recently. The route will extend from the Frank Channon Walk shared path in Chatswood, through the Artarmon centre via Hampden Road, and on to St Leonards via Herbert Street. I thank Bike North for our Tour de Willoughby and for its continued advocacy for active transport.

BNI INCLUSIVE BUSINESS NETWORKING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:06): I had the privilege of joining the BNI Inclusive Business Networking Event for a breakfast meeting. I was thrilled by the fast-paced nature and the deep personal connection that was provided within this excellent business framework. Exceptional businesses from across the Central Coast work in a speed-dial manner to deliver their pitch and share their capabilities with other businesses to promote

opportunities and referrals. I sat next to Ed from Lux Coastal Electrical. We all heard from Anthony at Hinton Plumbing, a deaf plumber who is well known for running exceptional services across the coast. For businesses looking to connect with and gain referrals, I highly recommend the BNI network. This chapter delivered over \$1 million in referrals in the last month. Members support each other and send business referrals to other members. It was fabulous to hear the testimonials. A shout-out goes to Rachel from SalesSPACE for the sales training she delivered to members. It sounded very promising and well worth the investment. For those who are interested in making business connections and amplifying business on the Central Coast, I highly recommend BNI. Congratulations to all involved.

LE TOUR DE TAREE

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (18:07): I congratulate the Club Taree Community Team on their successful Le Tour de Taree fundraiser, raising \$191,013 over three weeks for Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern NSW. This year's fundraising officially ended with a sold-out tenth anniversary Le Tour de Taree black tie gala, which saw 300 people attend. The gala was headlined and emceed by Australian stage royalty Rhonda Burchmore, OAM, with additional entertainment provided by Australian tenor Mark Vincent. Ronald McDonald also made a special appearance. Over the past 10 years, the Club Taree Community Team has raised an incredible \$597,205 for Ronald McDonald House. I congratulate CEO Paul Allan and Club Taree for their efforts in raising much-needed funds and for organising Taree's largest fundraising event.

GEORGE GREISS

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:08): I acknowledge the contribution of my local mayor, Councillor George Greiss, who was elected to Campbelltown council in 2008 but is not running for the next election. George is on the opposite side of politics to me as a Liberal mayor, but I put that aside because of the contributions he has made for some time. He has completed his PhD in urban planning and has contributed so much during his time as mayor, all while taking a non-partisan approach. I particularly acknowledge his position as the first mayor in metropolitan Sydney to support the Government's position on housing. He has done so many other things too, particularly post-COVID in bringing the Campbelltown community back together, whilst also mopping up the mess that was left behind in certain projects. He has done a fantastic job. I thank George for this contribution to the people of Campbelltown. I know the community appreciates everything he did. I thank George and wish him all the best for the future.

ALISON MEEK

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (18:09): Nursing is a calling like few others, and few have done more for their patients and colleagues than clinical nurse specialist Alison Meek, who has retired after 45 years of service. Beginning hospital-based training at the age of 17, Alison became a treasured staff member at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. She has helped to save countless lives and served as a mentor to new nurses, graduates and other staff members. She was a pillar of strength in the intense environment of the operating theatre. My wife and I are proud to be among the many lifelong friends she has among her colleagues in a job she describes as a pleasure and a privilege. After decades of shiftwork, being on call and making a profound difference, Alison is enjoying a well-earned break and plans to travel with her husband, Mark. She hopes to do some charity work and may return to nursing in a casual capacity. I know that her return to the health sector would be more than welcome, but for now I thank Alison for all she has done and give her my best wishes for a fantastic retirement. Her friendship and contribution to our community have been enormous.

MIDJUBURI YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (18:10): The fabulous team at the Midjuburi Youth Resource Centre [MYRC] held a NAIDOC Week event last month, a beautiful and empowering event in which culture, art, food, stories and more were shared. It was a privilege to be there. The MYRC has been a vital part of our community since 1985. Located on Gadigal and Wangal lands, the centre works hard to provide a safe place for young people between the ages of 12 and 24 living in the inner west. The centre offers free services like financial/legal assistance and addiction recovery services, providing a safe space for young people to embark on creative community-based endeavours. The MYRC prides itself on being an accessible, culturally safe and welcoming space for all young people to come and be themselves, have their voices heard and form connections with others and their community. I express my gratitude and support to the centre's CEO, Louise Hammond, and the entire team behind the Midjuburi Youth Resource Centre for supporting young people in our community.

GLENWOOD REDBACKS SOCCER CLUB

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (18:11): I recognise one of the many fantastic sporting organisations of the Winston Hills electorate, the Glenwood Redbacks Soccer Club. The Redbacks are a local club in Glenwood, with over 800 players across 65 teams. The Redbacks have had a terrific season in 2024, in

both the male and female competitions, with many outstanding players and a number of teams on track for success in the finals. Alongside the success of the Redbacks on the soccer pitch, the club is a great reflection of the wonderful Glenwood community. I thank the committee of the club for its efforts in keeping the Glenwood Redbacks thriving. I note the committee members, including the president, Craig Pickett, the vice-president, Mark Thompson, the secretary, Donna Inns, and the treasurer, Harry Inns. I acknowledge the countless volunteers, coaches and managers who have contributed to the success of the Redbacks. Well done. I congratulate all the players who have proudly represented the Redbacks this year.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE SEETO

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (18:12): With great sadness last month we farewelled Lawrence Seeto. Lawrence lived a life of charity and service, be it volunteering with Rotary to help eradicate malaria, raising funds for Westmead Hospital or serving as president of the Strathfield School for Seniors, a special place where Lawrence thrived all the way until his passing. Alongside his sons Bernard and Gerard, Lawrence is survived by his wife, Anastasia. Together they exemplify a true success story of modern Australia. After they became Australian citizens in 1969, after leaving Fiji, Anastasia was the first Crown prosecutor of Chinese heritage. Together they volunteered for many varied charitable community organisations. Vale, Lawrence. I thank him for his selflessness, his endless positive energy and his warmth and love for others.

WILLIAM "BILL" WARBURTON

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:13): I acknowledge William "Bill" Warburton, a 91-year-old Vietnam naval veteran, for his outstanding efforts of extraordinary dedication and service to the Rand community. This cracking community of just 575 people had a football event this weekend. Hundreds of people were there. This year on Anzac Day, Bill single-handedly organised and led the dawn service, attended by 27 people, and the town's 11.00 a.m. march and service, which saw over 100 attendees. Despite his community not having an RSL branch, Bill's determination and Anzac spirit shone through in his efforts to mark this important day for all returned service men and women, coupled with the incredible support from the Principal of Rand Public School, Angela Stanton. Rand Public School has 30 students enrolled, of whom 28 participated in the Anzac Day events, including the year 6 leaders. I thank Bill and his supporters for continuing the Rand community's proud Anzac Day traditions and upholding the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I would also like to acknowledge Bill's contributions to his community.

TRIBUTE TO GINO MUSICO

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (18:14): With a heavy heart, I recognise the passing of my lifelong friend and Riverstone local Gino Musico, who passed away, surrounded by his family, this morning. I shared childhood adventures with Gino, who loved to catch up, share a joke and tell a story of our youth. He was blown away by the growth in our playground of Schofields. Known for his passion for cars and guitars, Gino will be fondly remembered for his cheeky sense of humour and his love of family and community. His vibrant spirit and genuine warmth touched the lives of many, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, Leanne, his kids, his mother and his brothers, Paul and Valentino. The world is a little sadder today for their loss. Nobody could do a burnout around the cenotaph quite like him. He will never be forgotten. Vale, Gino Musico.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL LOCAL CELEBRATION AWARDS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (18:15): I congratulate and thank the Badgerys Creek residents who were recognised for their achievements at the 2024 Penrith City Council Local Celebration Awards evening. Julie Parsons was named a Mayor's Local Hero in honour of her extraordinary service to our community despite facing significant challenges throughout her life. Julie has served as a volunteer at Community Junction Learning Lounge, assisting local kids with their homework. She now volunteers at Blackwell Public School, tutoring kids in literacy and numeracy. She also presides over the Parents and Citizens Association. Jack Conroy was named Young Citizen of the Year in honour of his extraordinary sporting, academic and community achievements, which includes representing New South Wales at athletics and cross-country championships and winning numerous medals in the process. He volunteers at the Daily Break cafe in Glenmore Park and at the Anglicare retirement village in Oran Park, despite living with an intellectual disability, autism and cerebral palsy. Well done. I thank Julie and Jack for going above and beyond to serve our community.

SAYA SAKAKIBARA

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (18:16): On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I congratulate Helensburgh local Saya Sakakibara on winning a landmark Olympic gold medal in the women's BMX racing,

Australia's first in the history of the event. Saya's journey to win this medal has not been without its obstacles. We watched in horror as she was taken away on a stretcher following a crash at the 2020 Tokyo games. After getting back on the bike and training for the 2024 Olympics, she was again met with another setback, contracting COVID-19 before she was due to race. Saya was watched by her family, including her brother, Kai, who suffered a life-changing brain injury after a crash in a World Cup race in Bathurst in 2020, as she delivered the race of her life in the final to become the first Australian BMX racer to win Olympic gold. Saya performed brilliantly throughout her Olympic performance, winning all three of her quarterfinal heats and all three of Saturday's semifinal races and producing the two fastest times in qualifying in the final. I congratulate Saya. The whole local community and nation are so proud of her achievement.

CASTLE HILL PLAYERS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (18:17): I inform members about the most recent Castle Hill Players production, *Mrs Warren's Profession*. The players have been producing wonderful theatre for the last 70 years. The most recent production is a play by George Bernard Shaw, which was written in 1893 and eventually debuted in 1902. The players were terrific, and it was clear that they spent many hours learning lines for the roles. I recognise the cast members for wonderful performances. I recognise Paula Searle, who played Mrs Kitty Warren; Daisy Alexis, who played Vivie Warren; Dave Went, who played Praed; Christopher Clerk, who played Sir George Crofts; Jem Rowe, who played Frank Gardiner; and Jeremy Johnson, who played Reverend Samuel Gardner. Lastly I recognise and commend Steve Rowe on his first time as director. Steve and the entire cast ensured that George Bernard Shaw's words were brought to life on our stage. I am sure that Steve will direct many more wonderful plays for the Castle Hill Players.

KENT HOTEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:18): I congratulate the Kent Hotel on celebrating its 100th anniversary in July. In the heart of Beaumont Street, the Kent Hotel has seen a century of unforgettable stories. The iconic venue underwent major renovations in the lead up to its month-long anniversary celebrations, with four weekends of DJs, bands and live entertainment. The renovations focused on revitalising the Kent's historic Art Deco design and architecture in the main bar and unveiled the new verandah bar, with 12 beer taps. The renovation has given one of Newcastle's most famous balconies a fresh new look. The balcony was built in the aftermath of Newcastle's 1989 earthquake, when the Kent's awning and walls were destroyed. The damage at the Kent is now one of the most iconic images in Newcastle history. The Kent is celebrating more than just an anniversary; it is a celebration of 100 years of community, music and memories. Here's to another 100 years.

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE OLYMPIANS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (18:19): The 2024 Paris Olympic Games are now on. They are a great opportunity to cheer on our Aussie athletes. The games represent so much more than gold, silver or bronze; they represent blood, sweat and tears. Countless hours of preparation are now being put to the test by our Olympians. We are so proud of all of our Aussie athletes. In my local community we have three Olympians: Mackenzie Little, who is competing in athletics in the women's javelin throw; Tara Rigney, who is competing in the rowing in the women's single sculls; and William Yang, who is competing in swimming in the men's 100 metres freestyle. The Davidson electorate is so proud of our athletes and is cheering them on. As at day 11, Mackenzie is about to compete in javelin; Tara finished fourth in her finals race in the women's single sculls; and William finished with a silver medal as a member of the men's 100 metre freestyle relay team. That is a sensational effort. Finally, I hope the Olympics will bring all of humanity together across the globe. As the Olympic Charter states, the Olympic symbol represents the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from across the world.

ST JOHNS PARK BOWLING CLUB

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (18:20): From sponsorship and advocacy to promoting lawn bowls and nurturing future players, St Johns Park Bowling Club has been a key supporter and driving force in advancing the sport at both the local and State levels. On 17 July 2024 I had the privilege of visiting the club and welcoming the players to the test series between New South Wales and Queensland. It was a delightful experience, and I met many passionate players and several Australian champions affiliated with St Johns Park Bowling Club. The club's commitment to fostering Australian lawn bowls through tangible actions is highly commendable. Notable examples include its continuous enhancement of its facilities, dedication to high-quality coaching and innovative employment program, which allows enthusiasts to pursue their career paths with peace of mind. I thank treasurer George Humphries and group CEO Mr David Marsh for their kind invitation and hospitality.

MAKALA KRICKAK

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:21): I congratulate my constituent Makala Krickak, a year 12 student at The Entrance Campus of Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, who has been recognised for her academic

excellence at this year's Public Education Awards. Makala has consistently achieved excellence in both her education journey and day-to-day life. A talented sportswoman, her commitment and achievements in numerous school and community sports is exceptional. While managing to play elite water polo and achieve outstanding academic results as dux of her cohort for the past four years, Makala has also found time to give back to her school and community through coaching, officiating, refereeing, mentoring and helping others. Makala has always been actively involved in leadership both at school and in the pool. She is an outstanding role model who upholds the values of fairness, respect and responsibility. I am sure that the House will join me in congratulating Makala on her outstanding achievement of academic excellence. I wish her the very best with a bright future ahead.

Private Members' Statements

STATE LABOR CONFERENCE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:22): Over the last weekend in July, my fellow Labor Party members and I met at the NSW Labor Conference. It was a fruitful weekend with some great outcomes for the people of Newcastle and New South Wales. Over the weekend, a number of big announcements were made. Firstly, the Minns Labor Government will live up to its election commitment and put an end to no-grounds evictions. The suite of reforms, set to be introduced next month, will legislate that home owners must have reasonable grounds to end a tenancy. Some examples of reasonable grounds include the sale of the property, significant repairs and renovations to the property, the owner looking to use the home as their own residence, or where the renter has breached the lease or damaged the property.

This is a huge step towards fixing the New South Wales housing crisis and protecting renters' rights. It gives tenants a greater sense of security in their housing, knowing that their landlords cannot kick them out just so they can raise the rent. While this reform empowers and protects renters, it does not limit the rights of landlords, who can still evict tenants who damage property and breach lease conditions or as their circumstances change. The package will also increase the termination notice period from 30 days to 60 days for leases under six months, and 90 days for leases longer than six months. I am looking forward to debating this issue and representing the renters of Newcastle when the legislation is introduced to the House.

Secondly, the Minns Labor Government will invest more than \$250 million to fund 1,300 apprenticeships at local councils across the State. That will create approximately 10 new apprentices at each local council. These apprenticeships will cover a range of in-demand trades, including electricians, plumbers, engineers, civil construction workers, mechanics and many others. The benefits of this program are endless. It directly combats our skills shortage and gets the ball moving on projects and developments. It safeguards the future of our currently ageing workforce and offers great career opportunities to young people in local communities, particularly in regional areas. It addresses and seeks to put an end to the outsourcing of council works. This is a great outcome for Newcastle and all of New South Wales.

Thirdly, the Minns Labor Government will introduce legislation to protect the rights of gig workers. Food delivery drivers, rideshare drivers and truckies currently have no minimum pay and no minimum work conditions and their labour is abused. The legislation the Government will introduce will establish a minimum rate of pay and regulate and ensure gig workers have appropriate working conditions. It will give the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales the power to mediate and arbitrate disputes between workers and their employment platforms. Over the past few years there has been a huge increase in the number of gig workers and these protections are long overdue. Food delivery and rideshares have become part of our daily lives. Sometimes we forget that not even a decade ago that was not the case. It is time to get with the program and update our legislation. I have had many conversations with rideshare drivers around Newcastle about their conditions and their pay, and I know this legislation will be well received by them. New South Wales is known for being a great place to work with good conditions, but the gig economy sector has been letting the team down. We are putting an end to that, and it is about time.

While those were the three big-ticket items announced at the conference, there were some other big wins for Newcastle and New South Wales. We passed a motion to call on the Australian Government to recognise Palestine as a sovereign and independent state as a priority. This issue is very important to my constituency. We will pursue an inquiry into women's pain and endometriosis and commit to ensuring accessible abortions and long-acting contraception. We have committed to holding an evidence-based drug summit and treating addiction as a health issue. That is to name just a few achievements. This Labor Government leads for everyone in Newcastle and everyone in New South Wales. We know there is much more to do to fix the 12 years of neglect by the former Government, but that is a challenge that I look forward to, that my colleagues look forward to, and that all Labor supporters look forward to.

ROYAL NATIONAL PARK TOURISM

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (18:27): Perched on the southern shore of the Port Hacking River and surrounded by the heritage listed Royal National Park sits Bundeena. Further west on the glittering Port Hacking River sits the village of Maianbar. Pretty beaches, stunning coastal vistas and peaceful bushland meet in these villages. Just more than 2,500 residents live in these communities. In the summer, the number of people in the area swells by the thousands, with the Royal National Park hosting more than five million visitors each year who make use of the amenities in Bundeena and Maianbar, including the four picturesque beaches of Bonnie Vale, Horderns, Gunyah and Jibbon. Residents and visitors alike enjoy swimming, kayaking and launching their boats and private watercrafts from the Bonnie Vale boat ramp. However, what comes with this idyllic tourist destination is congestion in the summer, with competition for launching boats and private watercraft at Bonnie Vale, and people flocking to the beaches. This mix of boats, PWCs and swimmers could be a recipe for disaster.

Residents of Bundeena and Maianbar have raised with me the poor behaviour from the users of PWCs, better known as jet skis. This includes veering too close to swimmers, speeding and engaging in other antisocial behaviour. This community consultation has led me to start a petition calling on Transport for NSW to work with the community to address antisocial jet ski behaviour on the Hacking, particularly at Bonnie Vale beach. Bonnie Vale is a well-frequented beach in the community that has a fragile dune system and endangered Posidonia seagrass beds. Port Hacking River, where Bonnie Vale is situated, is a designated restriction zone. In restriction zones PWCs must not be used for "irregular driving" within 200 metres of a riverbank or shore. This means they must be operated generally in a straight line within 200 metres of the shoreline. They must keep a minimum distance of 60 metres from people in the water. In 2017 the Office of Environment and Heritage released a discussion paper examining future directions for the use of jet skis off Bonnie Vale. This paper identified the need for:

- phasing out the launching of power boats or jet skis from Bonnie Vale day use area. This will improve safety for the large numbers of swimmers and beach users, protect the fragile dune system and improve pedestrian safety in the carpark

Preceding this paper, in 2015 then Liberal-Nationals Government Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, Duncan Gay, committed to address jet ski usage on the Hacking, including extending exclusion zones and dedicating more policing resources to patrol. However, as is to be expected from the Coalition, no meaningful change was enacted.

The 2022 Centre for Maritime Safety report entitled *Boating Incidents in NSW* highlighted how jet skis are over-represented in serious injuries. Over the 10-year period to 30 June 2022, jet skis were involved in 16.6 per cent of the recreational serious injury incidents recorded but accounted for an average of around 5.8 per cent of registered recreational vessels. Some 35.9 per cent of these incidents occurred within Botany Bay and Port Hacking. A 2022 paper in the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management* outlined how the anchoring of jet skis and the disturbance of sediment by their engines has a negative impact on Posidonia seagrass beds, aquatic life and bird life, resulting in the scarring and death of seagrass beds, marine organisms and bird life.

It is evident that we need both short-term and long-term solutions for the management of jet skis at Bonnie Vale and in Port Hacking. I am part of a government that listens to its community and I hear the people loudly: They want action on jet ski usage. Signatories to my petition have reaffirmed this. I am committed to taking a consultative approach on jet ski management with all stakeholders: jet ski users, residents, Transport for NSW and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

PERIOD POVERTY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:32): Tonight I speak about a pressing and sadly often overlooked issue. According to organisations such as Share the Dignity, 22 per cent of Australian women have experienced or will experience period poverty. This means that 22 per cent of Australian women today lack access to or are unable to afford essential sanitary and menstrual hygiene products. This issue is particularly acute among marginalised communities, including those experiencing homelessness or fleeing family and domestic violence. We have all heard horror stories of those who have had to clean themselves in public toilets or use paper towels or pieces of clothing as makeshift pads. This should never be okay. We also know that the current cost-of-living crisis gripping Australia and financial pressures on household budgets are making some women choose between various essential items. In 2024 period products should not be considered luxury items; they are absolute necessities.

According to a report by Plan International Australia entitled *A Tough Period*, almost six in 10 gen Z and millennial women are finding it more challenging to pay for menstrual health products than they were before the current cost-of-living crisis. More than half of gen Z and millennial women are finding it more challenging to pay for menstrual pain management medication and treatment than before the current cost-of-living crisis. When asked

in which ways difficulties paying for menstrual health products and/or menstrual pain management medication are having an impact on other areas of their life, the main impact was on mental health and wellbeing.

Period poverty is an area where more can always be done. Organisations such as Share the Dignity are doing a fantastic job, but the New South Wales Government and governments across Australia can always do more. I was proud that in early 2023 the previous Liberal-Nationals Government introduced free menstrual hygiene products for all New South Wales students in public schools. However, we can also look to other jurisdictions to see where we can improve and what we can do better. The Australian Capital Territory was the first jurisdiction in Australia to provide free menstrual products in public places, with a staggered rollout across schools, tertiary education institutions, TAFE providers, hospitals and community centres. Similarly, Victoria committed to and provided free pads and tampons in vending machines located in 700 public places across the State, including public hospitals, TAFEs, courthouses, libraries, staffed train stations and major cultural institutions such as the Melbourne Museum and the National Gallery of Victoria. Similar legislation has been introduced in Scotland, New Zealand, and several states across the United States.

Earlier this year Share the Dignity hosted the Big Bloody Survey 2024 to monitor the changing attitudes to and experiences of periods in Australia. I am sure many members participated. It is the single biggest body of data in the world that captures valuable information and insights into the experiences of people with periods. Share the Dignity has now handed down its report and key findings. With 156,620 respondents, it paints a clear picture of period poverty in Australia. For example, 83 per cent of Indigenous Australians have found it challenging to afford period products. Some 78 per cent of people with a disability found it challenging to buy period products.

Children can get their periods as young as eight years old, but might not be educated about them at school until they are 10. Domestic and family violence, homelessness and unemployment escalate the problem of period poverty. Some 83 per cent of our gender-diverse participants found it challenging to buy period products. In New South Wales alone, 63 per cent of respondents found it challenging to buy period products. The total dollar figure attributed to missed workdays due to periods is extraordinary, at \$9.6 billion per year, clearly showing more work is needed.

I acknowledge the incredible work of the team at Share the Dignity, particularly founder and CEO Rochelle Courtenay. Currently its August Dignity Drive is taking place, in which I know many members in this place participate. While it is hard for people in all communities at the moment, I encourage them to donate wherever they can. We have a long way to go in addressing period poverty, providing adequate education and ensuring that no-one must choose between purchasing period products or other equally essential items just to get by. I want to see this House do more on this issue, regardless of whether we are facing a cost-of-living crisis. I urge members to take real action to address period poverty in New South Wales.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:37): The shift to renewable energy is a journey that can sometimes cause debate, conflict and disagreement. Across New South Wales we are hearing stories of major multinational renewable energy developers clashing with communities whose members feel like their very way of life is under threat. However, the story is very different in Manilla, a small town in my electorate. Back in 2013 a group of like-minded Manilla locals formed a group called Manilla Community Renewable Energy [MCRE]. The project is a solar farm, and the group is totally focused on a community model of renewable energy for the benefit of the local community.

The group was inspired by projects like the Hepburn wind farm in Victoria, Australia's first community-owned wind farm, and similar projects that were commonplace in Europe. The aim of Manilla Community Renewable Energy was to explore the opportunities renewable energy could provide Manilla, particularly if it was community owned and residents had genuine buy-in to the project. MCRE has been raising awareness of the project and looking to raise funds, getting the necessary grassroots support it needs to make this project a reality. Events such as "100 Mile Dinners" were held under the iconic Manilla viaduct and the Renewable Manilla festival has become a regular part of the Manilla calendar.

Meanwhile, work has been underway behind the scenes to progress the project. In 2020, I was pleased to join the group at the Manilla Show to announce \$3.5 million in government funding to support the continuation of the project. It was great to meet recently with MCRE president Emma Stilts for an update on the project. Work is continuing and the goal continues to be 100 per cent community ownership, with the benefits designed to stay within the Manilla community. That would ensure community buy-in and ensure the project is welcomed by the local community. Community buy-in is not a radical idea. It should always be the goal.

Ultimately, the project will cost \$15 million, but the idea is to spread the load among those in the local community. Ultimately, if successful, the aim will be to provide cheaper electricity for the local community, but

it will also mean a return on investment for those who buy in to the project. Eighty-two shareholders have already made commitments to the project, representing strong interest from the local community, but they need more. They need more investors to realise the dream of 100 per cent community ownership, ensuring that the wealth created from the project that will be developed on a site just outside of Manilla is kept in Manilla and not shipped off to Sydney or overseas. The solar farm project could transform the transition to renewable energy to a model that is welcomed, not opposed, by regional communities. It is a great example of how a community can be involved in a project, and the Government should take note. I wish the Manilla Community Renewable Energy project every success and look forward to its continued progress.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (18:40): The need for more quality, affordable, secure housing remains one of the key issues raised with me and my staff in Marrickville every single day. Local residents' concerns are about the lack of affordable homes in the inner west, issues they have experienced with insecure rental housing, the long waitlist for social and public housing, or concerns for people in our community experiencing homelessness. They are stories and concerns that have persisted over decades. Behind each of the stories is hurt, anguish and, most frequently, disappointment.

Housing is a human right. We know access to housing is a key determinant of a person's wellbeing. As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to do more to provide housing. I am very proud that this Government is doing that work. The New South Wales Government is acting to build the homes we need for the future. We are working constructively and collaboratively with local councils, which are rising to the challenge of building the homes we need to help grow our suburbs and to stop another generation of Australians from being locked out of housing.

In the inner west, we know we need to build more homes and do our bit to meet the housing crisis. We are working to plan and build well-designed and well-located housing near transport hubs. The Inner West Council is currently consulting on planning principles that underpin the development of a new local environment plan. The council is engaged and dedicated to community-led reform. I encourage residents to have their say about the kind of planning and development they want to see in their local area as our suburbs grow.

The State Government is also working to ensure the housing we are building is well-designed and well-constructed. We have released a pattern book of designs to streamline the development application process and elevate the architectural merit of the houses being built. We have strengthened the powers of, and are properly resourcing, the New South Wales Building Commissioner so that people can have faith in the homes that are being built. We are working with our councils and the community to make sure we grow our suburbs in a way that makes sure communities have the infrastructure they need to improve the liveability and amenity of the places we love.

We are backing renters and fixing the unfair rental market. Over 40 per cent of people in my electorate rent their home, and for too long they have lived with the risk that they could be evicted at any time for no reason. They are common stories across New South Wales and across Australia. Time and again I have heard of renters who have been served with an eviction notice for no reason, often after reporting maintenance issues or questioning an unreasonable rent increase. That has to stop. No-grounds evictions unfairly tip the scales and leave renters vulnerable to rising rents and dislocation.

Families are having to move in the middle of school terms with no reasonable chance of moving into a home in the same suburb. Young people are being forced to move away from family, friends, work and the services they need. Older people are being compelled to relocate, sometimes away from their social networks and medical services. I am really proud that the Minns Labor Government is ending no-grounds evictions, limiting the reasons why a renter might be evicted during a lease. Landlords will now be required to give a reason why tenants are being evicted, and we are extending the notice they will have to give in the case of a fixed lease.

Importantly, we are also introducing portable bonds so that renters do not have to scramble to find the thousands of dollars when they move house, waiting for their bond to be released from their former landlord. These are really important reforms to make renting fair in New South Wales. I congratulate the Premier and the hardworking Minister, and also particularly thank the thousands of advocates and organisations across the community, including in my community, who have campaigned for the reasonable and commonsense changes for a very long time.

The Government is working to improve the quality and quantum of social housing across the inner west and across the State. The former Government sold off public housing; it privatised the public housing stock. That was shameful and showed a lack of respect for the tenants in public housing. Contrast that to the commitment the Minister for Housing has made and our Government is making to build more public housing that we desperately

need. It will be the biggest investment in our State's history. We will build 8,400 new and refurbished social housing dwellings. That is exactly what we need to support everyone in our community, particularly those who need to leave a domestic or family violence situation. The housing crisis is real, and I am very proud that our Government is getting on with the job of fixing it.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE CANOBOLAS CLUSTER AWARDS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (18:45): The morning of 14 November 2022 brought an unforeseen and devastating flood to Eugowra, claiming the lives of two beloved residents. We will never forget their loss, and our hearts are with their families as we remember them. In the face of that disaster, I acknowledge the extraordinary courage and dedication displayed by our first responders and all who contributed to the rescue efforts. Whether through formal coordination or spontaneous action, their bravery was instrumental in preventing an even greater tragedy. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude.

Last weekend at the State Emergency Services Canobolas Cluster Awards ceremony held at the Orange Ex-Services' Club, those who gathered with me had the privilege of hearing stories of remarkable survival, heroism and dedication. It was a testament to the strength and resolve of those who serve our community, many of whom are volunteers. I extend special recognition to the local State Emergency Service units, other emergency services and civilian support personnel who went above and beyond to save lives and protect property on that unforgettable day.

The following individuals and units were honoured for their exemplary actions, bravery and unwavering support: the Eugowra unit of John Agustin, Gregory Agustin, Mareea Agustin, John Anthes, John Alfred Dukes, Mackinley "Macky" Den, Stephen "Snow" Jones and Thomas Turner; the Orange City unit of Robert Stevens, Rachael Stevens, Callum Cope, Tyler Johnson, Nicholas Brown, Paul Beard, Jason Bowers, Britt Hendriks, Michael Hughes, Simon Kempson, Steph Brown, Kimberley Cashman, James Deering, Joshua Granger, Phillip Kirkwood, Stephen King, Grace Langlands, Brendan Lowe, Natalie McFarlane, Oscar Meek, Richard Newson, Zac Schneider, Natalie McFarlane and Timothy Thornton; the Molong unit of Douglas Watson, David Townsend, Brandon Adams and Sue Condon; the Canowindra unit of Owen Lloyd, Craig Wright, Jeanette Bowd, Gregory Giacomini, Damir Ivcec and Eliza Moroney; the Dubbo City unit of Lloyd Galloway and Terence Siriwardena; the Western Capability of Simon Robinson; and the Western Zone, including Joshua Clark, Debbie Cross, Lisa Ignatavicius, Birgitte Isberg, David Monk, David Rankine, Brigid Rice, Craig Ronan, Lukas Torr and Andrew Whalley.

Also honoured were the Western Headquarters, including Julie Anderson; CareFlight, including Jake Laurie, Craig Rose and Todd Wilson; Coulson Aviation Australia, including Geoff Janson, Mark McNicol, Gavin Smith, Nathan Solster and Greg Symmans; Kestrel Aviation, which was involved in the air rescue of many residents from rooftops around Eugowra and floodwaters, including Sean Doherty, Kieren Douglas, Nathan Pollard and Peter Row; LifeFlight, including David Bashir, Blair Fogerty, Paul Forcier, Aaron Hartle, Nathan Minett, Matthew O'Rourke and Cory Writer; NSW Police Force, including Michelle Barton, Jason Bishop, Matthew McCabe, Jodie McGill, Rebekah O'Connor and Tim Rogers; the NSW Rural Fire Service, including Aaron Agius, Paul Bryant, Scott Hoy, Nigel Korff, David Milstead, Rick Ott, Tim Perry, Mark Pickford, Luke Roberts and Mark Wilson; and the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, including Captain Craig Thomas, First Officer Leigh Sage, Air Crew Officer David Hill and Rescue Crew Officer Hayden Sorrell.

To each and every one of them, and on behalf of a profoundly grateful community, I extend our deepest appreciation. Their efforts on that fateful day turned a dark moment to one of hope, resilience and survival. While words can never fully convey our gratitude, these awards are a small token of the recognition they so richly deserve. From the bottom of my heart, I thank them very much.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I join the member for Orange in thanking the volunteer services for helping our community feel safe.

ILLAWARRA WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:50): I talk about the Illawarra Women's Health Centre and the wonderful contribution that it makes to the women of the Illawarra. The centre is a non-government and not-for-profit organisation based in Warilla, supporting women of all ages, abilities, and cultural and linguistic backgrounds. They advocate for women and provide free or low-cost and affordable medical, allied and complementary health care, as well as health and wellbeing programs, groups and education to improve women's health. Its vision is for women and girls to be respected, safe and healthy and to experience full participation and equality in their lives.

I was honoured to attend the centre's Fire and Ice Winter Gala Dinner, which was held on Saturday night at the University of Wollongong. The guest speaker was the incredible Gina Chick, who is a rewilding facilitator,

adventurer, writer and speaker. Her rewilding programs help adults and kids learn to be at home in the wild, bringing hunter-gatherer techniques into the modern world. The gala dinner was a celebration of the Illawarra Women's Health Centre's numerous achievements. These include the hugely successful inaugural national Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Recovery and Healing Conference and the launch of the Australian-first Women's Trauma Recovery Centre located in Shellharbour city centre, which we had fought for and got after eight years.

The dinner also celebrated the centre's remarkable team of women and their incredible accomplishments over the past 18 months. I thank Sally Stevenson and Ali Anderson from the Illawarra Women's Health Centre, Maree Kerr from the Women's Trauma Recovery Centre, and their teams, for the organisation of this wonderful event. I also thank local businesses and the not-for-profit organisations for attending and supporting the gala event. A special mention goes to the Deputy Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Tania Brown, for her attendance and support, along with local government Labor candidates Tiana Myers, Hetty Cummins and Georgia Roff.

The Illawarra Women's Health Centre will also be holding its inaugural Old Bags High Tea on Friday 9 August 2024 in the Bert Lillye Lounge at the Illawarra Turf Club, which will be a fundraiser for both the Illawarra Women's Health Centre and the Women's Trauma Recovery Centre. Celebrity pastry chef Anna Polyviou has donated her services and will serve up a myriad of high tea delicacies—including the scones that Queen Elizabeth enjoyed—to support women of the Illawarra. She will also bring her team down from Sydney to put on the high tea.

For Ms Polyviou, helping raise awareness and funds to benefit women experiencing gendered violence is important at a time when in Australia one woman is admitted to hospital every three hours and one woman is killed every five days due to family and domestic violence. The centre's executive director, Sally Stevenson, commented that it is people with prominent profiles like Ms Polyviou who would continue to draw attention to an issue that needs relentless support. The high tea was the idea of centre supporter Vicki Tiegs, who has voiced her gratitude for Ms Polyviou and the Illawarra Turf Club, which has offered up the Bert Lillye Lounge at the Kembla Grange Racecourse for the occasion.

The event will also support Dress for Success, with guests encouraged to bring along a handbag in good condition to donate to the charity that aims to help women in their efforts to achieve economic independence by dressing them for job interviews. With branches in Sydney, the Illawarra and the Hunter, Dress for Success in New South Wales supports more than 2,500 women across the State every year. Their amazing styling service and suite of career support offerings help women overcome bias and discrimination when entering or re-entering the workforce, at no cost to the women needing the services. Transgender women and non-binary individuals who are comfortable in women's spaces are warmly welcomed by Dress for Success. Before I finish, I have a message for every victim-survivor of family and domestic violence: I promise that I will always be a strong voice for you, in this House and beyond.

GLENWOOD REZONING PROPOSAL

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (18:55): I speak about an important matter that has caused great uncertainty and stress to residents in the Winston Hills electorate in recent weeks. My office has received countless emails, phone calls and walk-ins regarding the Labor Government's proposal for higher density in the suburb of Glenwood. For those who are unfamiliar with Glenwood, it is a well-established community that sits tightly between two main roads and the M7 motorway. The community has been stunned by a recent proposal developed by the planning department, the "Kellyville and Bella Vista TOD rezoning proposal". As the name suggests, this proposal is targeted at higher density in the Kellyville and Bella Vista metro precincts. The proposal for housing at these metro precincts has been long understood by the local community and well received by many residents. The land for development at the metro precincts is there and ready to go for housing and local business.

The shock with the new proposal, however, was realised by my community when these plans changed. Under the new proposal by this Labor Government, the suburbs of Glenwood and Stanhope Gardens, which sits in the Riverstone electorate, have been rezoned for higher density. This proposal plans to increase the capacity of the eastern corridor of Glenwood nearest to the Bella Vista metro station from 1,872 homes to 12,603 homes. This comes with an increase to the maximum building height changing from nine metres, which is approximately two or three storeys, to 51 metres, which is approximately 15 storeys.

We would expect with proposals like this, where the population of an established area is proposed to increase by tens of thousands of residents, that an infrastructure plan would be provided to accommodate for these changes. It would be specified if the local schools would be upgraded, major roads and access points would be improved and certainty on essential services like where medical centres, shops and supermarkets would be located. Yet this proposal is currently accompanied by none of that information. I have spent the past few weeks going door to door, listening to residents at the local shopping centre and hearing their concerns via social media. Their

concerns with this proposal could not be clearer. They are demanding more consultation and information. They are demanding clarity around what the rezoning would mean for their families and for some certainty on commitments for infrastructure.

The planning department hosted two community information evenings for residents to attend and speak directly to the New South Wales planning team in a round table discussion. These information sessions were booked out weeks in advance, with only a limited number of spots available. Reports from these information sessions have been critical. One community member stated:

It was exactly as described by others, purely a tick a box exercise ... the planning gentlemen kept saying he will take that on board or under notice, but he was not writing anything down.

Another resident claimed, "We were given no time to discuss anything in depth." Residents took to social media following the information session, with one writing:

The planning team told us the decision will be made in December, yet we have to have our submissions in by 9 August? Potentially a "great" Christmas present for us all.

In the past week my community was troubled to learn that an additional information session was added yesterday evening for the Stanhope Gardens community. It was disappointing to see that the department had decided to provide an additional evening for Stanhope Gardens residents but not the residents of Glenwood. After this decision, residents approached my office to share their anger that they were excluded from further consultation. One thing has been particularly potent in my meetings and discussions with the residents. There is not an objection to the idea of housing being needed for our State and communities. It is the way that the process has blindsided many residents and the lack of information that has been provided.

Several questions have been raised by the residents. What will this mean for their rates if their land is rezoned? Will the schools be upgraded? Will Old Windsor Road, which is bad enough, be widened? What will this mean for water drainage and sewerage systems? There are not enough sports fields as it is, where are the new ones going to be? How long is it until the first apartment will be built? The list goes on. It did not matter whether I was speaking to an elderly couple who had been in the area for 20 years, a family with children and teenagers at the local primary and high schools or a new family who had moved from an apartment in Parramatta just to have a backyard and greater liveability for their young families, the concerns were the same: a lack of information and limited consultation. Those have been the themes of discussion.

But, most importantly, the question has been how is the infrastructure going to cope with the increase in population? As per my letter to the Minister, my email to the department and the community petition, I call on the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to extend the time frame for community consultation and information and to come to the table with the infrastructure plans for the community of Glenwood.

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (19:00): Yesterday was the start of national Rail Safety Week, which runs from 5 August to 11 August. Early last week I visited with the Secretary of Transport for NSW, Josh Murray, the Maitland and Broadmeadow train stations where I spoke to staff about the importance of safety on our railways. Yesterday I attended the Australian Railway Monument in Werris Creek for a ceremony that paid tribute to and commemorated the lives of those who have been lost on the railways. Four and a half thousand people have lost their lives on Australia's railways since the 1850s, and 800 names, predominantly from Queensland, were recently added to that list on the national Wall of Remembrance. Drivers Kevin Baker and Mick Warren, who died in a level crossing crash on a Pacific National freight train near the South Australia-New South Wales border on 31 December 2023 were added to the list this year.

It was humbling, sad and terrible to watch their families and friends, and the wider rail family, grieve the loss of those two men, and the many other people that we have lost in many years on the railways in Australia. The monument, which is managed by the Werris Creek Rail Journeys Museum and its president, Gwen Hohnke, updated its records ahead of this year's nineteenth annual Rail Safety Week, and it has been working with around 100 organisations across Australia and New Zealand promoting rail safety awareness. The ceremony was hosted by the TrackSAFE Foundation and its executive director, Heather Neil, as well as Matt Longland from Sydney Trains and Roger Weeks from NSW TrainLink. The event also included representatives from freight operators Pacific National, Qube and Aurizon; the Australian Rail Track Corporation; and the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, including its secretary, Toby Warnes.

All of us came together to remember the people that we have lost on our railways. The railways are such an important part of people's lives in the regions—particularly Werris Creek, which was the former central station of the west and established in 1878 as Australia's first railway town built for the purpose of the railways. It was a

major New South Wales hub for about 70 years and remains vital today. In the past 12 months, just under 10,000 passenger and freight services have passed through, including trains transporting more than 24 million tonnes of coal. There are other people impacted by rail safety who were not commemorated in the ceremony: those who have lost their lives at level crossings. I pay special tribute to Maddie Bott and Lara Jensen, who are passionate advocates for rail safety. Both of them have lost family members and loved ones in rail crossing accidents. It is important that we all are one family when it comes to commemorating those who have lost their lives on the railways.

Before I went to the ceremony yesterday, the member for Tamworth and I went to Callaghans Lane Level Crossing, near Quirindi, where someone died last year. While we were there we announced a \$1.2 million trial of digital technology designed to improve level crossing safety in rural and regional areas, particularly where there is not a lot of power to the sites. It is the first trial in New South Wales of the Rail Active Crossing System, which is a modular, low-cost solution that uses wireless train-activated technology to make signs light up when a train is coming on the track. It is powered by solar power and it also has a fail-safe mechanism with 10 days of redundancy that causes a stop sign to light up if the power is not available. These are the kinds of things we are trying to do to assist in reducing the number of deaths on our railways, whether it is people who might be trying to self-harm, people who make a mistake or miscalculation, or people who work on the railway.

Looking at the names on the wall, the ages of some of the workers who died really hit home. There were 14-year-olds who were used to be called hook boys who put the trains together; there were gate ladies who used to open the gates for the trains; and there were many drivers, fettlers and others who worked on the trains. It was humbling to hear about the impact of every loss. Gwen spoke of her then boyfriend, now husband, who lost 100 days as a result of an injury on the railway. It is not only death but also long-term injury that results. I urge everyone to view this week as an opportunity to do better and work towards delivering a safer rail network.

TAREE OLD BAR SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (19:05): Before I begin, I acknowledge the private member's statement by the member for Maitland. My mum lost her dad when she was three weeks old. He worked on the rails in Casino when she was a baby. It was a long time ago; she is in her sixties now. But it affects somebody for all those years.

I inform the House about the Taree Old Bar Surf Life Saving Club. Taree Old Bar is one of six clubs in the Lower North Coast Branch and one of five clubs within the Myall Lakes electorate. Taree Old Bar has a history dating back to 1928 and was the second surf club formed in the area. Last month on 8 July I attended the official opening of the upgraded Taree Old Bar Surf Life Saving Club. The \$425,000 project was funded under the former Coalition's Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Program. Also in attendance was Dr David Gillespie, the Federal member for Lyne; Claire Pontin, the MidCoast Council Mayor; and Minister Catley, along with club members, life members, representatives from the Old Bar community and the Lower North Coast Branch.

Taree Old Bar Club President Jane Lynch gave us a tour of the facility to show us the impressive improvements, including a new deck, patrol room, kitchen, female bathroom to accommodate the growing number of women joining the club, and upgraded first-aid rooms and emergency response areas. On 9 November 2019 over 300 people, along with a menagerie of animals, sought shelter at the Taree Old Bar Surf Life Saving Club during what we now refer to as the Black Summer bushfires. When properties began to be evacuated, the club executive made the decision to open the clubhouse for those needing to take shelter, even though it was not an official evacuation centre.

This evening I acknowledge not only the Taree Old Bar Surf Life Saving Club but also an outstanding person within the club, Taree Old Bar President Jane Lynch. Jane does not seek recognition for anything she does, but she certainly deserves it. At the recent Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast Branch Awards of Excellence, Jane was one of two recipients to be awarded the President's Award. I know it is often a challenging task to choose a recipient for the President's Award, given the number of amazing presidents we have within our Myall Lakes surf life saving clubs. It was an honour to attend the Awards of Excellence, witness Jane receive her award and hear of all her incredible achievements. Ross Blowers, the President of Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast, said that the President's Award recognises individuals within their ranks who exhibit courage, resilience, integrity, strength of character and humility in all that they do.

Jane represents all these qualities and so much more through her involvement in surf lifesaving and the wider Myall Lakes community. Jane started with surf lifesaving 33 years ago as a nipper at Taree Old Bar at the age of seven. She was very enthusiastic, which was evident early on when she earned the Nipper of the Year award on multiple occasions. At 21, Jane received her bronze medallion and started as a surf boat rower, competing in numerous events over 10 years for Taree Old Bar. Since 2009, Jane has been an active patrolling member of Taree Old Bar, often logging the most patrol hours among female members. She is a great leader and has been on the

executive team for 10 years, serving as club president for the past six years. Jane directed the previously mentioned capital works and manages the under-12s age group, supporting the transition of nippers into active patrolling members. In addition to her contributions to surf lifesaving, Jane works as a full-time counsellor and student support officer with the New South Wales Department of Education.

In 1992 Jane's registration with the Old Bar Barbarians made her the first female to join the club. Overcoming initial resistance, the club embraced the change, which in turn allowed for future generations of female players. For the past 20 years, Jane has volunteered with the Barbarians, where she has not only coached but also earned life membership for her service. She is a board member of Football Mid North Coast, where she has coached a women's representative side in the national women's premier league for the past eight years. I am not sure when Jane finds the time to sleep. She is a remarkable woman. I thank Jane for her contribution to Surf Life Saving and the Myall Lakes community at large. She has made a positive impact on so many people, paved the way for women in sport and continues to be a role model for many within our region. I congratulate Jane on all her achievements and her recent well-deserved recognition at the Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence.

LIVERPOOL ELECTORATE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (19:10): It is often taken for granted that residents of our suburbs can find peace and quiet in their homes. The residents of Elizabeth Hills surely imagined that would be the case when they bought in the area and began moving into their homes. Formerly farmland, Elizabeth Hills was subdivided from Cecil Hills and gazetted as a suburb in December 2009. Housing developments began in the area in 2014, with growth being so rapid that Elizabeth Hills was home to 3,208 people at the 2021 census. Some 10 years on from the beginning of growth in Elizabeth Hills, residents are subject to the daily rat run of motorists seeking to avoid traffic on Cowpasture Road.

Regentville Drive, a local collector road in Elizabeth Hills that is lined with family homes, has been described as the de facto third lane of Cowpasture Road. Furthermore, with the Len Waters Estate immediately to the south of Elizabeth Hills, residents are subject to a consistent barrage of industrial traffic. It is not a new phenomenon, and residents of the suburb have long raised the alarm on the need for traffic-calming measures. A quick online search of "Elizabeth Hills traffic" will find a 2018 change.org petition calling for action, and frequent representations from frustrated residents resulted in the Liverpool Local Traffic Committee recommending that a local area traffic management study be commissioned in February 2023.

Liverpool City Council engaged a consultant to undertake an in-depth analysis focused on traffic management infrastructure in the Elizabeth Hills area. It found that Regentville Drive is carrying unacceptably high volumes of through traffic and that several intersections in Elizabeth Hills present unacceptable safety risks and require treatment. The release of such a report is long overdue and reinforces what residents have lived with over this time. When I doorknocked in Elizabeth Hills, road safety and traffic concerns were top of mind for almost every resident. Young families have banned their children from playing in their front yards to protect them from the speeding traffic they have come to expect. I have heard stories of the issues becoming so hard to bear that some residents have been forced to pack up and leave the suburb altogether.

The report only confirmed what residents of Elizabeth Hills have been telling council for years. The study recommended a set of targeted measures to reduce the impact of the issues, including partial road closures to divert southbound traffic away from Regentville Drive, the implementation of roundabout controls at critical junctions and speed humps, raised intersections and give-way treatments. The report suggested rolling the measures out in three stages. Stage one would involve a give-way treatment at the intersection of Newgate Boulevard, Antrim Drive and Corduroy Road, and partial road closures at the intersections of Wixstead Avenue with Newgate Boulevard, as well as Wixstead's intersection with Bentwing Avenue. Those road closures have the primary aim of diverting traffic away from Regentville Drive.

Stage two would involve the installation of several flat-top speed humps throughout the suburb, including on Dobroyd Drive, Rosebank Avenue and Clarence Drive. Finally, stage three would see the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Duxford Street and Rosebank Avenue, as well as the raising of Rosebank's intersection with Gowanlea Avenue. The Liverpool Local Traffic Committee recommended that the local community be consulted regarding the recommendations of the study, which council agreed to at its October 2023 meeting.

Some 10 months on, there has been no progress on the plan. An initial round of community consultation was conducted in the early months of this year. As many residents were on holiday at the time, residents requested a second, more thorough round of community consultation, which concluded in May. All through this drawn-out process, I have made numerous representations to council's traffic committee to try to progress action on the important issue and give residents some hope that there is a process. At its May meeting, council assured my

office that the findings of community consultation would be presented to the next committee meeting and that it would finally move to staged implementation of the plan. However, by the July meeting council had still not collated resident feedback for the committee. When my office inquired about the number of submissions received, council was unable to provide an answer.

This is an urgent matter that has been repeatedly deferred by Liverpool council. With council soon to enter caretaker mode and with its elected body facing suspension, Elizabeth Hills residents now face the prospect of having to wait even longer for measures that should have been implemented years ago. Needless to say, this situation could have been avoided, but this council has forgotten its basic obligations to residents and ratepayers. It is more than happy to devote its time to shiny things, like a multimillion-dollar leisure precinct in already well-serviced areas to the east of the local government area, while abdicating its very basic responsibilities to residents and ratepayers. Unfortunately, it is residents like those in Elizabeth Hills who suffer as a result.

REGIONAL AIRLINES

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (19:15): Regional airlines are fundamental to the communities they serve, the prosperity of our State and, indeed, the nation. Safe, reliable aviation is the most efficient way for people to quickly travel from regional cities and towns. Regional airlines are the gateway to the regions for tens of thousands of visitors. They are an important link to the world for the millions of us who call remote, rural and regional New South Wales home. They can literally mean the difference between good health and suffering or even death, because without fly-in fly-out health workers, countless patients would be denied the medical care they need to live healthy lives. In fact, without regional airlines, our country communities could not hope to achieve their enormous potential. It is little wonder, then, there has been so much concern about the now parlous state of Rex Airlines.

The very real fear that the airline could end its regional services would leave some smaller communities with no airline and the larger cities with just one. With only one airline, competition would be lost, meaning higher fares, reduced services and uncertainty about the future. Rex arose from the airline crisis when Ansett collapsed in the early part of this century. They were grim times for air travel for rural and regional communities. I distinctly remember taking a business trip from Wagga to Sydney on Ansett during those uncertain times, and I was literally the only passenger on the plane. But Rex filled the gap. It took on the role of Kendell and Hazelton airlines and grew to become Australia's largest regional airline, respected for its reliability and strong connection to communities. It invested in its heartland, employed regional people and, notably, started its valuable pilot training academy in Wagga Wagga, helping it become part of the cultural and economic fabric of regional New South Wales. Its importance cannot be overstated.

There is no doubt that Rex is facing serious challenges. Its decision to operate the golden Sydney to Melbourne route has had consequences, and there seem to have been governance issues, but that is a problem not unique to Rex. But Rex is still flying regional routes and supporting communities. We must remember that Rex rose to become a financially viable and extremely reliable regional carrier. It did so because of the demand of its customers, its sensible management and its strong connection to the community. Now that Rex has come within a whisker of being grounded, it is time to make sure that does not happen again. Key to that is having a level playing field, with fair and open competition.

There is a perception that the competition between small and large carriers has, in fact, not been fair. For example, we have now learnt the company that decides which carriers get the limited, in-demand slots into Sydney airport is owned—at least partly—by Rex's much larger competitors, Qantas and Virgin. That alone creates a perception that Rex is competing with bigger rivals while being encumbered with a serious handicap. I welcome the commitment by the Federal Government to open a tender for the slot management role at Sydney airport. It is an admirable effort to make sure that the system is more transparent and fairer. Further to that, I suggest that no air carrier should be permitted to apply for the tender. Smaller airlines must be given a go—a chance to compete on comparable terms. That is not to say that Rex or any other company should get preferential treatment, but it should get support to compete fairly.

There are other actions that we should consider. There may need to be financial support from governments, not least the New South Wales Government. It also means that we as customers choose to support our carriers, knowing that we are getting a fair deal in terms of schedules, fares and reliability. It means that governments must ensure a fair division of patronage between carriers because, make no mistake, our regional communities not only need at least two airlines, but also can provide the business to keep them flying. I call upon the Government to verify that its people travelling on regional business flights share their business equally with all the airlines servicing those routes. In these ways we can level the playing field, allowing smaller players in the airline business to hold their own against the Goliaths of the aviation world. We can support our regional airlines. In doing so, we will underpin the liveability, the health and the economies of our regions.

GREGORY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (19:20): As of Tuesday 23 July, the Gregory Hills Primary School is now open and inhabiting its beautiful, new, permanent building. I take this time to describe the journey of Gregory Hills Primary School and pay homage to the incredible efforts of our beautiful community. In 2007, recognising the exponential growth of Sydney's south-west, the State Labor Government advised the developers of Gregory Hills to set aside land for a future primary school. In 2011 the elected Liberal Government took over this project, but refused to make any commitments about developing the land until 2018, when a \$6 billion package was announced to deliver 170 new and upgraded schools.

However, in this time many, many houses were to be built in Gregory Hills. The package announced the Gregory Hills Primary School as being in its "planning phase", where it remained without update. In 2020 parents began enrolling their children in the nearby Gledswood Hills Primary School kindergarten class. When enrolment hit 220 students, concerned mothers turned to the then Liberal Government. When faced with no answers, they formed their own Facebook group for the purposes of campaigning. Lobbying began on the local site of Howard Park, with parents and constituents distributing handmade flyers. The community clearly demanded a primary school in Gregory Hills. In December the Liberal-Nationals Government confirmed that the primary school had moved to the "advanced planning stage", without defining what this meant or giving a timeline for the school's future.

With no real progression outlined, parents lobbied the then Labor Opposition. Jodi McKay, Prue Car and Dr Mike Freeland joined the community at Howard Park in an event broadcast by Channel 9. Labor established its stance on the issue, committing to petitioning the then Liberal-Nationals Government to expedite the process. Mark Buttigieg, MLC, continued to voice his concerns about the issue. The 2021 budget revealed that \$4 million had been set aside for planning and design, despite the school having been in the "advanced planning stage" for three years, since 2018. The community reacted by circulating three petitions asking the Government to fast-track the school. The petitions garnered a total of 2,910 signatures and were presented to the then Liberal-Nationals Government, which announced that the school would not be finalised until the next budget was announced.

In 2021 documents were released that revealed the primary school opening had been pushed back to 2027. At this point, parents had been sending their children to the over-capacity neighbouring primary school of Gledswood Hills. This delay until 2027 would bring unprecedented levels of overcrowding to Camden schools. As a result, parents met with then Opposition leader Chris Minns and Prue Car. Then Premier Gladys Berejiklian and education Minister Sarah Mitchell came to Camden for a press conference. When parents found out that the conference was going to happen, they went along and asked some much-needed and yet-to-be-answered questions, which remained largely unanswered at that event.

Enough was enough. Labor lobbying accelerated this project. In May 2022 the opening day was brought forward from the expected 2027 to 2025. However, Labor and community campaigning did not stop. In August 2022 the timeline was brought forward again to day one, term 1 of 2023. In November we celebrated this win together over a community barbecue. Then Opposition leader Chris Minns, then Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prue Car, the community, and I celebrated and confirmed a high school for the area, doing everything we could to ensure that the delay would not happen again.

That brings us to 23 July. I was honoured to open the facilities. The primary school has 44 classrooms and four support classrooms, as well as staff, sporting and recreational facilities. Its capacity is for over 1,000 students, ensuring that the future enrolment demands of the continually increasing local population will be met. I am very proud of our local community members for everything they did to get this school off the ground. I thank them for letting me listen to them and for electing me to continue to deliver this infrastructure into our area. I urge them not to forget that in 2007 Labor started this project and in July we finished it.

COOGEE ELECTORATE BUS SERVICES

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (19:25): Tonight I will talk about an issue that is incredibly important to my electorate of Coogee and across the eastern suburbs. I will provide an update on the status of our buses in the eastern suburbs. From the outset I say to my community: I acknowledge how everyone feels and how frustrated they are about what has happened to our bus services. I believe that we have a duty and a responsibility to have very up-front and honest conversations with our communities about how we are fixing the mess that has been created by 12 years of the Liberal-Nationals Coalition in government. As someone who catches a bus every day as well, I feel their pain. I know what it is like to turn up, to be waiting for a bus, to have it not turn up, to have the ones that turn up be full, and to be looking at your app and seeing that there is meant to be a bus but it has not turned up—ghost buses.

Each and every day we continue to be contacted with messages from community members—everything from ghost buses, buses turning up full, drivers not being trained properly, frustration with the timetables, and frustration with the fact that the Government has made commitments to fix those services. It is imperative for us to have very up-front and honest conversations with our communities. I use this opportunity to talk to my community and tell them about what we are doing to fix the problems. Fixing the problems created, as I said, over 12 years by the Liberal-Nationals Coalition is not easy. There is everything from contracts that we are tied into and the implications of privatisation to then bus drivers leaving in the droves and the implications of that shortage of drivers, as well as the implications of a lack of investment in the Public Transport Information and Priority System [PTIPS]. I want people to know that we are trying to fix those things.

First and foremost, I will talk about the shortage of drivers. When the buses were privatised, we lost a number of drivers from our region. Our current shortage of bus drivers is fluctuating between 70 and 100 drivers. I am sure that my community can understand the implications of that—that we are 70 drivers short, any day of the week, from being able to fulfil the current route requirements. One of the Government's first priorities is to try to fix that. It has been running recruitment strategies, waiving fees for becoming a new driver and making Opal cards free. The other thing we know is, prior to even that, the previous Government changed fundamental key routes. There have been some changes that we have been trying to make but, come October, there is going to be a major route review to try to get some of those key routes back in—most importantly, trying to get buses closer to Circular Quay and to the northern end of the city, which is a key concern.

We are working to fix the issue of ghost buses. The previous Government made no major investment in the PTIPS. That is something that we are investing in so that at least the timetable on a person's phone is correct. The previous Government made no real investment and did not do any testing of the articulated buses and the electric articulated buses. Residents know that putting more articulated buses into our area will fix some of these problems, but we have net zero commitments. The previous Government did not test electric articulated buses. I will have more to say.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (19:30): The idea of a new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education for Hawkesbury became a reality when the previous New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government allocated \$23 million in funding in the 2020-21 budget. The Western Sydney University campus in Richmond was identified as an appropriate site. Very capable staff and management from the Department of Education contributed to the design and planning of the centre. I was there at the sod-turning with students. We were extremely excited about having a top-tier education facility constructed in Hawkesbury. There has never been a selective school in the electorate. Students had to travel out of area to attend a school of their choice, because locally there was nothing. Families in Hawkesbury deserve better than that.

In 2021, the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education welcomed its first intake of students. While that was a small intake of about seven students, the education centre provided a vision for future leaders in primary production, which enticed parents to enrol their children. Since then, student numbers have increased steadily each year. Principal Kris Beazley is driving the success of the centre and has gained the respect of her peers, students and families. It is no secret that over the past 4½ years Hawkesbury has experienced eight floods. It was because of those disasters that in 2022 the dedicated site area for this valuable construction project became ineligible due to evidence of PFAS.

With the first intake of students now completing year 10, there is disappointment that the school is still operating from demountable buildings. For the students, parents and teaching staff, there is a level of frustration because expectations have not been met. The first intake of students for the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education are in year 10 this year, as I mentioned, and they should be able to experience their HSC years in classrooms which offer them the best possible future in professions that greatly benefit our economy. They should not have to graduate in a demountable, but that may be the reality.

I was reminded of the stellar calibre of students at the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education when I recently presented a Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarship to one of the aspiring year 9 centre of excellence students, Song Nguyen. To be eligible for the scholarship, Song demonstrated high academic results and academic potential. She was also able to demonstrate motivation to achieve academically and professionally, including an intention to undertake tertiary studies. An interest in extracurricular, community and leadership activities was also considered favourably. I know that students and staff were extremely proud of Song Nguyen's achievements.

Apart from not having a permanent home for students and staff at the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education at Hawkesbury, there are teething problems with public transport that are festering into an abscess. I recently met with concerned parents and Busways to work through the difficulties that more than half of the

enrolled students are experiencing. Getting to school and back is fraught with challenges. I draw to the attention of the Minister for Education and Early Learning, and member for Londonderry, Prue Car and the member for Riverstone, Warren Kirby, that they have living in their electorates a combined 70 per cent of the 103 students from the Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education who need to use public transport.

If a bus was available to travel on Richmond Road from the Riverstone electorate to the Londonderry electorate and then to the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, it would be full. It would be well utilised by the students alone. Currently, students have to walk two kilometres from the nearest train station, and the trains only run once every 30 minutes. It is not good enough for a school that is growing in enrolments and has so much more potential. The State Government has an opportunity to step forward and work with me as the local member to look for a suitable site. I hope there will be an announcement soon about that so I can manage the anxiety of the students and teaching staff. It is also an opportunity to get students to and from that very important place of learning. I hope we will have more positive progress on this issue.

SAFER CITIES HER WAY PROGRAM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:35): I praise the work conducted in Gosford as part of the Safer Cities: Her Way program and celebrate the changes we have seen in our community. This has been a fantastic collaboration between Transport for NSW and Central Coast Council. I know our community will continue to see the benefit for years, possibly decades, ahead. We have absolutely changed the face of the beautiful city of Gosford. The Safer Cities: Her Way program is a partnership between the New South Wales Government and local councils. Totalling \$30 million, the commitment will help to improve perceptions of safety in cities and towns, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people as they walk or cycle to, through and within our public spaces. This includes parks, streets and laneways, as well as public transport hubs such as bus stops and train stations.

Ten councils were awarded a share in the commitment, including \$1 million for Central Coast Council to improve the perception of safety for women and girls and gender diverse people in the capital city of the beautiful Central Coast. The program allows councils to trial initiatives that reflect each community's sense of place, while helping to improve perceptions of safety in public places for women, girls and gender diverse people. The Safer Cities: Her Way program is delivering on-the-ground interventions, based on community needs, that help to improve perceptions of safety in our transport hub precincts and to create inclusive and welcoming connections. Between March and June last year, the community was asked how the safety of Gosford could be improved in a unique, human-centred co-design process to ensure that interventions respond to the immediate needs of our local community.

The community was asked to share their thoughts and experiences through a community survey, an interactive map and a range of in-person "walkshops" and co-design workshops with council staff. Over 3,500 community responses were received, and 136,000 pieces of data were collected and incorporated during our consultation period. The co-design process revealed three key themes affecting the perception of safety: vision, beautification and activation. In Burns Park, right next to Gosford station, 86 per cent of respondents felt unsafe; in the Gosford CBD, 50 per cent felt unsafe; and in Kibble Park, 43 per cent felt unsafe. Respondents asked for lighting, revitalisation, well-maintained areas, cleanliness, economic stimulation and having people around. Some 65 per cent of respondents changed their route based on feeling unsafe, 71 per cent did not participate in an activity if it was held in Gosford because they felt unsafe, 43 per cent felt somewhat unsafe in Gosford during the daytime, and a staggering 76 per cent felt either not safe or very unsafe during the night-time.

This has been a turnaround for our community, and Central Coast Council is continuing to deliver initiatives to make members of our community feel safer when moving through the City of Gosford. The findings will be incorporated in the Transport for NSW case study, and the council plans to ensure that those learnings build the case for longer term change. Tascott station is on the drawing board for an upgrade, and these considerations are now being transferred across to the Tascott community, which is super important. Burns Place was quite a dodgy area, but its trees have been massively trimmed back and it is lit up. There are installations and free coffee and music. Members would not believe the turnaround in the space. It looks light and bright, as opposed to dark and gloomy where we might be befriended by people whom we might not get on with all the time.

We have a lovely little cobblestone walkway that is now beautifully rainbow coloured, with beautiful lights and umbrellas. Over the summer we had lights and a beautiful Christmas tree in Kibble Park as well. Less desirable people populated all of those little places in William Street on a regular basis, but they are now gone and it has really given the centre of our city an absolute refresh. For Gosford, which is beginning to boom, it is important that members of our community can feel safe. I spoke to a lovely solicitor on the way to the Mariners grand final. I got out of the lift and the woman who was getting into the lift said, "Liesl, the city of Gosford has massively changed." I think that is what this is all about. It is about the people who are using our city seeing significant changes. Our Government has already committed \$8.5 million to revitalise the waterfront, and this beautiful

commitment between Transport for NSW and Central Coast Council has been able to consult women and people of a diverse community on the ground, saying what they need. They have made the changes, and we will continue to make changes to make the capital of the Central Coast a better place for all of us forever.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (19:40): That was one of the most passionate private members' statements I have heard in a very long time. Of course, we would expect that from the very passionate member for Gosford. The member made reference to Gosford's massive changes. That is an enormous credit to the work that the member for Gosford does. I have had to spend a lot of time in that part of the world, and the member supports her community and looks at community leadership like a champion. She is a champion person who looks after a champion community. We are privileged to have her in this Parliament. I especially took away from that statement that the member is open to working with everybody to get the best possible outcome. I do not know if others have noticed, but this hall-of-famer Olympian also has her fingernails painted in the green and gold and we are doing so well in the Olympics. That is an excellent example of what a brilliant local member does: advocating for and supporting her community. It was a privilege to listen to her statement.

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY AND MARITIME EMPLOYEES UNION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (19:41): This evening I address an issue that strikes at the very heart of our democracy and its integrity: the troubling deep connection between Chris Minns' Labor Party and the CFMEU. That relationship presents a significant conflict of interest that compromises the ability of the Labor Party to govern impartially, and it is a matter of grave concern for all citizens across New South Wales. For years I have been vocal about the inherent conflict of interest that the relationship between the unions and Labor Party presents. I have said in this place, many times over, that they are two sides of the same coin, mutually interdependent, mutually invested and mutually interested. The CFMEU's influence over the Labor Party is not just concerning but it is also a direct threat to good governance and democracy. That union, with its history of controversial and unlawful actions, has an undemocratic sway over Labor's policies and decisions.

The intertwining of political power with union interests creates a scenario where the Labor Party's decisions are unduly influenced by an external entity, clearly putting at risk the best interests of our community. Our democracy deserves better. The people of New South Wales deserve a government that is free from the manipulations of all-too-powerful unions. When a political party is influenced by an entity like the CFMEU, it undermines public trust and erodes the very principles and foundations of good and democratic governance. Chris Minns must demonstrate his commitment to integrity by returning all CFMEU donations and agreeing to have the union thoroughly investigated in every sense, not just dissociated and newly administered. Such a move would signal a dedication to transparency and impartiality in governance, so why has that not happened already, quickly and without hesitation? Is it not essential to maintain the public's confidence? What does the Government have to hide?

Unions have increasingly taken over the current Government's decisions, leading to significant budget blowouts. The undue influence of unions has led to financial mismanagement and inefficiencies that affect citizens across New South Wales. When union interests dictate government policies, it results in decisions that prioritise the needs of a select few over the broader public good. Is this not against what the Labor Party loves to preach? What happened to Labor's sworn concern for the everyday Australian? What about working families? Who could forget Frank Sartor, who was a Labor Minister for eight years and who said that union-insisted pay rises for public sector workers were not sustainable and were the "biggest encumbrance on Labor's ability to govern"? Well, it is happening right now.

After just 16 months of Labor, there is currently a \$9.5 billion unfunded wage bill brought about by union bosses that has blown an enormous hole in the New South Wales Labor Government's budget, and there is more to come. It is utterly unsustainable and will hurt New South Wales for generations to come. It is why we are seeing a coming cliff in infrastructure spending, where Labor will not build for the future of our State. It is why we see all kinds of cuts across almost every portfolio, including to cost-of-living measures, innovative programs and even palliative care. It is why we see a government with no imagination, vision or plan for New South Wales. It has already lost control of the budget. It cannot build New South Wales with a budget out of control. All this is for their union masters, and the people of New South Wales will pay the price.

In the past month, reports have shown that unions have been infiltrated by individuals connected to organised crime. They are individuals who cannot be trusted to advocate for the needs and wants of the workers of New South Wales let alone the whole State. The infiltration of unions by criminal elements undermines the Labor Party's legitimacy and capacity to genuinely represent workers' interests. It is imperative that we see a thorough investigation into these unions right now. It should address all elements of power and influence, looking back over many years, and should absolutely follow the money. That unions are the biggest donors to the Labor Party and that no money has been returned since these allegations arose is deeply troubling. It is clear that at least

one union was riddled with corruption while funding Labor campaigns. How is this even allowed? What other unions are similarly tainted?

A thorough public investigation must shed light on the extent of corruption and help restore public trust. This is essential to ensure that this Government can operate transparently and with accountability. The CFMEU, as one of the most powerful unions in Australia, has a significant impact on the political landscape. That cannot be denied. Its influence extends beyond financial contributions. It is in workplaces, project sites, training organisations, homes, offices, communities, families and people. In short, Chris Minns must act more deeply and more swiftly now. This is not just a matter of political strategy but a matter of essential principle and public trust.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (19:46): I just had to listen to five minutes of an absolute political hit job from somebody who may want to have a look at what unions do. Let me rectify one thing for you. Unions are there for the working people. You talk about some of the donations and so forth, but have a look at some of your predecessors when you were in government. Nearly 10 members were hauled in front of ICAC. Never once did they return. Do not stand there and give us lectures on what you think about integrity. The Premier has acted, and acted swiftly, and made it very, very clear—

Mr Tim James: Not enough.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I am really sorry, but he has acted, which is much more than what happened when your party was in government. This is just an example of union bashing.

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): The Clerk will stop the clock. What is the point of order?

Ms Kellie Sloane: Members should direct their comments through the Chair.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): Thank you.

Mr JIHAD DIB: What I do not understand is why they hate unions so much. Why do you hate working people so much and bodies that represent working people so much? In the eight years I sat in this Chamber in opposition I saw how the previous Government acted. Now the Premier has acted and made a big call, you stand in this Chamber and say, "Not enough." Start talking to some of your former colleagues, the ones who were hauled in front of ICAC for the things they did.

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (19:47): I address a pressing issue concerning education in this State and across Australia: the alarming decline in language studies. The decline is a symptom of a broader problem rooted in our education system—in particular, the structure of the ATAR system. ATARs are designed to streamline university admissions, and this has inadvertently created disincentives for students to study another language. Studying another language is perceived to be more difficult and far less rewarding in terms of an ATAR.

The decline we are seeing is specifically concerning when considering the great benefits of being bi- or multilingual. Research in bilingualism has consistently highlighted cognitive, social and economic advantages. Studies from Harvard and the American Psychological Association have shown that people who know more than one language have enhanced brain functionality and better cognitive control, even delaying the onset of Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases by several years. The ability to switch languages also fosters empathy and cultural awareness, enabling better understanding of a diverse perspective more easily—an invaluable skill in a multicultural society and ever-increasingly globalised world.

Economically, knowing more than one language can provide more and better career opportunities, with studies showing 5 per cent to 20 per cent higher salaries for people who speak more than one language. Other research suggests that increasing language acquisition and investing in linguistic diversity boosts economic outcomes for the nation. In parts of Canada, learning French is mandatory. That policy has preserved the country's linguistic heritage and has produced a population proficient in multiple languages, which enhances both national unity and international competitiveness in the workforce. The education systems of Luxembourg and the Netherlands mandate multiple languages, which increases academic performance and economic opportunities globally. Australia's current education policies do not reap those benefits. Multilingual education is vital for Australia's reputation in the international community, extending beyond education.

Addressing those issues requires a multifaceted approach. Firstly, we must reform ATAR scaling by ensuring greater weight is given to language studies, which will make those subjects more appealing to students. Enthusiastic students who are eager to learn a second language should not be disincentivised from doing so for the sole reason that it may negatively impact their ATAR. Next, we need to enhance teacher training by investing

in comprehensive programs specifically designed for language educators. That will ensure that teachers are well equipped to provide high-quality language classes. Promoting the benefits of bilingualism is also essential. Awareness campaigns that highlight the personal, cultural and economic advantages of language learning will educate the public on the advantages of multilingualism.

Additionally, encouraging schools to facilitate more cultural exchange programs will provide students with greater language learning experiences. Many schools already take part in sister school programs that greatly enhance cultural and language collaboration. For example, Thomas Hassall Anglican College in my electorate has long collaborated with Japanese schools to improve learning experiences for students and foster a cultural connection between schools. Sadly, a long-running school exchange program between Liverpool City Council and Toda in Japan has been defunded by the council—perhaps to cover their mounting legal bills. That is a short-sighted decision, given the new Western Sydney airport lies within the Liverpool local government area, and multiple memoranda of understanding have been signed with Japanese corporations at the airport and aerotropolis.

One of the greatest selling points of the airport is our local population. No matter where a tourist, investor or business comes from, I can guarantee that someone in Western Sydney speaks their language and understands their culture. But there is a big difference between proficient in colloquial language or a regional dialect and being able to speak a language in a formal or business context. That is why investing in language education is important. The importance of a multilingual Australia was also reaffirmed in the Federal Government's recently released Multicultural Framework Review report, which states:

There have been sporadic efforts to more fully realise the benefits of the many languages spoken in Australia, but a strategic, coordinated and sustained effort to promote and preserve linguistic diversity has been lacking. This has led to lost opportunities in fostering inclusion, inter-communal understanding and leveraging language skills for social and economic benefits. Becoming a community with a greater appreciation of, and respect for, the family of languages spoken in Australia, and the world views they convey, will lead to a more vibrant and inclusive shared identity.

BONDI BEACH SHARK NETS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (19:52): My electorate of Vaucluse is home to Australia's most iconic and most visited beach—Bondi Beach. About 2.9 million people visit Bondi each year, and many of them take a dip. When they do, they are protected from drownings and other incidents by the wonderful work of the lifesavers from Bondi and North Bondi surf clubs. When they swim, they are also protected from shark attack by a variety of different measures, which include everything from SMART drumlines to listening stations, drones and shark nets. During the summer period, all of those measures are in place. The shark nets have been at Bondi every year since 1937—except for a few years during World War II—and there has not been a human death since their installation. The last serious shark attack was in 2009 when a surfer lost his leg. Incidentally, that happened while the shark nets were in place.

Tonight I want to talk about shark nets because the New South Wales Government has announced that, from March next year, the nets at Bondi might be gone for good. They are considering allowing councils to make that choice. The current Labor Mayor of Waverley, whose council looks after Bondi, supports the removal of the nets. Since the Government's announcement I have received a lot of feedback from people in the community who are concerned. I received a large number of responses to a survey that I posted on my social media—350 responses overnight. The responses were pretty evenly split on the question of whether the nets should stay or go. On the one hand, there are people who want to protect marine life and believe shark nets provide a false sense of security for swimmers. On the other hand, there are people who say, "Why would you get rid of the shark nets that have been there for almost 100 years with no attacks, and why would you favour marine life over human life?"

A woman named Alexandria reached out to me and said, "Maybe we need to educate the public about all the options. I live at Bondi Beach, but I know very little about the nets and other technology available to us." I want to answer Alexandria's question and begin this very important conversation, which impacts so many people. Each year between September and April the 51 coastal councils from Newcastle to Wollongong install shark nets at the direction of the New South Wales Government. The Government is proposing that next year we remove them a month early to avoid the turtle migration that occurs during that period. They may be gone for good.

Shark nets are 150 metres in length and six metres high and are set in 10 to 12 metres of water, approximately 500 metres from the shore. Contrary to common belief, shark nets do not cover the entire length of a beach. For a beach as wide as Bondi, which is approximately 800 metres, there is ample of room for sea life, including sharks, to swim around and over the net. In fact, a report by the NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries Scientific Committee found that approximately 40 per cent of shark entanglements occur on the beach side of the nets when the sharks have already gone in and are trying to get out.

Since the introduction of the shark meshing program in 1937, there has been only one shark fatality at a netted beach, and that was more than 70 years ago, in 1951, at Mereweather. Outside of that, there have been 34 unprovoked shark interactions at netted beaches. That is bureaucratic speak for a shark bite. One of the bigger issues with the nets is the indiscriminate nature of the protection method. Hundreds of other species of marine animals are also caught and killed by shark nets, including whales, dolphins—we saw that at Bondi last year—a wide variety of fish, rays, turtles and even seabirds.

Decision-makers need to balance the toll that shark nets take on marine life with the desire to keep people safe. No-one wants to be the policymaker who removes the net and then someone is attacked and they are blamed. That is why the Labor Government is trying to shift responsibility to councils. The former Liberal-Nationals Government invested more than \$85 million in technology and to look for alternative solutions. I have been advocating for those kinds of solutions to increase. There is a need to educate the public. I hope I have played a small role in that tonight. If people have more questions, I am happy to answer them. This is a very important conversation for community safety.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:57 until
Wednesday 7 August 2024 at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

CHANTEL JOHNSTON

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—It's no secret Lake Macquarie is in dire need of more health care professionals and facilities, that's why it's so good to hear when residents are able to respond to a call for help during a medical emergency. 23-year-old Chantel Johnston from Bonnells Bay was getting ready for work at Dominos Pizza in Morisset, when the NSW Ambulance App GoodSAM alerted her to a cardiac arrest occurring nearby. Without hesitation, Chantel raced to the scene and began administering CPR. Chantel is a trained first aid officer and worked unaided on the woman for 15 minutes, before a police officer arrived to help. It took another 15 minutes for paramedics to arrive from Toronto Ambulance station. Unfortunately, in this case the woman did not survive, but I have no doubt that Chantel's presence and perseverance in applying CPR provided some measure of comfort to her family members. While Chantel was 45 minutes late to work and physically exhausted, she still turned up to complete the rest of her shift. I thank Chantel for being such a wonderful community member and someone people can count on in times of crisis.

HEIDI LIGHTFOOT AND SKYE LYDEN

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Cooranbong Public School was the first school established in Lake Macquarie, opening its doors to 38 students in 1861. Over the past 163 years, the school has served generations of families and developed a reputation for providing a caring and supportive school environment. I would like to congratulate two Cooranbong Public School teachers who have each clocked up an admirable 20-years of service with the Department of Education. Heidi Lightfoot is an asset to her profession and has a reputation for being an exceptionally organised, kind, and patient educator, driven by her commitment to being a positive role model for her students. Heidi frequently assumes leadership roles, providing invaluable support to her colleagues. Her empathetic and nurturing nature helps her students strive to be the best versions of themselves. Skye Lyden is a natural leader, who consistently goes above and beyond to assist those around her, placing the needs of her students at the forefront of her decision-making. Skye exhibits a passion for leading curriculum development for High Potential and Gifted students and shows a keen interest in improving the educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. Congratulations Heidi and Skye.

WAY IN NETWORK

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recently attended a charity gala ball to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the Way In Network. Founded in 1992 by the Hon Dr Helen Sham-Ho OAM as a migrant women's support group, it has evolved to represent a symbol of strength for women, fuelled by a passion for aiding others, a commitment to community giving, and a drive to enhance their own lives while uplifting those in need. It is now a well-known and trusted not for profit organisation, with the key objective of raising funds to assist those in need in Australia and overseas. Since its inception, Way In Network has successfully raised more than \$3.7 million for many Australian organisations and causes along with international disaster and welfare improvement needs. I acknowledge Way in Network's all female management committee, led by President Jessie Xiao (with Past Presidents Annie Tang, Florence Chau and Linda Tang as Honorary Advisers), who are selflessly dedicated to the cause while holding down professional employment. Way in Network's dedication and hard work strengthen the fabric of our society, making it more inclusive and compassionate.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BUSINESS CHAMBER

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate the Sutherland Shire Business Chamber [SSBC] on winning the Outstanding Local Chamber for the second year in a row at the Sydney Business Awards. The award recognises innovative projects undertaken in the past 12 months by a local chamber that aim to improve economic, environmental, or social impacts. The Chamber was established in 2017 and is a not for profit membership organisation that invests funds raised back into the organisation to improve outcomes for members and businesses in the Sutherland Shire. Each year the Chamber runs a range of social and educational events to help its members grow their businesses and succeed. This includes a network for young professionals called 'Evolve', which has been set up to empower the next generation of leaders and ensure the continued success of business in the Shire. I recognise the hardworking members of the Board: President Jeanne Zweck, Vice President Kamen Tsonev, Treasurer Deborah Power, outgoing Treasurer Nathan Rigney, Secretary Joanne Costanzo, Damien Vella, Pamela Wood, Rob Stanley-Jones, Terry Likidis and Tim Jenson. I agree with Jeanne that the award is testament to the hard work, dedication and innovative spirit of the Board and the business community.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS – ELLY OFFORD, EL'BOTANICAL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Yowie Bay's Elly Offord on winning the Outstanding Florist Award and being a finalist for the Youth Award at the 2024 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Elly has been working in the floristry industry for more than three years and started her business el'botanical two years ago, becoming a finalist in last year's Awards. Customers have come to expect creations with daring colour combinations and seasonal blooms of all kinds at pop up outlets at Shire cafes and through online sales at www.elbotanical.com.au. el'botanical does events and weddings of any size or budget and has a growing portfolio of stories from happy customers. It also has a range of items collected over the years such as vases, candle holders and plinths, available for hire. Having outgrown the space in her parents' garage, Elly is now setting up a dedicated headquarters at Taren Point. I congratulate Elly on winning the Outstanding Florist Award wish her success with her growing small business.

EUGOWRA SHOW SOCIETY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I rise today to congratulate the Eugowra Show Society, which has been awarded the AgShows NSW 2023 Resilience Award. Mr Speaker, I would be surprised if anyone came close to the Eugowra Show Society in the judging for this award. The foundation the Show Society provided to help pull the community back together after the trauma of the November 2022 flood event was critical from the outset. It started with opening the Eugowra Showground and transforming it into a vital hub with the pavilion and other facilities serving as an evacuation centre, providing shelter and accommodation. The grounds were also used for staging for government support agencies. Members of the Society provided a haven for flood victims and empathy for traumatized residents. In September 2023, the 108th Eugowra Show went ahead with free entry for residents. Its business-as-usual approach in getting the show off the ground 10 months after the flood set a wonderful example. As AgShows NSW stated in its award precis, 'The Eugowra Show Society exemplifies resilience and adaptation, putting community first'. I thank The Eugowra Show Society for its work and again congratulate them on the recognition from AgShows NSW.

LENNY PUNCH

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I am honoured to recognise Lenny Punch for his 35 years of continuous service to Fire and Rescue NSW, Molong. On July 30, 2024, Lenny was awarded a medal of recognition by Inspector Dane Philippe. Lenny's long-standing commitment and dedication to the community of Molong (Station 380) is truly commendable. Lenny has witnessed and contributed to significant advancements in firefighting, starting his career at a time when methods were vastly different. His unwavering commitment, offbeat sense of humour, and signature "blazingly" bright floral shirts have made him a beloved figure in our community. Lenny's dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of Molong's residents is exemplary. We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Lenny's calibre and spirit serving our community. Thank you, Lenny, for your outstanding service and for being an integral part of Molong's Fire and Rescue team.

ANNALISE BROUWER

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker I would like to congratulate Orange's Annalise Brouwer on earning the 2024 Western NSW Apprentice of the Year award. An apprentice diesel and heavy plant mechanic, Annalise started at Newmont Cadia in 2021 and has completed a Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology at TAFE NSW Dubbo campus, where she has distinguished herself as a leader. She is also active in promoting the trades as a vocation for women through early career events, recruitment activities and the Girls Can Too program. Annalise also serves as a site safety leader. An early fascination with big trucks and the satisfaction she gleaned from servicing her own vehicle are at the heart of Annalise's interest in her trade and Newmont Cadia GM Tom

Lukeman is delighted with her progress, stating her success reflects a positive attitude, initiative and work ethic. She is also a great role model for women in the trades. As a regional winner, Annalise will contest the state competition at the 2024 NSW Apprentice of the Year Awards at Sydney Town Hall in September 2024. I wish her every success.

THE ART SPACE URUNGA

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—I rise today to acknowledge the Art Space Urunga and the positive additional it has on the Town of Urunga. The art space was founded in 2017 by a small group of committed artists determined to create an 'art space' in Urunga. The art gallery acts as a welcoming creative centre that supports Indigenous culture, the local community, visiting and local artists, young people, and tourists. It is an essential asset for the town, and its Gallery infuses new life, dignity, and respect into Urunga's town core and the surrounding community. Open seven days a week, this non-profit asset is operated completely by volunteers. The entire Urunga neighbourhood has benefited from the space. People come from all over to compete in their art and contests, which makes it a significant source of tourism for the region. These tourists shop, eat at coffee shops, stay at neighbouring hotels, and take leisurely strolls down the seaside. I applaud the efforts of everyone who has contributed to this place. The Art place Urunga has played a significant role in promoting artistic endeavours both inside its community and across the Bellingen Shire.

THE SANDERS FAMILY COMMITMENT

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—There's a new boss in charge at the Comboyne Rural Fire Station and she's following in her father's footsteps. Linda Sanders is honoured to take over the captain role in the Comboyne RFS. Linda follows her dad, Robert Sanders who had been captain for 24 of his 30 years with the Rural Fire Service [RFS]. While a little nervous about her new leadership role, Linda is also drawing on decades of experience in the Comboyne brigade. She joined in 1995, when she was just sixteen years old. Linda is not only the first female captain of the brigade, but she now has the official authority to give instructions to her mother, father, and daughter. Her mother Tricia is the brigade secretary, her brother Scott is based at the Wallendbeen brigade and now her seventeen-year-old daughter Olivia has joined up. All joking aside, Linda hopes that as the first female captain, she will have the opportunity to inspire people despite the large shoes she has to fill. It is admirable how committed the Sanders family is to the RFS, and I hope Linda is successful in her new role.

OXLEY REPRESENTED AT THE 2024 WORLD ATHLETICS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—An Oxley constituent, only sixteen years old, is accomplishing feats that others may only imagine. Standing here today, I am delighted to congratulate Daniel Williams on his selection to represent Australia in the 1500m race at the 2024 World Athletics Under 20 Championships, which will take place in Lima, Peru, from August 27 to August 31, 2024. Daniel has shown outstanding form in a number of competitions, most recently winning gold in the under-20 and under-18 1500m events. Daniel maintained a strong pace throughout the competition, pulling clear of the rest of the field to secure an overwhelming victory that set a new championship record. No athlete has ever been that fast in an under-18 national championship. This child is accomplishing incredible things at such a young age that I couldn't be much prouder if I tried, the countless hours of training and enormous amount of effort he has put into all events is admirable. He is a true inspiration, and I hope he has the best possible outcome at the 2024 World Athletics Championship and in his future athletic endeavours.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - ROCHELLE KESHISHIAN

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating the 2024 Individual Volunteer of the Year nominee, Rochelle Keshishian. Since 2008, Rochelle has dedicated over 20 hours each week to the Australian Breastfeeding Association. Her unwavering commitment has significantly improved the physical, mental, and overall health of countless mothers and babies within our community. Rochelle's dedication extends beyond time; she often travelled long distances for meetings and stayed up late to provide crucial support to mothers in need. Her efforts have not only enhanced individual lives but have also uplifted the entire community of Ryde. The annual Volunteer Recognition Awards, held on Thursday, 16 May 2024, aim to celebrate the tireless contributions of volunteers like Rochelle, and acknowledge the often unseen efforts that make a substantial difference in our community. Rochelle exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that strengthens Ryde. Her selfless service has created a positive ripple effect, enhancing the well-being of many and setting a remarkable example for others. We are incredibly grateful for her contributions and proud to recognise her dedication. Thank you, Rochelle, for your outstanding service to Ryde. Your work is truly inspiring.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - ZHUOBIN DENG

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Zhuobin Deng a joyous 65th birthday! Their son, Ming Deng, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy Birthday, Ye

Ye! On this special day, I want to express how deeply grateful I am for your wisdom, kindness, and the countless wonderful memories we've shared. You've always been a source of inspiration and strength for our family, and your stories and lessons have enriched my life in so many ways. I hope your day is filled with joy, love, and everything that makes you happy. Here's to celebrating you today and always!." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Zhuobin's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Zhuobin!

LOCAL PROFESSOR AWARDED TOP SCIENTIFIC HONOUR

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Professor Yihong Du of the University of New England [UNE], for being recognised as one of our country's top Mathematicians, having been named as a 2024 Australian Laureate Fellow by the Australian Research Council. I congratulate Professor Du on this this honour, with this being the most prestigious scientific award of excellence in Australia and given to only 17 world-class researchers each year. This fellowship will see Professor Du to undertake a \$2.45 million project over the next five years, to develop new mathematical theories to improve our knowledge of complex environmental concerns, including ecological invasion and the spread of disease. I commend Professor Du not only on this accolade, but also on his long list of achievements, including being elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2021. We thank Professor Du for the hard work and commitment to his valuable work in Science and Mathematics and for the benefits being provided to the well-being of people across the world.

OPTIWEIGH WINS AUSTRALIAN AGRITECH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Armidale's Bill and Jacqui Mitchell, the owners of the business Optiweigh, on being the winners of the Australian Agritech of the Year Award. This impressive accolade was announced at the Australian Agritech Investor Showcase and Awards Gala held in Melbourne recently. I congratulate Bill and Jacqui for their innovation and development of Optiweigh, which revolutionises productivity and sustainability by enabling real-time weight monitoring without stressing the animal. In essence, Optiweigh sets new standards in Agritech, driving profitability and environmental stewardship across cattle farming communities. I commend Bill and Jacqui for their hard work and 12 year commitment in perfecting Optiweigh, as well as for the valuable contribution this initiative has made to the farming community and to Australian Agriculture.

MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Moree Plains Shire Council [MPSC] on winning the Excellence Award in the Borderless Communities category, at the NSW Local Government 2024 Excellence Awards held in Sydney recently. The award recognises Councils who have established collaborative agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to implement practical actions to improve social, economic and wellbeing outcomes for their community. I congratulate Mayor Mark Johnson, Deputy Mayor Susannah Pearse and fellow Councillors: Mekayla Cochrane, Mike Montgomery, Murray Hartin, Kelly James, Lisa Orchin, Brooke Sauer, Greg Smith, along with General Manager Kelvin Tytherleigh and Council staff on this achievement. Collectively MPSC these representatives have fostered positive relationships, enhanced communication and cooperation, as well as worked together to find innovative solutions to common issues with cross-border counterparts, in particular with the Bolonne Shire Council. I commend all involved in this integral initiative, with the success of the collaboration seeing an improvement to the overall quality of life for residents on both sides of NSW and QLD border towns and districts.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - TOM EMELEUS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Tom Emeleus for his nomination as Individual Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards. Tom's unwavering commitment to Ryde has profoundly impacted our community. As the President of the North West Sydney Football Referees Association, Tom has been a cornerstone of local soccer. In 1998, he demonstrated exceptional foresight by building the software that allocates referees to games, greatly enhancing the efficiency and organization of matches. His dedication extends to the West Ryde Rovers FC, where he has served for over 16 years as a Committee Member, Selector, and Coach, enriching the club with his leadership and passion. In recognition of his extensive contributions, Tom was awarded lifetime membership to the North West Sydney Football Referees Association and the North West Sydney Football Association in 2021. His tireless service has supported the sport and fostered a strong sense of community within Ryde. Tom Emeleus embodies the spirit of volunteerism that the Volunteer Recognition Awards aim to celebrate. His efforts have uplifted countless individuals and made Ryde a better place. Congratulations, Tom, and thank you for your remarkable service.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS VOCAL ACADEMY – GREENACRES, THIS IS ME CHOIR

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of the Greenacres "This Is Me" Choir for taking out 1st Place in the All Abilities section at the BlueScope Wollongong Eisteddfod in June this year. The Greenacres Disability Services choir, the "This is Me Choir", made history at Figtree Anglican Church when they became the first group made up of people with a disability to be included in the City of Wollongong Eisteddfod. This Choir is led by Southern Lights Vocal Academy's Danny Benn and they delivered the songs You Are My Sunshine and I Still Call Australia Home. Kellie Harradine, Greenacres area coordinator, said the 26-member group (plus support people) had rehearsed extensively in the lead-up to their performance. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate the Greenacres "This is Me" Choir and the Southern Lights vocal academy on this amazing achievement.

OLIVER SANDONA

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Oliver Sandona, from Nazareth Catholic Primary School, who competed at the NSWCPSS Cross Country Championships on 5 June 2024 at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park. Oliver came first in his race, representing both Nazareth Catholic Primary School & the Diocese of Wollongong. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Oliver and wish him well in all his future sporting endeavours.

PARIS COX

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Paris Cox, Year 6 Student from the Shellharbour Anglican College, who was selected to join the Catholic Independent Schools [CIS] Girls Primary Basketball Team. The CIS Primary Girls Basketball competed at NSWPSA Magic Week from Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 May 2024 in Newcastle. Paris' team played very well and secured third place in the competition. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Paris and wish her well in all her future sporting endeavours.

FORGED IN ALBURY, USED ACROSS THE WORLD – OVERALL FORGE ALBURY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge Overall Forge, the oldest forging company in Australia, which was first established in 1863, in Sydney before moving to its current base in Albury in 1992. Overall Forge has played a pivotal role in the industrial sector across Australia and the world. The company has been involved in numerous unique projects, including crafting the keel for the 9-time Sydney to Hobart yacht race winner Wild Oats XI, and manufacturing a major component of the deep-sea challenger submarine owned by Titanic director James Cameron. Additionally, Overall Forge produces components for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter and other commercial aircraft. The dedicated 70-strong team includes tradesmen, trades assistants, machine operators, industrial electricians, blacksmiths, metallurgists, and experts in both destructive and non-destructive testing, as well as finance and administration professionals. Overall Forge takes immense pride in their work, producing high-quality products in the heart of Albury. The company stands as a testament to the excellence and innovation that can be achieved through skill, dedication, and a commitment to quality. Congratulations to the entire team at Overall Forge for your outstanding contributions and continued success.

VALE - JIM SANDRAL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to extend my condolences for the passing of Jim Sandral, 91 of Corowa, a true icon of Australian Rules Football. His extraordinary career spread over many decades, as a both a player and coach. Jim's journey began with Rennie Football Club in 1952, where he won two premierships and Best and Fairest awards. He then claimed the Coreen & District Football League's Best and Fairest in 1953 and 1954. In 1955, he joined Corowa in the Ovens and Murray Football League, before being signed to Melbourne, as part of the 1956 'Olympic Premiers', Jim played a crucial role in the club's Grand Final victory over Collingwood. He returned to Corowa in 1958 taking up the role of captain/coach, winning five consecutive Best and Fairest awards (1960-1964) and three Morris Medals (1959, 1962, 1964). In 2005, Jim Sandral was inducted into the O&M's Hall of Fame and elevated to Legend status in 2013. Whilst his legacy in football AFL will be remembered for generations to come, importantly, Jim was a family man, and a valued contributor to his community. My deepest sympathies are with Mr Sandral's family. Vale Jim.

JOHNSON MME GARY ESSEX RETIREMENT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge Gary Essex from Johnsons MME Albury, who has decided to retire after 40 years in the accountancy industry. Gary co-founded Johnsons MME 24 years ago, following the de-merger from Pricewaterhouse-Coopers. The name Johnsons MME honours founding partner Fred Johnson, with MME representing the pioneering partners of 2000: Rod Mullavey, Hugh McKenzie-McHarg,

and Gary Essex. Gary's professional journey peaked when he served as Managing Director from 2011 to 2022, with his strategic insights, and dedication to personalised client service setting a high standard for others to follow. I extend my gratitude to Gary Essex for his remarkable contributions to Johnsons MME, the accountancy industry, and the wider community. Your leadership has been invaluable, and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

LYNN WHEILDON

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Lynn Wheildon for her dedicated and exemplary community service to the Central Coast. Lynn is a recognised talent in the Central Coast community for her outstanding fundraising and volunteer efforts with the Toukley 50 Plus Leisure and Leaning Centre. Lynn has been teaching the line dancing class at the Centre for the past 17 years, ensuring hundreds of people have access to enjoyable and accessible physical activity. She has further been the treasurer of the Centre since 2009. Through her role in the Centre, Lynn has helped raise thousands of dollars in money and goods for local charities. Each year, Lynn collects and donates toys and winter clothes for the Toukley Neighbourhood Centre and We Care Connect Christmas appeals. She further raises funds for local causes, Breast Cancer Research, the Drought Appeal, Ronald McDonald House, and Wyong Hospital Auxiliary through community events and galas. Lynn is beloved by the community for her continuous volunteerism and outstanding commitment to enhancing the lives of those around her. Thank you Lynn, you are a credit to your community.

MAREE KIRBY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mrs Maree Kirby for receiving a Distinguished Long Service Award at the 2024 NSW Community Sports Awards. The NSW Community Sports Awards recognises outstanding achievements and contributions to community sport in NSW – largely carried out by a volunteer workforce. Maree is a significant member with Motocross NSW due to her admirable commitment to organising club and state level motocross events. Maree is further part of the executive committee at the Oberon Motorcycle Club, and life member and secretary at the Lower Mountains Motorcycle Club. Maree has demonstrated her dedication and skill in Motocross through becoming a certified 4 Trainer and Assessor. She continues to pass on her knowledge and experience to new volunteers ensuring that the races run smoothly, and the positive culture of the sport continues. Congratulations Maree, you are a well-deserved recipient on this award, and I look forward to seeing your amazing efforts continue.

ELVA MACNEILL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to congratulate and extend my sincerest wishes to Elva MacNeill on her 103rd Birthday. Elva was born on 30 August 1921 in West Wallsend and moved to Swansea in 1931. She attended Swansea Public School until the age of 14. Elva worked at a local milk bar until marrying George MacNeill at 20, and they had two children together, Raymond and Carol. Elva briefly moved to Muswellbrook, however returned to Swansea where she lives on the same property today. She has always been an active member of the Swansea community, playing tennis and bowls at the local clubs. Elva has further demonstrated her commitment to the community through her role in the Swansea Ladies Probus Club, where she only resigned from her position in June of this year. Elva continues to enjoy her time outside with trips to lunch with her friends and community involvement. I wish Elva all the best for her 103rd birthday as well as good health and prosperity.

STUART MIDGLEY

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport)—I would like to acknowledge and offer my sincere appreciation to Stuart Midgley for his hard work, tireless effort and dedication to the Electorate of Rockdale as my electorate officer. Stuart started in my office in January 2018 and recently left in May 2024. Stuarts leadership and attention to detail have been instrumental in achieving my goals and delivering good results for my constituents and community groups within the electorate of Rockdale. Stuart was an integral part of my team throughout his 6 years of service with me. Stuarts hard work, exceptional problem-solving abilities and strong work ethics have made a significant impact on our team and his contributions throughout his time with me were invaluable. Stuart was an instrumental part of my Rockdale team and I wish him the very best for his future endeavours. Thank you again for all that you have helped me to achieve for my constituents and community groups. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your exceptional work and dedication to your role within my team. Your contributions did not go unnoticed and I want to acknowledge and recognise you on your outstanding performance.

DISTINGUISHED LONG SERVICE AWARD MOUNT DRUITT LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Mr Ronald Pollett for his ongoing support and commitment to little athletics for more than 30 years. Recently, Ronald was honoured for his service by receiving a Distinguished Long Service Award for all of his dedications and selflessness over the last few decades. Ronald has impacted the lives of many young athletes over the years by officiating at events, being a mentor, making contributions to support the improvement and growth of the programs that little athletics provides. I thank Ronald for his continued support of little athletics and the young community of Mount Druitt and congratulate him on this well-deserved achievement.

FIX IT SISTERS SHED

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport)—I would like to acknowledge The Fix It Sisters Shed for their ongoing services to the community. This not-for-profit voluntary organisation aims to teach women both practical and creative DIY skills, thereby empowering them in the process. There are more than 40 Women's Sheds in Australia, focusing on knitting and cooking but the Fix It Sisters Shed in my electorate in Kyeemagh, is Sydney's first Women's Shed and has a fully equipped workshop. The Fix It Sisters Shed always have various projects they work on. Some of their recent achievements are building 30 penguin burrows for Eurobodalla Council for the start of the penguin breeding season in 2022; building floating nesting grounds or islands for swans and turtles for a Reserve in Botany in 2023; and this year, repurposing previously used banners and flags into bags, pillows, tablecloths, cushions and pot plant holders, all to support worthy causes. I congratulate The Fix It Sisters Shed Kyeemagh for their contribution in supporting women in the St George community and wish them all the best for their future ventures.

TENTERFIELD STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE UNIT'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I WISH to congratulate Tenterfield SES Unit Commander Caron Miller and all serving and former volunteer members on 45 years of outstanding service to the Tenterfield Shire community. Tenterfield Unit was formed in 1979 as a specialised road crash rescue service and remains strong to this day as the primary rescue emergency service in Tenterfield, protecting our community during accidents and natural disasters such as floods and storms. Current members have given a total of 234 years of service, including founding member Neal O'Reilly, who is a highly decorated first responder, including a NSW Life Member. I recognise George Mulherin, who is also a NSW Life Member, John Landers, Rex Holley and Ian Gibbs as founding members. Commander Miller has a great team boasting experienced and new members, who are gaining specialised qualifications to ensure that high standards of professionalism are met. We are very fortunate to have such an active unit. From December 2023 to early June 2024, they attended five road crash rescues with requirement to move casualties up embankments or remove people from vehicles, six storm and water tasks and two ambulance assists. I offer my congratulations and best wishes.

VALE, MACADAMIA INDUSTRY FOUNDER, THE LATE TOM HOULT

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The Australian macadamia industry is mourning the recent passing of its founder Thomas Ashley 'Tom' Hoult, who died in Lismore Base Hospital on 18 June aged 84. The industry, worth \$300-million-plus today and expanding into Queensland, originated from Tom Hoult picking up a box of macadamia nuts in Hawaii in 1965 and enquiring as to their country of botanic origin – New South Wales. As Don Hoult tells it, on returning to Australia, his brother Tom contacted the NSW Department of Agriculture and was directed to an officer who had been endeavouring for years to get someone interested in their commercial significance. The officer pointed him to Lismore as an ideal place to start. The Hawaiians acknowledge Australia was the original source of the nuts (known to the Aboriginals as a source of food kindil kindil) and to the man who named it Ferdinand Von Mueller in the 19th century. Tom bought land and established the first Australian commercial farm and factory at Dunoon, outside Lismore, which is still in full operation. He was a humble man who never looked for recognition. The Australian Macadamia Society is about to celebrate its 50th year.

72 FINALISTS FOR TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY'S WOLLUMBIN ART AWARD 2024

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Congratulatory to all 72 finalists vying for the Tweed Regional Gallery-Margaret Olley Art Centre's prestigious Wollumbin Art Award [WWA] 2024. The WWA is the Gallery's biennial \$30,000 award open to artists living in the Tweed, Byron, Kyogle, Ballina and Scenic Rim shires, as well as Lismore, Richmond Valley and Gold Coast City. Named for the mountain the Gallery overlooks, the award celebrates the calibre and diversity of artists of the region. There is no theme and artists may submit works in any medium. Judging for 2024 is the Director of Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Sebastian Goldspink, an independent curator with international and domestic experience. Selecting finalists from 461 entries were Goldspink, Aunty Joyce Summers, Gallery Director Ingrid Hedgcock and Exhibitions Curator Tina Wilson. The winner, announced on

7 September, will receive the major prize of \$15,000, including a two-week residency at the gallery's Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio. The \$10,000 WAA Bundjalung Award for First Nations artists, sponsored by the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Limited, includes an exhibition at the gallery. The \$5,000 WAA Emerging Artist Award is supported by Leanne and Greg Tong-Lyon. Exhibition dates are 6 September-24 November.

TAKES THE CAKE

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—When the Murrumbidgee Local Health District's wound and stoma team decided to raise awareness of their specialised field, they cooked up a sweet way of sharing their message across the district. In Stoma Awareness Week in June, they hit the kitchens – with the help of other hospital staff – to create special cakes that tell a remarkable story. The result was a collection of eye-catching cakes including a brown and swirly 'poo emoji' cake and a stoma seal, among others. It was a fun way for the team to raise awareness of stomas – surgical openings to release bodily waste – and to reduce the stigma around the procedure. The team of six (Amy-Lea Post, Karyn Bowering, Carlie Davis, Naomi Smith, Ray Godbier and Irene Cozens) are constantly on the road caring for more than 400 stoma patients across the district. They provide a vitally important if somewhat unglamorous service and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. The cakes were much tastier than they looked, and I'm told the patients greatly appreciated the message of humour and care. Great work, team, and thank you for all you do to support your patients and help them through difficult times.

CLONTARF ORIGIN

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—It was a clash of blue and maroon as the best of the best ran onto the field, representing their states in a battle of strength, speed, wits and skill. It was Origin – but it was more than football. It was the Clontarf Foundation's third annual state of origin encounter between NSW and Queensland, and I'm proud to say the Blues boasted three young champions from the Wagga Wagga electorate. Lachlan Breed from Tumut Clontarf, and Cody Wood and Byron Price from Koorngal Clontarf represented their state in the big match at Olympic Stadium on 23 May and excelled for themselves, their families and their schools. Along the way, they met stars of rugby league, formed close bonds with their team-mates and took important steps on life's journey. Clontarf aims to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and Lachlan, Cody and Byron are perfect examples of that mission in action. They made their region proud and I would like to congratulate them, and their Clontarf mentors Mat Chapman, Leon Douglas, Nathan Rose, Ben Thompson and Mitch Fennessy. What an amazing effort. Well done to all.

POP IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Pop In Southern Highlands for its invaluable contributions to our community. Pop In is a dedicated community organisation entirely funded through donations and operates Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. It provides vital support to women and children in the Wingecarribee area who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse, offering them a safe space to regroup, rebuild, connect, and thrive. The services offered include a welcoming space for a chat, access to shower and laundry facilities, and the provision of new and gently used clothing. Additionally, Pop In provides crucial advice, information, and support to people. Caseworkers are on hand to assist with developing safety plans, budgeting, liaising with police, obtaining legal advice, accessing mental health services, and finding housing support. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Vicki Kelley, Chair of Pop In Southern Highlands, her dedicated team, and the many volunteers whose efforts make this grassroots organisation a lifeline for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse in the Wingecarribee LGA. Your unwavering commitment and compassionate service are deeply appreciated and make a profound difference in the lives of those you support. Thank you.

PARISH OF BINDA

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Parish of Binda. Binda is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese, believed to have formed in response to the high number of bushrangers and acts of unruly behaviour during the establishment of the colony. The Parish of Binda stretches approximately eighty kilometres from one end to the other - quite the journey when considering in its establishment the Minister was required to travel by horseback through difficult and rough terrain. Services were firstly conducted in personal residences, until the churches were built in each of the seven localities - each of which have their own unique architecture. It is with great significance the Parish of Binda celebrates one-hundred and sixty years of ministry on the 27th and 28th of July. An evening prayer service on the 27th celebrated with music, marking this momentous occasion, followed by Holy Communion and a Thanksgiving service on the 28th. I take this time to acknowledge the longevity of the Parish and the amazing journey that it has undertaken over many years.

MAREL FATIMA VICENTE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Marel Fatima Vicente, a year 9 student at Mulwaree High School. Marel has been awarded a Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship. The Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship is a testament to Marel's academic potential. The scholarship equips recipients with essential tools for success, including a new laptop, high-speed internet access, personalised tutoring both in-person and online, homework assistance, prepaid expense cards for school essentials, and invaluable personal coaching throughout the scholarship's duration. I congratulate Marel on her achievements thus far, for being a scholarship recipient and wish her the absolute best with her studies and goals that she hopes to achieve in the future.

DECLAN FLAHERTY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise Declan Flaherty who served our local community in the Davidson Electorate Office in 2023. As a newly elected member of parliament, Declan was instrumental in helping establish the new electorate office and assisting me with community engagement. While working, Declan successfully juggled and completed a Master of National Security Policy at the Australian National University, that will complement his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney. A Killara local, Declan came to the office with considerable experience. He has been an adviser at the highest levels of government in the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development; and the office of the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts. I also note his experience interning at the United States House of Representatives in 2020. The future is very bright for Declan, and I look forward to witnessing his future endeavours. Thank you, Declan, for your public service for the people of Davidson and the Parliament of NSW.

YOUTH MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON JOSIE CROCKER

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise Josie Crocker from St Ives Chase who represented the Davidson Electorate in the Y NSW Youth Parliament. The motto for 2024 is Youth Parliament is "Think Big, Have Fun, Go Far!" Organised by the YMCA, the program focuses on leadership and advocacy. It enables high school students in years 10 to 12, like Josie, to build confidence, develop leadership skills, engage with civic leadership, policy development, and democratic parliamentary debate. Josie served on the Justice Committee that introduced the "Justice Rights Bill". I understand she undertook substantial research and stakeholder engagement on this matter, to which I commend her enthusiasm. Josie also delivered a Community Recognition Statement in relation to the Medically Supervised Injection Centres. I thank Josie for his public service, and I wish her all successes in his ongoing studies at Brigidine College in St Ives. I look forward to witnessing her very bright future and supporting her ongoing work in exercising leadership that benefits our community.

MARIAN ST ACTION

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Sunday 7 July 2024, I joined Marian St Action to support their work of restoring and revitalising the Marian Street Theatre (MST) in Killara. Established as a community hall in 1906, MST became a theatre in 1965 when British actor and producer Alexander Archdale realised his vision to bring theatre to the North Shore. The likes of Leonard Teale, Ruth Cracknell, Stuart Wagstaff and Helen Morse performed there over the years, along with the Marian Street Theatre for Young People. Sadly in 2013, it was forced to close its doors to the safety concerns. A restored and renovated MST is a passion of many local residents, led by Marian St Action. I recognise and thank committee members Tony Bates, Cheryl Szatow, Jess Ashby, Wendy Blaxland, Nadia Koustadinova, James Southwell, Alicia Powell, Gai Emerson and Holly Wang. I support your vision to create a cultural oasis in the heart of Ku-ring-gai that will inspire us for generations to come.

MR DAVID SEARLE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I wish to recognise the sudden and unexpected passing of Mr David Searle, a much-loved teacher at Marrickville High School. David was a respected and valued colleague to staff across the school. He was a passionate educator and advocate of public education for the past 34 years. David's dedication and selflessness to his students was evident until the very end, when he was providing work and feedback to his students from his hospital bed. His leadership with the school especially in the English/History/Drama/LOTE faculty is a great loss to his colleagues and the whole school. A great teacher is more than just someone who imparts knowledge; a great teacher is an educator, mentor and guide who will leave a lasting impression on their students. David embodied this for his students. I extend my deepest condolences to David's husband, family, many friends and the Marrickville High School community. Vale David Searle and thank you for your many years of dedicated selfless service to public education and your dedication to your students.

MAGPIE SPORTS AWARDS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR DAN WATERWORTH

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I wish to congratulate Dan Waterworth from Petersham Juniors Rugby Club for winning the Volunteer of the Year Award at the recent Magpie Sports Awards. The Magpie Sports Awards recognise and reward outstanding achievements by sports people and their organisations in the local community that is served by Wests Ashfield. The awards are now in their 62nd year and a gala dinner was held in May to celebrate all the nominees and winners. Dan is Petersham Junior's (the Shammies) club coach and the father of three rugby loving sons who are all current or past Shammies. As club coach, he tirelessly trained young players for over 10 years. Every volunteer coach at the rugby club has benefited from Dan's mentoring and guidance to help them be the best coaches and club members they can be. As well as coaching, Dan also referees games as needed and has managed the club's social media in previous seasons. It's not just the Shammies who benefit from Dan's volunteering, he also coaches at Sydney University Junior Rugby Club and Marrickville Cricket Club. Congratulations Dan and thank you for your dedication to your Club and community.

VALE EDDIE ALAMEDDINE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I wish to recognise the passing of Eddie Alameddine, a much-loved local Dulwich Hill business owner and member of my local community. Eddie's nephew, Ammar El-Khaled, broke the news to our community last Friday 14 June, leaving Dulwich Hill and surrounding areas heartbroken at the loss. Eddie Alameddine tragically passed away at only 46 years of age after suffering a heart attack. Eddie owned the local Dulwich Hill greengrocer and was well renowned in our community as kind-hearted and extraordinarily generous and welcoming. He would often give children free fruit when they came into his shop, and regularly helped those struggling to afford fresh fruit and vegetables. The Dulwich Hill community has come together in grief, sharing social media tributes referring to Eddie as "The most cheery shopkeeper in Dulwich Hill" and describing his loss as "immeasurable". I extend my deepest condolences to Eddie's family, and many friends. Vale Eddie Alameddine and thank you for your many years of contributing to our community, you will be missed.

SQUIGGLES AND GIGGLES - BIGGEST MORNING TEA RECORD RAISED

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to thank the Centre Director, Ghada Diab, of Squiggles & Giggles Early Learning Childcare Centre for hosting the Biggest Morning Tea event, a wonderful initiative that embodies the true spirit of community and generosity. Their commitment to raising funds for cancer research, prevention programs, and support services is commendable and deeply inspiring. Through their dedication and participation, they have shown that together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by cancer. The team hosted a successful Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser with a record amount of \$1,950 raised in just one hour for the Cancer Council. Events like the Biggest Morning Tea are more than just fundraising opportunities; they are powerful symbols of solidarity and compassion within our community. They remind us that by coming together and supporting each other, we can create positive change and build a stronger, more caring society. Once again, thank you to Squiggles & Giggles Early Learning Childcare Centre, and to all participants and supporters, for your generosity and kindness. Your contributions will leave a lasting impact and continue to benefit those in need.

EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR LOCAL DEMENTIA GROUP

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—Dementia affects many of our constituents and is a tough time for the person diagnosed and their family. I want to thank the Canterbury Bankstown Dementia Alliance for their inspirational work in creating an alliance that is inclusive of people experiencing dementia. The Alliance is a council-led initiative, co-convened with Western Sydney University and made up of 12 members from community organisations, dementia care groups and people with lived experience. It has supported the development of several initiatives in the city including Memory Cafés, multilingual dementia awareness information sessions and a dementia risk reduction and wellbeing expo – all targeted at people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Alliance was awarded the 'Community Development Award – population over 150,000' for its work in supporting culturally and linguistically diverse people living with dementia and their carers. The Council's Community Development Officer – Ageing, Sandra Loyola-Sandoval, accepted the award on behalf of the Alliance and said she was extremely humbled and proud. Thank you and congratulations to the Canterbury Bankstown Dementia Alliance for their amazing work in helping the Bankstown community and making sure that people that are experiencing dementia feel included.

SEEING LOCAL LANDMARKS THROUGH FRESH EYES

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—Local community organisation, Outloud has been giving local landmarks a larger-than-life persona, through their project 'Stories From Here.' This project is an audio walking tour of Bankstown featuring recorded monologues written by local young people aged 16-24 about their experiences in the area and the places that matter to them. While walking through Bankstown, participants are invited to view the landmarks that are personal to the artists and to see the city through their fresh eyes. According to one of the featured writers, Rania Omar, this isn't just a tour, it's a chance to connect, empathise and celebrate the local voices that make Bankstown uniquely special. In showcasing Bankstown Library in her monologue, Rania likens its welcoming warmth and its wealth of cluttered stories to her Tayta (Grandmother). Other landmarks featured include Paul Keating Park, Bankstown Station, Pho Minh Temple, Bankstown Arts Centre, Amitabha Buddhist Association and Marion Street. The artists have been mentored by local author Kavita Bedford and Outloud's director-dramaturg Finn Ó'Branagán, with the stories recorded by All The Best from FBi Radio. Thank you to Outloud for their amazing work. Keep up the good work.

WSU SPRING FAIR

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—In July, Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus came to life with the 2024 Spring Fair. The fair was an excellent chance for students to visit stalls and over 40 university societies to reach out and interact with new students, especially those who come from overseas as international students. The Spring Fair showcased the best of university culture, allowing students to get engaged in student life, with activities like Speed Friending, live performances and bingo. There were prizes up for grabs as well, such as WSU branded oodles, frank green water bottles and hoodies. Events like the Spring Fair are immensely important to foster individual growth and academic development and are vital in making students find like-minded friends and especially provide opportunities for international students to connect. Western Sydney University is a welcoming and supportive community that encourages students to get involved in university life. A big shout out to Mitchell Hearne, Laine Fox and Julian Gonzalez from Western University Young Labor Club for welcoming me on the day along with members of Nepali Students at Western Sydney University that I met on the day.

Y NSW ALTERNATIVE SUSPENSION PROGRAM

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—The Y NSW is delivering a pilot project of the Alternative Suspension Program in Parramatta. This program is transforming the suspension period for students into a positive experience. In a safe and inclusive environment, personal development can be fostered to explore the root cause of the behaviour that caused the suspension. 81% of students completed the program, with 84% of participants learning new coping, anger management strategies and communication skills. 72% of schools cited an improvement in participant behaviour as a direct result of the program. This program has had a lasting impact on participants and has led to changes in problematic behaviour. It has been successful in Europe and North America, with more than two decades of success to show for it. Students are supported by qualified youth workers and are accompanied in the school reintegration process. The program encourages reflection through one-on-one meetings and group workshops, motivating students to make a change. Congratulations to the Y NSW on this successful program that is changing the direction of young people's lives. I look forward to many more success stories from alternative suspension in Western Sydney and across NSW.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2024

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Congratulations to the Y NSW for hosting another successful year of the Youth Parliament program - an essential part of political education in NSW, and a great way for young people to get involved in policy discourse. With youth MPs from across the state, some from as far as Lismore and Orange, the program participants reflect the diversity of our state. This year there were two new committees, Music and Culture Committee plus the Housing and Homelessness Committee, which served as instruments to exemplify the issues affecting young people. Congratulations to Lian Sequeira for her election as the new Youth Governor of NSW. The youth MPs debated many topics, such as youth homelessness, aboriginal connection to land, community led regional spaces, and more. Thanks to Carlee Heisse and Hamani Tanginoa for their stewardship of the program, and to the Taskforce volunteers that gave their time and energy towards the program including Myles Waciega from my office.

CLARENCE RIVER DANCE ACADEMY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Earlier this year I received an invitation from the City of Grafton Eisteddfod Society Inc to become Patron. I graciously accepted and attended the 70th anniversary event in South Grafton which was a great success. The level of the performances was extremely high, and it was thoroughly enjoyable to attend. Recently one local dance group, Clarence River Dance Academy, led by Nicole

Shipman, attended the Coffs Harbour and Kempsey Eisteddfods. Fielding under 10's, under 12's, under 14's and Open Ballet troupes and receiving first place with all entries. They also received the 'Overall Most Outstanding Group' for the Open Contemporary dance at Kempsey and 'Best Overall Troupe' for their Open Ballet at Grafton. I am proud to support the performing arts scene in my electorate and proud of the level that the local dance groups are achieving. Congratulations to all of the dancers on their dedication, hard work and commitment. Congratulations must also go to the dance teachers and the families who support them so tirelessly. I look forward to seeing the teams continuing to grow from strength to strength. Keep up the great work!

CONGRATULATIONS MRS MARION SMITH

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I wish to congratulate Mrs Marion Smith on her retirement from over 40 years working at the Evans Head Medical Centre. Mrs Smith started as a patient at the Evans Head establishment and was offered a job on one of her visits to the Centre with her now adult son all those years ago. Over the years Mrs Smith has been a superstar receptionist, Practice Manager and huge support to patients and staff alike and has made many friends over her years of employment. I am sure she will have lasting memories, not only of those that she has worked with along the way but also those who have visited the Practice over the years. A well-deserved retirement now comes after a working life building friendships and helping the local community and visitors alike, watching the little fishing village of Evans Head grow into the now bustling seaside town. Mrs Smith, I thank you for your hard work, dedication and community spirit and wish you all the best for your retirement.

21 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to congratulate Maurice and Alana Kenny who have been the proud owners and operators of Grafton Mall Butchery for the last 21 years. What started as a passion for food when taking over the already established butcher has grown into a thriving business employing many locals who also love what they do. Grafton Mall Butchery have a range of products varying from, not only the household favourites of beef, pork, lamb and chicken, but a large range of cheese, olives, and deli meats. They stock a range of handy pre-made meals in the freezer for convenience and have online ordering availability. Grazing boxes are also a hit for special occasions. Meat, condiments, meals, and pet food, they really do have the lot available at Grafton Mall Butchery and in a handy central location too. I congratulate Maurice and Alana on how they have grown their business and wish them all the best for their future. Happy 21st Birthday to the team!

RIVERWOOD HORNETS RETURN FROM NORMANDY, FRANCE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to recognise the Riverwood Hornets of the Australian Cadet Corps, who recently returned from Normandy, France, after taking part in the official 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Representing the 3,300 Australians who played a crucial role during D-Day, the Riverwood Hornets had the opportunity to perform during a number of commemorative services throughout Normandy. The band undertook several visits to key historical sites, reflecting on the courage and resilience that Australian servicemen showed during the landings. The Riverwood Hornets have been an integral part of my community for some time now, participating in many local events and commemorative services. I am so glad that they were able to partake in this amazing experience. I would like to thank Chris Bailey, Captain of the Riverwood Hornets, who organised what looked to be a fantastic trip. I would also like to thank the chaperones who supervised the trip, as well as all members of the Riverwood Hornets Marching Band. I look forward to hearing all about their trip very soon. I trust that it was both enriching and educational.

ROTARY CLUB OF HURSTVILLE – 72ND ANNUAL CHANGEOVER DINNER

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Hurstville and recognise their organisation for everything that they do in our local community. The club hosted their 72nd annual changeover dinner recently, in which one of my good friends, Mr Russell Lee, was made the incoming president for 2024-2025. The club has a very rich history and has been operating within our local area for many years now. They are committed to supporting many charitable organisations and have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. Last financial year, the club donated just over \$17,000 to a number of local groups and charitable organisations. What a fantastic effort! I would also like to thank former president, David Fan, for his service over the years. I have been privileged to work with David for some time and he has done a wonderful service to the Club. I would also like to congratulate the new Hurstville Rotary Board including, President Russell Lee, Vice President David Fan, Secretary Jan Gartrell, Treasurer Kevin Smith, and Director's Janice Hall, Susan Leahy, Marion Smith and Ivis Yung.

ST GEORGE BRASS BAND – STRIKE A CHORD

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to congratulate the St George Brass Band, who were recently announced as finalists for the 'Strike a Chord' chamber music competition. What a testament to their

hard work and talent! I have had the pleasure of hearing the St George Brass Band play on many occasions! They are a group of volunteer musicians, ranging from beginners to experienced players. They often participate at community events within our local area and I must say, they are a talented group of individuals. This is also the fourth year that the band has won a cash prize in the competition. A big congratulations to the following individuals, who were a part of the two groups who won a Brass prize this year. In group one – the Junior Quintet, there was: Harry Kane and Oliver Wootton on cornets; Adiv Philip and Alex Putra on euphoniums; Leo Huang on Eb bass Tuba. In group two – the Junior Lower Brass Quartet, there was: Alex Putra and Adiv Philip on euphoniums; Leo Huang and Stella Shin on tubas. Congratulations to the players once again for your many successes in the competition.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I encourage everyone in my community to be Fire Safe by planning, practicing and protecting through creating a Home Escape Plan. When a fire takes hold, every second counts. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can turn into a major fire, that's why having a fire escape plan is crucial for every household. Without a plan, lives are at risk. Fire and Rescue NSW is urging the community to avoid disaster and create a home fire escape plan. I encourage all to visit the Fire and Rescue NSW website, download the template and draw an escape plan. Once created, I encourage all to practice it at least twice a year to ensure everyone knows what to do. A reminder that in case of fire, stay low, get out, and stay out! Security bars can trap people, so ensure windows and doors have quick-release devices. Apartments have specific evacuation plans; learn and practice them. I encourage everyone to protect their loved ones by planning and practicing your escape plan today. They may download a plan at <https://fire.nsw.gov.au/befiresafe>

TOBY SMITH

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I commend and congratulate 17-year-old Toby Smith for his compassion and kindness towards those who are homeless. Toby, a student at Nepean Christian School launched a Winter Coat Drive to encourage locals to donate winter clothing for the homeless. The Winter Coat Drive not only saw 212 winter items donated but another 81 warmer weather items for distribution as the season changes. Toby joined the volunteers of ClothesLine Incorporated to distribute the donated items. The community spirit conveyed in the actions of Toby is second to none and we are grateful for his contribution. The collective goodwill of the community was displayed through the community's response to Toby spreading the word in a Facebook post. It is always heartwarming to see these selfless acts of kindness and, on behalf of the electorate of Badgerys Creek, I thank Toby for his thoughtfulness by demonstrating how we can all make a difference to those less fortunate.

WORLD DROWNING PREVENTION DAY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—The 25th of July each year marks World Drowning Prevention Day. This year's theme is 'Anyone can drown, no one should.' During the 2023/24 patrolling season, Surf Life Saving NSW witnessed a significant number of drowning deaths along the NSW coastline. Their goal is to bring this number down to zero. This year we are all asked: What can YOU do to be safe at the beach? I encourage my electorate and everyone beyond to read more about our beach safety tips at <https://beachsafetyhub.org.au/world-drowning-prevention-day/>

NORTHS SQUASH CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Norths Squash Club is one of the many fantastic sporting clubs in my community of Willoughby with a proud history going back to 1960. On Tuesday 25 June, I was honoured to be part of the official opening ceremony for one of their new courts. Together with John Small OAM, the President of Squash NSW, and representatives from the management of Norths Collective and members of the Norths Squash Club, I had the pleasure to say a few words and cut the ribbon across the new court. After the formalities, we celebrated with a few drinks and nibbles where I got to meet and greet the Club members. I would like to offer my huge thanks to the Squash Club Committee, and the Club Secretary Mark Ryan, for all their work in co-ordinating the refurbishments themselves and the launch event. The superb new court renovations are a real credit to the leadership of Norths Squash Club, and I am confident they will attract even more people in my community to take up the fantastic sport of Squash.

MENALIVE OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHATSWOOD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish in Chatswood makes a wonderful contribution to our community, and their Men Alive ministry does an amazing job of reaching out to our local men. The Men Alive group at Our Lady of Dolours has been running for several years where they meet fortnightly for fellowship, prayer and Bible reading, together with holding weekend retreats and partaking in private masses at the Parish. On Wednesday 26 of June, I had the pleasure of joining this Men Alive group to watch the State of

Origin together. The evening was made all the better with NSW convincingly winning the match 36-18! It was a real pleasure to again be with the men there and hear how they have been enriched by this ministry. Together we remember our late friend John Luxton who originally invited me to this event in 2022. I am so grateful for the Men Alive group in Chatswood and all it does to provide belonging, fellowship and spiritual nourishment to so many of our men.

STREETWORK SUPPORTERS BREAKFAST

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Streetwork is a wonderful local charity helping vulnerable young people in our community to turn their lives around. With many of our youth facing several struggles ranging from mental health, school bullying, and social isolation to drug abuse, youth crime and homelessness, there is a huge need for support. This is where Streetwork steps in with their Kickstart Mentoring Program to match a vulnerable young person with their own trained and experienced youth caseworker to help each youth to achieve the best personal outcomes possible. I appreciate the great work of Streetwork immensely, and I recently had the pleasure of attending their Supporters' Breakfast at Willoughby Uniting Church on Saturday 29 June to hear about their latest initiatives and life-changing programs. Over 90% of Streetwork's funds go directly into funding its programs and for every dollar spent by Streetwork, there is a \$16 return to the community. I applaud the contribution Streetwork makes to our youth and community, thank all those supporters of Streetwork who attended and recognise the hard work and dedication of all Streetwork staff so ably led by Helen Banu.

LIVERPOOL GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL 70TH

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—This year marks 70 years since Liverpool Girls High School opened its doors for the young people of Liverpool and I was delighted to help celebrate such a significant milestone. The birthday bash was a night of reunions and nostalgic displays that captured how the school has evolved over the decades. Liverpool Girls High School sits on the site of the previous Liverpool Home Science School, which operated from 1929 to 1953. In 1947, the foundation stone of Liverpool Girls was laid and the school started operating under its current name in 1954. Liverpool Girls has changed a lot in that time, but one constant is a dedication to high quality learning that empowers young women to thrive and succeed within an inclusive and supporting community. 70 years on, Liverpool Girls is poised to enter a new era, with the establishment of a new co-educational high school on the site for over 2000 students. I look forward to working with the school community as we navigate this exciting frontier. I congratulate and acknowledge Principal Kirstine Gonano and the entire staff team and student body, past and present, for their contributions to Liverpool Girls

SUMMITCARE - AWARD

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—Last month, the annual Mt Druitt St Marys Local Business Awards took place, celebrating exceptional businesses within our community. I am pleased to announce that several businesses from my electorate have been honoured with these prestigious awards. My heartfelt congratulations go to SummitCare – St Marys for their continuous dedication to Health Improvement Services. Your unwavering commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community through high-quality aged care and support services is truly commendable. Receiving one of these awards is a significant accolade, recognising the dedication and hard work of these businesses and their employees in serving our community. I am proud to be part of a community that values and supports its local enterprises. Congratulations Summit Care —keep up the excellent work!

BE UNSTOPPABLE FOUNDATION GALA

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—I had the pleasure of attending the Be Unstoppable Foundation Gala on May 25. The Be Unstoppable Foundation is a non-for-profit charity dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages by providing them with resources, support, and opportunities to achieve their full potential. Core services include personalised coaching, skill development programs, and community integration initiatives. The charity's values centre around inclusivity, empowerment, and resilience, aiming to create a society where everyone, regardless of their abilities, can thrive and contribute meaningfully. The evening was dedicated to raising awareness, funds and championing support for mental health. There was live entertainment, an auction, a raffle and plenty of dancing aided by the fantastic DJ. It was truly a celebration of resilience, compassion, and the power of community, coming together for a cause that touches us all. A big thank you to the Be Unstoppable team for a wonderful evening towards such a great cause.

AUSTRALIAN MADE EV CONVOY

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On 29 May, I had the privilege of joining a convoy of Aussie-built ACE EV V1 Transformer trolley collectors from their Wetherill Park factory to Woolworths HQ in Bella Vista. This event marks a significant milestone and sends a clear message: Australia is back in the vehicle manufacturing game, and we're doing it sustainably. The ACE EV V1 Transformer is more than just a vehicle. It

represents the future of Australian innovation and manufacturing. What makes the V1 Transformer truly remarkable is its energy efficiency and environmental benefits. These vehicles can lower running costs by up to 85% and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 70%, significantly contributing to our sustainability goals. I want to thank Greg McGarvie and the entire ACE EV team for their dedication and hard work. Their vision and innovation have made this possible, showcasing the strength and potential of Australian manufacturing. As we move forward, let's continue to support Australia being at the forefront of technological innovation. Keep an eye out for these Australian-built 100% electric vehicles at your local Woolies!

21ST ANNUAL KIDS OF MACARTHUR BALL

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—It was a pleasure to attend the 21st Annual Kids of Macarthur Ball held on June 1st, hosted by Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation. Since its inception in 2000, this foundation has been essential lifeline for children in our community. Dedicated to enhancing healthcare, the foundation purchases state-of-the-art paediatric medical equipment for Campbelltown and Camden hospitals. Their efforts extend beyond hospital walls, supporting numerous community health programs and vital research initiatives. By ensuring our children receive the best care locally, we are not only improving individual lives but also strengthening our entire community. The event was a remarkable success, thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved. The funds raised at the event will play a crucial role in enhancing the medical care available to children in our community. The impact contributions made will be felt by many families, offering them hope and comfort during challenging times. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who participated and for their support. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of our children and their families.

CASTLE HILL ANZAC AMBASSADORS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—Each year the Castle Hill & District RSL Sub-Branch select students to be Anzac Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are taught public speaking, and they research a set subject to present at various commemorations throughout the year. The Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch Secondary School Ambassador Program began in 2015. The Ambassadors each spoke on Anzac Day. Anika Pandey from Baulkham Hills High School spoke about the deployment of HMA Ships Sydney, Brisbane, and Westralia, which was the first Australia Navy ship, which saw active service by women in the Navy. Jacob Carr from Marian Catholic College highlighted the deployment of Clearance Dive Team 3 to clear the ominous threat of mines. William Go from Castle Hill High provided a chilling address on the bravery and sacrifice by Clearance Diving Team 3 in clearing mines. Finally, Isabelle Henderson from Northholm Grammar spoke about the significant contribution provided by HMA Ships Anzac, Darwin, and Kanimbla in conducting maritime interception operations. Later this year the Ambassadors will be given a tour of HMAS Supply and Parliament House. I thank the Sub-Branch for maintaining the important history of those who have fought for our nation and our values through the Ambassador Program.

OAKHILL COLLEGE CASTLE HILL, PRODUCTION OF MAMMA MIA THE MUSICAL

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I was fortunate to attend the final performance of this year's Oakhill College School Musical, Mamma Mia. Oakhill College has a long and proud tradition of each year performing wonderful musicals. Mamma Mia The Musical first premiered in the West End at Prince Edward Theatre on 6 April 1999. The Oakhill production was equal to some of the very best performances of the much-loved ABBA Musical. I recognise and commend the main cast members for terrific performances including Alyzandra Almarino who played Donna Sheridan, Genevieve Brouillard who played Sophie Sheridan, Ava Bizzanelli who played Rosie, Bernadette Laird who played Tanya, Joshua Vaz who played Sam Carmichael, Harrison Meek who played Harry Bright, Matthew Walker-Rolls who played Bill Austin and Nicholas Gomez who played Sky. I would be remiss of me to not also acknowledge the wonderful and talented members for the great music numbers. Lastly, I thank Director, Brad Turbott for the artistic direction to bring the musical to life. Thank you to all cast members, production team, band members and crew for your tireless efforts. This year's production ensured the Oakhill College tradition of wonderful musicals continues.

SYDNEY COMMUNITY GROUP, SPACEWALK 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I record the commendable service to our community of the Sydney Community Group [SCG]. On Saturday, 27 July 2024, SCG hosted the Space Walk Fashion Show at the Pioneer Theatre, Castle Hill. The event built upon the inaugural Space Walk Fashion show held last year. This year's event was a cultural fusion showcasing an extravaganza of light, colour, sound, and dancing. Space Walk 2024 provided the opportunity to showcase wonderful fashions from four designers. Fashion Designers, Shruti Krishnakumar from Indriya Curations; Sid Harthgnair from the house of Janqui; Mala Arya Kanwar who is the founder of Oatlands Velvet; and Kavena Rama who is the owner of on-line fashion boutique Hadara Kevtans all presented an array of colourful fashions. Spacewalk 2024 beautifully portrayed the rich tapestry of India's cultural diversity. The event was not merely about fashion it was about using art to support philanthropic causes. Sydney Community

Group raised and donated a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to support Hills Community Aid. I thank the President of SCG Indu Harikrishna, the CEO Manjula Vishwanath and to all those involved for promoting the benefits of harmony through multiculturalism within our community. Thank you to SCG.

ADEM CETINAY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Born in Auburn, NSW, in 1974, Adem Cetinay relocated to Bossley Park in 1980, where he has remained, except for a brief 5-year period in Fairfield West. Throughout the years, Bossley Park has been his steadfast home. For the past 15 years, Adem has held the role of public officer at the Bonnyrigg Turkish Cultural Association, a membership he has maintained since the mosque's inception in 1992. During his tenure, Adem has spearheaded numerous significant initiatives at the mosque, including the resurfacing of the car park, upgrades to electricity capacity, installation of air conditioning, implementation of an elevator, restoration of the building's heritage, construction of pergolas and awnings, installation of solar panels, and organization of festival events during Ramadan. Furthermore, amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Adem has demonstrated remarkable leadership by coordinating the distribution of food packs for the elderly, managing mosque operations to ensure safe congregation practices, orchestrating the Covid-19 vaccine program, and overseeing the renovation of the Imam's residence. His dedicated efforts have greatly contributed to the mosque's development and community support initiatives.

FOREVER GIVING FOUNDATION

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On the 12th of May 2024, I had the privilege of attending the Forever Giving Foundation Annual Charity Luncheon at Club Marconi. I congratulate Mr Pat Sergi OAM for the significant effort and dedication he put to successfully organise another year of this annual event. I would also like to thank the wonderful staff at Club Marconi and Doltone House alongside the organising committee for facilitating this amazing event. The Forever Giving Foundation Annual Charity Luncheon raises money for local charities to support people who are facing domestic and family violence and those from a low socio-economic background that are struggling to afford essentials, including food and water. I am particularly impressed by the contribution of The Forever Giving Foundation to support local people in my local community especially amidst a once in a generation cost-of-living crisis. I acknowledge another successful year of this annual event and look forward to returning to the Forever Giving Foundation Annual Charity Luncheon in future years.

BAHTISEN GUNACTI

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Born in Giresun, Turkey, in 1960, Bahtisen Gunacti migrated to Australia and lived in Cabramatta until 2002. He then purchased a property in Auburn, where he still resides. Despite relocating from the local area, Bahtisen's commitment to the mosque has remained unwavering. Since its inception, Bahtisen has been actively involved with the Bonnyrigg Turkish Islamic Cultural Association, assuming various roles, including vice president for the past 15 years. His connection with the mosque dates back to its construction in 1992, during which he became an integral member of the congregation. As a founding committee member, Bahtisen played a crucial role in numerous aspects of the Mosque's development. He oversaw the construction of the Mosque and the Imam's residence, contributed to the establishment of classrooms and meeting rooms, ensured regular maintenance, actively fundraised for essential projects, maintained close ties with the local community and served as a role model within the community. Bahtisen's enduring dedication has helped foster a strong sense of unity and belonging within the mosque community. His leadership and service have left an indelible mark, contributing to the mosque's growth and the enrichment of the community it serves.

BISHOP KEVIN MANNING DD

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 2nd August, I was saddened to attend the funeral service of Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning DD, the second Bishop of Parramatta, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Manning was born in 1933 in Coolah, central western New South Wales. He was ordained as a priest in the Catholic Church in 1961, served in the Diocese of Bathurst from 1962 to 1978. He was installed as Bishop of Armidale in 1991 then elevated to Bishop of Parramatta in 1997, serving our Western Sydney community in that role to 2010. During Bishop Manning's time as Bishop of Parramatta, the current St Patrick's Cathedral was dedicated in 2003, after the historic cathedral was destroyed by fire. Also during his tenure was the 2006 establishment of Campion College, a tertiary-level college based in our local Prospect Electorate. On Monday 15th July, he died peacefully in Bathurst at the age of 90. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, concelebrated the service alongside the Archbishops of Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide, as well as Bishops and clergy from across Australia. I joined hundreds of mourners in commemorating and giving thanks for Bishop Manning's life of service to our community.

GREYSTANES 1ST SCOUT GROUP

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—It was wonderful to attend the Greystanes 1st Scout Group's Annual Presentation Report on the 2nd May 2024. Greystanes 1st Scouts are a voluntary, educational movement for young people from all walks of life. Embodying the mission of the Scout Movement, Greystanes 1st aspire to help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, emotional and social potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of our local community. Facilitating opportunities to participate in Joeys, Cubs and Scouts, Greystanes 1st helps children of all ages develop resilience, confidence, team building, leadership and problem-solving skills. Congratulations to all the deserving Award Recipients. It was fantastic to meet many dedicated, young leaders in our community. I also congratulate Greystanes 1st Scout Leader Michelle Williams on receiving a Silver Wattle Award at the Scouts NSW Adult Recognition Awards. A Silver Wattle is awarded for outstanding service to Scouts Australia as an Adult Member in an active Leadership role, for ten-twelve years. Michelle goes above and beyond to help our Scouts thrive. Thank you to Secretary Mardi-Anne Daniels, the Parents Support Committee, Scout Leaders, and volunteers for providing a fun and enriching space for youth in our community.

KEVIN HORNE JP

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of a lifelong local community advocate Kevin Gregory Horne JP. Kevin lived with his family in Wentworthville for more than 65 years, and was deeply connected with our local community. He was a mechanical engineer for 55 years, retiring in 2000 as a lifetime member of the Australasian Institute of Engineer Surveyors. Among his many community roles, Kevin served for more than 50 years as a Justice of the Peace, was President of the Wentworthville Seniors Rugby Club in the 1980s, served as Chairman of the Holroyd Council Parks Trust for 25 years, and volunteered for over 30 years at Merrylands Police Station, as an independent support for juveniles in custody. In his later years, Kevin helped to establish the Computer Pals Holroyd course, teaching computer skills to senior citizens, and was founding member of the Wentworthville Community Garden. In recognition of his lifelong community contributions, Holroyd Council named Kevin their Citizen of the Year in 2015. With Kevin's passing, our local Prospect Electorate community has farewelled an amazing advocate. My condolences go out to all his family and friends in their time of loss.

FAY GLEAVE

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Beloved Kingscliff resident Fay Gleave was known to many people in and around the Tweed for her extraordinary service to her community through her work with St Johns Ambulance NSW. Known by all as 'Mother Fay', she co-founded the Kingscliff Brigade and dedicated more than 60 years of her life to educating people about first aid. Fay was recognised with multiple awards including the Order of St John, Tweed's Citizen of the Year (not once, but twice), State Premier's Award for Community Service and at the age of 84 Fay was awarded the St John Trainer of the Year by the Governor of NSW. Now, generations into the future will be able to remember Fay after a footway in Kingscliff was named in her honour. Fay Walk, a community pathway between Viking Street and Gibson Street in Kingscliff, is a permanent reminder of Fay's inspiring legacy. Fay made an incomparable contribution to our community through her work in first aid and naming this walkway after Fay is a wonderful way to celebrate her memory and pay tribute to her truly remarkable life of community service.

AUSTRALIAN LONGBOARD TITLES

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—The Tweed Coast will proudly play host to the 2024 Australian Longboard Titles next month, highlighting the high calibre of surfing breaks in the Tweed Electorate. Local beaches at Cabarita, Hastings Point, Kingscliff, Fingal Head and Duranbah are earmarked to host events for this major Surfing Australia event to be held from 12-17 September. The Tweed Coast offers a range of point breaks and back beaches ideal for longboarding and is also home to the Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre which will be made available to athletes during the event window. The High Performance Centre offers world-class training facilities, function rooms, accommodation and coaching and physio support services. The Australian Longboard Titles are a high point on the Australian surfing calendar and this important event will showcase the beautiful Tweed region and its drawcard coastal lifestyle.

TWIN TOWNS SOCIAL INCLUSION

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—The wonderful community contribution of Twin Towns, a registered club in the Tweed Electorate, was recently recognised at this year's Clubs & Community Awards. Twin Towns was named winner of the Social Inclusion category which recognises outstanding Clubs dedicated to supporting those with additional needs. Twin Towns was awarded for its Kids Parties where local children with additional needs are invited to attend a free, fully catered party. Along with parents, carers and siblings, kids are treated to

party food and drinks and also leave with a party gift bag full of treats, games and activities. Twin Towns has held 16 parties making a tremendous contribution to the lives of more than 4000 kids. These parties have a hugely positive impact on kids with additional needs who can miss out on attending birthday parties for various reasons such as finding it tough to meet and make new friends, physical limitations, emotional and behavioural challenges or finding unfamiliar environments stressful. Congratulations to Twin Towns and the team behind Kids Parties on your Award win and for offering inclusion and acceptance and the opportunity to create lifelong family memories.

TAYLOR SPRINGETT AND THE PENGUIN WARDENS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, on 3rd June, the 2023/2024 NSW Landcare Awards took place at Sergeants Mess in Mosman. It was a fantastic occasion to recognise all those individuals and organisations who dedicate their time and efforts to protect our local ecosystems and contribute to the sustainability & productivity of our land & water. I am pleased to say that there were several highlights for the Manly electorate on the night. I first wish to recognise the NSW National Parks Penguin Wardens who were finalists in the Coastcare Award. Manly is home to the only colony of little penguins in Mainland NSW. The Wardens play a crucial role in protecting this endangered species, working around the clock during breeding seasons to ensure they are protected. I also wish to congratulate a constituent, Taylor Springett, who won the NextGen award which celebrates the efforts of young people in the State making important contributions to conservation. Taylor's outstanding work in ensuring that the cameras which monitor our penguins remain operational, should be commended. Congratulations to Taylor and all the Penguin Wardens, and well done to Landcare NSW on hosting such a successful event for an extremely worthy cause.

MANLY WARRINGAH PIPE BAND

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the Manly Warringah Pipe Band who last month accomplished the impressive feat of representing Manly and Australia at the iconic Basel Tattoo in Switzerland. This is the Manly Warringah Pipe Band's third performance at the Basel Tattoo having previously performed in 2017 and 2022 respectively. They have also performed at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2012, 2015 and 2018. With an estimated 125,000 visitors, the Basel Tattoo Parade is considered one of the largest of its kind in the world, while in terms of overall performers and budget, it is the second largest military tattoo behind the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. I wish to congratulate the Manly Warringah Pipe Band and all those involved on this fantastic effort. I also wish to acknowledge the Band's regular involvement in such a prestigious event, and the success they have enjoyed in years prior. Manly is fortunate to boast such a multitalented community, and we should be very proud to call the Manly Warringah Pipe Band one of our own.

RICHARD NICHOLLS – FORMERLY OF DIVE CENTRE MANLY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the commitment, drive, enthusiasm and vision of Richard Nicholls, former owner of the Dive Centre Manly. I would like to recognise the 30-year tenure of Richard's work in the Manly community since taking ownership of Dive Centre Manly in 1993. His dedication towards maintaining Manly's local waterways, his role in establishing Cabbage Tree Bay as a no-take aquatic reserve, and years of organising underwater clean-ups and educating our community, certainly deserves recognition. I have been advised Richard was invited to DEMA (The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association) in the USA by CEO Drew Richardson and is only the 7th person in the organisation's history to be awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Diver Education, Retail and Conservation Excellence. And above all of that Richard Nicholls is a Manly local! We wish him the very best for the future knowing he has left a legacy in Manly's waterways of which he should be very proud.

VALE DR ALLAN SHELL

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to pay my respects to the late Dr Allan Shell - a dedicated medical practitioner who gave generously of his time and expertise to both our Jewish and broader community. Dr Allan Shell's long and valuable association with Wolper Jewish Hospital began in 1980 as a Visiting Medical Officer and later as a surgical assistant in Wolper's then operating theatres. In 1997, he joined the Hospital's Board of Directors. Over the years of his tenure, he served full terms as the Hospital's Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Vice President, demonstrating the breadth of his skills and his interest in all aspects of the Hospital. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Wolper's Board of Directors appointed Dr Shell as Wolper's first Honorary Life Member in 2017. Reflecting on this honour, Dr Shell remarked that his work with Wolper was "...good for the soul and good for the community." I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers for Dr Shell, his wife Roma, and all his family at this time.

BRONTE CAMPBELL PARIS OLYMPICS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate local constituent Bronte Campbell on her selection and achievements for Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Getting selected for a single Olympics is an incredible milestone. This was Bronte's fourth. It is a testament to her skill, discipline, and determination that she has been able to remain a stalwart in our incredibly competitive Dolphins Swim Team. Bronte won gold in the 4x100m freestyle, her third gold in this event after winning in both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2021. After battling back, shoulder and calf injuries, these medals are a representation of her courage and willpower. I know the members at North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club were cheering you on every step of the way. Congratulations Bronte. Our community, state and country are so proud of you.

OLD BAR MEN'S SHED

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise the Old Bar Men's Shed for the wonderful work they do in the Myall Lakes community and beyond. I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr David Denning, the president of the Old Bar Men's Shed, who gave me a tour of their impressive shed. With a membership of 47, their shed continues to grow. Every Thursday, they open their doors to home-schooled children, teaching them carpentry skills. The Old Bar Men's Shed contributes to local arts and culture by creating incredible sets for productions such as Manning Valley Anglican College's "Grease" and Taree Arts Council's performances of "Les Miserables," "Mamma Mia," and "Mary Poppins." Their craftsmanship even reached Sydney, where they built the front grates for Willy Wonka's Factory for a school. I thank the Old Bar Men's Shed for their contributions to our community, their hard work makes me proud to be their new Patron.

SCOTT GALE

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Scott Gale from Black Head Surf Lifesaving Club who was awarded a certificate of appreciation at the Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast Awards of Excellence. On September 3, 2023 at Black Head Beach, Scott demonstrated courage and quick thinking while attending the ocean pools with family & friends. Upon spotting a young male struggling to swim in a strong rip current, floating on his back with one arm waving in the air Scott quickly acted as the beach was unpatrolled. Retrieving a rescue board from the closed gear room, Scott navigated challenging surf conditions to reach the distressed swimmer. With his expert skill, Scott brought the swimmer to shore safely. Scott's actions were witnessed by many that day and I thank him for his bravery and commitment to saving lives, the outcome could have been far worse had Scott not been on Black Head Beach that day.

YEAR 6 TAREE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise the exceptional music talents of the Year 6 students at Taree Public School. During my recent visit to their music class, taught by Matt Zarb from the Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF), I was very impressed. The ACMF, is a not-for-profit organisation that provides music education to children and youth across Australia. In the company of Principal Mrs. Di Murray, I had the pleasure of playing the drums alongside these talented students. The class came alive with students skilfully playing the piano, bass guitar, percussion instruments, and drum kits. I thank Di and Matt for having me attend. It was a joy to witness how engaged the students were and to hear how this program is benefitting them and connecting them back with school.

EMMA FITZGERALD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Emma Fitzgerald who was recently awarded the Patrons Award at the Dubbo Touch Association AGM. This is the 8th year the Dubbo Touch Association have presented the Patrons Award. The award is to recognise a club member for their outstanding commitment to the Dubbo Touch Association and the sport of Touch Football in general. Emma's extensive involvement in the club showcases her dedication and versatility. Emma has taken on the responsibility of many important roles, she is the rep coordinator, a coach, a player, a referee, and a sponsor. A quite achiever, working behind the scenes, Emma always goes above and beyond for the club and its members. Emma is a very deserving winner of this accolade and recognition. Congratulations Emma, your unwavering dedication does not go unnoticed and is certainly appreciated. Thank you for all you do and continue to do for Touch Football in Dubbo.

LISA GIBSON

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate local pharmacist Lisa Gibson who is celebrating 20 years as a country pharmacist. After completing high school in Dubbo, Lisa was accepted into University in Sydney and believed she was destined for the city pharmacy career and lifestyle. Back at home during university holidays and needing help with an assignment, she approached her nearest Pharmacist,

Simon Blacker at Orana Mall Pharmacy. This conversation then turned into an offer to do her registration. However, Lisa was still convinced she was destined for a city lifestyle. At the completion of her degree and, like many university students, running short of cash, she returned home to accept the offer. Luckily for the Dubbo community she has never left! Lisa is now the owner and pharmacist in charge at Orana Mall Pharmacy. In addition to her leadership role, she is a diabetes educator and founder of the in-store sleep apnoea clinic. With her passion and motivation, Lisa is an integral part of the Dubbo community providing essential services and supporting her patients. Congratulations Lisa, thank you for your commitment and dedication!

PETER CALE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Peter Cale who was recently awarded Life Membership of the Narromine Tennis Club. Pete is synonymous with the Narromine Tennis Club. He is a passionate about the club and has a long association with it, having been a member for thirty years! For the past ten years, the Narromine community has had the benefit of being able to enjoy the sport and the club facilities solely because of the dedication and commitment of Pete. He has managed all executive roles of the club himself and has seen the club through some tough times including droughts, floods, and a pandemic. Recently with funding from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, the Tennis Club has seen a massive transformation including a new clubhouse, and upgrades to the existing courts. Pete was a massive advocate for this project. With the reinvigoration of tennis, Pete now has some help running the committee, and he can step back into a support role and enjoy extra time on the court! Congratulations Pete on this very well-deserved recognition. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do keeping tennis strong in Narromine!

JESSICA CAIN-WESTAWAY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—I take this opportunity to acknowledge the NSW Government Community Service Award recipient Jessica Cain-Westaway from Elanor Duncan Aboriginal Services in Mardi. Jessica exemplifies unwavering dedication and compassion in her role being the first Cancer Navigator for the Central Coast Aboriginal Community underscores her commitment to improving the lives of individuals impacted by cancer. Through her efforts, Jessica has directly supported over 160 clients, addressing multifaceted challenges such as transportation issues, cultural barriers, and historical trauma. In her role, Jessica serves as a beacon of hope, breaking down barriers and championing the rights of those facing cancer-related challenges. Her tireless advocacy has not only facilitated access to essential cancer services but has also fostered a supportive environment where individuals feel heard and understood. Serving as a conduit between the Local Health District (LHD), the community, and Tour De Cure, Jessica has seamlessly integrated resources and support systems to enhance the cancer care experience for individuals in need. Jessica's profound impact extends beyond her professional duties; she embodies empathy and resilience, serving as an inspiration to her community. Congratulations to Jessica Cain-Westaway for being a true asset to the community, embodying the spirit of service and compassion.

JUSTINE VILLIERS

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)—Congratulations to digital artist Justine Villiers from Woongarah for being recognised as one of the nine finalists for Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship, an initiative by Façon Magazine. The program empowers Indigenous storytellers from across NSW by providing resources and industry guidance to support their creative aspirations. Wiradjuri woman Justine has been nominated in the field of digital art and will receive mentorship from nine esteemed creatives in their field, who will inspire them with the aim of nurturing and amplifying Indigenous voices across diverse creative industries. The Scholarship recipient will be announced at Murrook Cultural Centre in Port Stephens on July 11, during NAIDOC Week and set to receive \$10,000 from Greater Bank to support the successful recipient's creative aspiration to further their creative aspirations. The 24-year-old was born and raised on Darkinjung land who has always had a passion for the creative arts since a young age. Justine was introduced to her culture by her Uncle Stuart McMinn, who taught her through dance, song, and stories. With her artworks, Justine aims to share her story and experiences, and encourage others to tell their own story.

IRIS FOUNDATION

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)—Congratulations to the Iris Foundation a non-profit organisation for being recognised in the Business Wyong Awards 2024 to receive the Outstanding Community Organisation award at Wyong Race Club. The staff members, Board and volunteers are a dedicated team who deserve this acknowledgement of Iris Foundation as a

valued organisation in our local community. Iris Foundation was found in 2006 committed to equipping people of all ages with skills and support necessary to navigate life's challenges, promoting mental well-being, and creating a resilient community. The foundation focus on prevention, empowering strengths, because they believe that no-one should feel that their struggles are insurmountable, or their life is without value. Every life is precious. Well done to the Iris Foundation on this acknowledgement I wish the team all the best in the upcoming Business NSW Central Coast Awards.

CHARLESTOWN NETBALL ASSOCIATION 14S BOYS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Congratulations to the Charlestown Netball Association's 14s Boys team for their extraordinary performance at the Junior State Titles. The team were equal first on points but second on goal average, making them the cup's Runners Up! The Junior State Titles are the flagship event within the Netball NSW pathway, a three-day tournament which showcases the strength of grassroots netball with young players from all over the state coming together. My congratulations to young local netballers Mason Cadogan, Harry Land, Cameron Lobley, Archie Manners, Xavier Peters, Zander Peters, Archer Rathbone, Aidan Rawlings, Benji Robson and Hayden Slee on this fabulous effort. Great work, boys! I would also like to acknowledge the other teams fielded by the Charlestown Netball Association, including the 12U, 13U and 14U Championship sides. It is always wonderful to see young athletes get to compete and show off their skills in a healthy, friendly competition.

CHARLESTOWN PROBUS CLUB

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—On the first Monday of every month, the redoubtable members of the Charlestown Probus Club meet at the Windale-Gateshead Bowling Club. 2024 marks the Charlestown Probus Club's fortieth year in operation, and I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the organisation. The Charlestown Probus Club, like the many branches across NSW and around the world, is such an important outlet for seniors in the Charlestown electorate. The club offers opportunities for retirees to make social connections, forming new friendships as they listen to interesting guest speakers, learn a new skill, explore interests and hobbies and go on outings together. It has been my great pleasure to have been one of their invited guest speakers in the past. I would like to acknowledge the current elected and appointed officials of the Charlestown Probus Club, including President Tony Collins, Secretary John Dowler, and Treasurer John Foskett, who has also served as the Club's president in the past. To them, their fellow officials, and their predecessors—thank you for the extraordinary work you have done in support of retirees and semi-retirees in the Charlestown Electorate, and here's to many more years for the Probus Club!

SU-ELLEN HEATON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—An important member of the Lake Macquarie Police District staff celebrated a very special milestone on Tuesday, 11 June. Su-Ellen Heaton, or Su as she is known, is a valued member of the local police district team, and has proudly served the people of our state for more than fifty years in various roles across the public service. Starting with the Education Department in 1972, Su moved to work as a civilian employee at Newcastle City Police District. In her time at Lake Macquarie, she has performed duties at Boolaroo, Toronto and Belmont Police Stations. Su has been a member of the Public Service Association throughout her career, and on 11 June the PSA hosted a special morning tea to present her with a plaque to thank her for being one of their longest-serving members. When Su was asked why she has chosen this line of work and stuck with it for so many years, she said, "I still feel like I am making a contribution." She certainly is. Congratulations, Su, and thank you.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—On 6 September, 2024 the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils will proudly be celebrating their 30th Anniversary. It was on August 6, 1994, where the 8 Member Councils initially came together in their first full Board meeting, establishing the first Regional Organisation of Councils in country NSW. Together, the Member Councils of: Bland Shire, Coolamon Shire, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Goldenfields Water County, Greater Hume Shire, Junee Shire, Lockhart Shire and Temora Shire provide a strong voice for communities they represent. In addition to their advocacy activities, this regional collaboration has delivered benefits for their communities as diverse as youth leadership programs, streetlighting initiatives and economies of scale from aggregated procurements. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend and enjoy the warm hospitality in Wagga Wagga where this significant milestone anniversary will be celebrated and I send my best wishes to them today.

Thank you to Chairman Cr Rick Firman OAM and everyone involved in the REROC and for their contribution. Three decades of passion and commitment to such an important and worthwhile group of Councils is a testament to this successful collaboration.

125TH BIRTHDAY MAITLAND GOLF CLUB

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Maitland Golf Club who recently celebrated their 125th Birthday. On June 12th 1899 sixteen enthusiastic golfers met to discuss the foundation of a golf club. Less than one month later on 8th of July 1899 an opening ceremony was held on a parcel of land in East Maitland. It was the beginning of Golf as a sport in the Maitland community and the club is the 14th oldest in Australia. One significant event in the club's history was the Maitland Golf Club and East Maitland Bowling Club amalgamated to form Easts Leisure and the building of a new golf clubhouse in 2004. The club commemorates the anniversary of the golf club with the publication of a book which built on previous books marking the 75th and 100th anniversaries of the course. Club patron's Joan Palmer and Harold Mayo featured in a celebration luncheon to mark the occasion. Congratulations to Maitland Golf Club on their birthday.

DANIEL MACAREE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Thank you to Maitland's Daniel Macaree who was recently one of the 20 specialist firefighters sent to Canada in July. Canada had over 400 wildfires burning out of control in their summer season with over 1.5 million hectares already burnt out when the request for assistance came through. Daniel is one of four Forestry Corporation firefighters to join the 31 member contingency requested by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. Other members sent overseas were from the Rural Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife and State Emergency Services. Lead Forestry Officer Macaree deployed as a heavy plant supervisor dozer boss working on constructing containment lines and providing access to difficult areas. This deployment is part of a long tradition of sharing fire management resources between Canada and Australia. Thank you, Daniel, for your service.

RABBI JACQUELINE NINIO OAM

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government)—I congratulate Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Jewish community, and to interfaith organisations. Since her ordination in 1998, Rabbi Ninio has been a pioneering force at Emanuel Synagogue, where she serves as the Senior Associate Rabbi. She is the seventh Australian-born progressive rabbi and the third Australian-born female rabbi. Her contributions extend beyond her congregation; she founded the Women's Rosh Chodesh Group and has held various leadership roles within the Union for Progressive Judaism. Rabbi Ninio's commitment to social justice and interfaith dialogue is evident through her involvement with the Australian Dialogue of Muslims, Christians and Jews, and other interfaith initiatives. Her passion for midrash, liturgy, and storytelling, coupled with her belief in the importance of community, has made a lasting impact. This recognition is a testament to her unwavering dedication and inspirational leadership. Mazel Tov, Rabbi Ninio!

BETTY LOVES BOOKS

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Betty Loves Books for winning the Hunter Region Business Awards in the New Start Category and being Highly Commended in the General Business Category. Betty Loves Books is an independent, cherished bookstore in Newcastle that was built on the dream of creating a happy and engaging space for book lovers. Their vision is to create a bookshop that fosters a community of readers in Newcastle, bonded by a shared love of great books, excellent tea, and meaningful conversations. Congratulations again to Betty Loves Books on their awards. Here's to many more years of sharing your love of books with our community!

ADAMSTOWN BOWLING CLUB

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to the Adamstown Bowling Club, who hosted their first micro-festival on Sunday 21st of July. Live with the Pines at the Bowlo featured 14 local bands across 2 stages, a jam-packed day of good music, good friends, and good vibes. Matt Field and the team at the Bowlo have been champions of Newcastle's live music scene and have shown great resilience in the face of shutdowns and lockdowns. This micro-festival format is an innovative way of combatting the nationwide decline in music festivals, caused by the cost-of-living crisis. This smaller festival format keeps ticket costs low and supports smaller artists. This event marked the first of many festivals to come at the Adamstown Bowlo. Supporting live music in Newcastle is always a win, and I applaud the club for their commitment to bringing exciting and vibrant performances to our community.

CANOEING ON COOINDA

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—It is always lots of fun when I join the members of the Cooinda Waters Canoe Circuit committee, this was no different on Friday 19 July when I attended the Cooinda Park precinct to officially open the new canoe shed and loading dock area. As history serves itself, on my last visit, I had to test out some of the committees' kayaks and the new loading area and go for a paddle on the circuit. Thanks to Amanda Stitt's exceptional guidance and the unwavering commitment of the incredible committee, what was deemed impossible was achieved. It was an absolute pleasure to join all involved to officially open their new precinct. The determination and drive of passionate volunteer's shape and make our small communities continue to grow and prosper. The new Cooinda precinct will ensure that all who enjoy the sport have the necessary equipment, safety, and infrastructure to undertake the sport that they love. My congratulations and gratitude are extended again to the committee who backed this project from start to finish.

COOLAMON MEDICAL CENTRE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Regional medical centres and health professionals are the lifeblood of our communities and ensure that all community members have adequate access to medical treatment and support in a timely and professional manner. For the communities of the Coolamon Shire within the Cootamundra Electorate, access to health professionals has become much easier with Doctor Ayesha Iqbal's appointment to join the Coolamon Medical Centre team. Dr. Ayesha's appointment has allowed the Coolamon Medical Centre to expand its practice. This means that the community of Ganmain will have a full-day medical service available, and Ardlethan will have a clinic one day per week. I wish long-time practice nurse Bernadette Proctor the best in her retirement and extend my gratitude and the best of luck to the newly appointed Kristy Fordham in this role. I want to extend my warmest wishes to Dr. Ayesha and the other general practitioners and staff at the Coolamon Medical Centre, including, Dr. Sumera Amir, Dr. Saqib Malik, and Dr. Jo Yanagisawa. Your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring, and I wish you all the very best for the future. Thank you for your service to our community.

AFL HALL OF FAME

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The name Melinda Hyland is now permanently etched in the inaugural NSW Australian Football Hall of Fame, a significant recognition that we, as a community, can take pride in. To be recognised and awarded such an accolade is a testament to Melinda's passion and dedication to AFL. Melinda was one of 100 people who were inducted. Of these, she was one of only ten women, a rare and significant achievement. Having previously being awarded other awards such as best and fairest and several medals, Melinda has proudly represented both NSW and ACT on more than 50 occasions. As a Junee local, Melinda Hyland has left an indelible mark on the sport, playing an impressive 350 games over 25 years. But it doesn't stop there, Melinda has been a coach, and mentor to many. Her achievement is even more remarkable as she stands as the sole female in NSW to have reached this milestone. I commend Melinda on her contribution to women's football. Her success has not only brought glory to the sport but also inspired a generation of young athletes in our community.

CECIL CLARRIE LYNNE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—A very happy birthday to Cecil Clarrie Lynne of Revesby Heights who turned 100 in June. Clarrie has lived a colourful and what he calls "charmed" life. Born in Bathurst, he left school at ten to work the land. He moved to Sydney at age 15 to work on the railways before joining the Australian Airforce. Clarrie worked in signals before a short stint as a tram conductor and on buses. He then worked for WW Campbell and held several positions as a buyer and manager. He was twice married, the second time for 56 years. His wife sadly passed away ten years ago following a 15-year battle with liver cancer. Clarrie used to decorate cakes with his wife and now purchases cakes to give to people who have shown him kindness. This is the first time I've been given a cake for someone else's birthday. Thanks for your service to our country and the delicious cake Clarrie. Many happy returns!

BLAKE WAWRZYK

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Today, I am delighted to have the opportunity to recognise Blake Wawrzyk, the Head Teacher of English at Henry Kendall High School who epitomises the qualities of leadership, personal growth, integrity and authenticity. A proud product of public education, a former student and captain of the school, Blake returned as a teacher, and now member of the executive team through which he demonstrates a strong connection and sense of belonging with Henry Kendall High. His leadership recognises the importance of strong relationships with students, parents and carers, the staff and across the community. Blake's ability to set the tone and compass for his team is based on his collaborative, inspiring and inclusive approaches. As an educational leader, Blake has an ability to empower others and is selfless in setting the conditions for others

success. A wonderful classroom practitioner, Blake draws the best from his students academically whilst being a role model, who demonstrates what it is to be a good person and citizen. Blake epitomises the important role of teachers in fostering our next generation of learners and I am sincerely grateful that Blake has chosen a career in our local community.

AMELIA STEVENS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I would like to acknowledge a rising star student at Henry Kendall High School, Amelia Stevens. Amelia is a determined student in Year 12 who consistently demonstrates unwavering dedication and provides outstanding contributions to the community. Amelia has displayed an impressive commitment to both her education, and the rights of those around her. After experiencing hearing loss, Amelia, a cochlear implant user from early childhood due to illness, Amelia has shown remarkable resilience, and has passionately worked to improve the living conditions and educational standards for all, particularly for those with disability. A school prefect and natural leader, Amelia actively participates in community-based programs, and is consistently relied upon by staff and students for her initiative, passion, and impressive ability to achieve goals. Amelia is often approached as a role model by younger students, as they value her kindness, compassion, and humility. Amelia also consistently and passionately contributes to communities beyond the school environment where she is a long-term volunteer with St John's Ambulance. Amelia Stevens, we are lucky to have a future leader like you in our Central Coast community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

KEN DIXON

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—On the King's Birthday this year, one of our remarkable Coasties, Ken Dixon had the honour of being awarded an OAM for service to youth and the Central Coast Community. Ken has lived on the Central Coast for most of his life and he has always been supportive of different community organizations and involved in countless fundraising events, including Central Coast Kids in Need and Stewart House Children's Charity. During his career, Ken contributed significantly to the NSW Government at the Department of Education and Training as General Manager Finance, Administration Director of Finance, Acting Deputy Director General, and past General Manager, Board of Studies. On top of that, he also held various positions within the NSW Public Service, and he was the honourable recipient of the CPA Australia Director's Excellence Award, and the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions, Director's Service Excellence Award. Ken's list of achievements keeps getting longer, and I am so pleased that he chose to make his home in our Gosford electorate. Ken Dixon epitomises Australian values of community spirit and hard work. I applaud and thank Ken for his tireless contributions to our community.

GREEK FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I wish to thank the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW for organising and hosting this year's Greek Festival of Sydney. Thousands of people crowded into Bay St on Sunday the 26th of May to share in the celebration of Greek culture, cuisine and community spirit. The day included a program of dance, singing, food and craft stalls. The Greek Festival of Sydney is one of New South Wales' most famous and diverse events attracting artists from around the globe. The festival also brought together many non-Greek communities to celebrate local Greek culture. As a representative of our community, it is wonderful to see events that not only celebrate our rich cultural diversity but actively promote multiculturalism. The celebration aims to promote the Greek-Australian community in a way that invites interest from all members of the Australian community. As one of the most multicultural communities in the state I have no doubt that the festival will become an annual event and continue to expand. Once again, thank you to the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW for facilitating this special occasion and protecting the rich cultural history of the St George community.

MARISA TURCINSKIS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to congratulate and commend Ms Marisa Turciskis on being appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Kogarah Community Services. Kogarah Community Services is a not-for-profit organisation which provides extensive services to help the most vulnerable members of our community. Over the past five years, Marisa has consistently displayed compassion, integrity and professionalism in her role as Operations Manager. Her recent promotion to the position of CEO is truly a testament to her tireless work ethic and unwavering commitment to serving the community of St George. I have no doubt that Marisa will excel in her new position and look forward to hearing about the great things she accomplishes. Community service centers play such an important role in our communities. They give people an opportunity to interact, learn, recreate, feel supported and grow. However, community organisations cannot function without the hard work and dedication of people like Marisa. On behalf of the Kogarah electorate, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the work Marisa and her organization do in support of our local community. Once again, I congratulate Ms Trucinskis on her much-deserved promotion and wish her all the best for the future.

ST GEORGE DISTRICT RED CROSS BRANCH

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to congratulate and commemorate the St George District Red Cross Branch on its 110th anniversary. St George Red Cross has played a vital role in supporting the community and raising much-needed funds for live-changing Australian Red Cross programs. I wish to thank and acknowledge the branch volunteers who have continuously sacrificed their time and money over the years. The St George Red Cross has a long history of serving our local community with countless initiatives and programs that continue to make a positive difference in people's lives. Red Cross volunteers are often the first to respond to a crisis or disaster. Every day, they keep humanity alive, providing comfort to people in desperate need. Our local community would not be able to survive in times of crisis without the efforts of selfless individuals and organisations such as the Red Cross. On behalf of the St George community, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all Australian Red Cross volunteers for the outstanding support provided to our community over the past 110 years.

BORAL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the community contributions of Boral in the Kiama electorate. Not only have Boral been a part of our community for over 75 years, they are also helping build communities, as was on display on Monday when Kate Woodbridge, National Community Relations and Engagement Manager, joined me to announce a major funding partnership with the Jamberoo Car Show and Family Day for three years. I acknowledge Executive General Manager, Concrete and Quarries NSW, Lloyd Wallace, and Boral's commitment with the car show raising funds for the Jamberoo Rural Fire Service. I also thank Committee Member, Steve Whitworth and all the committee of the Jamberoo Car Show and Family Day who will put on a popular and fantastic show in Jamberoo at Kevin Walsh Oval on Sunday 27 October this year. The Show enjoys incredible support from classic vehicle enthusiasts, the local community and, of course, an amazing team of volunteers. Vintage fire trucks, serious machinery from Boral and NSW Fire and Rescue, and over 500 classic vehicles will be on display. Again, my sincere thanks to Boral Australia for their generous contribution to this great community event. We are most grateful.

TURFCO COWS OFF TO PARIS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the quirky and creative Turfco and their Olympic herd of cows that can be seen from the Princes Highway at all hours of the day! Resident artist, Scott Parker, and his son and fellow Turfco employee, Matt have created quite the scene with Olympic rings and a French flag atop a 7 metre Eiffel Tower made of recycled materials. The concept of the Turfco Cows was formulated about 15 years ago off the back of an industry function held in Tasmania. The idea comes from Seth Godin's book "Purple Cow" which explores "the purple cow" theory. In short, the theory states that consumers become bored of seeing the same "brown cows" in marketing over and over. However, a "purple cow" would be remarkable. The Cows have been a community entertainer ever since with at least 10-12 cow designs going out every year. Inspiration for designs ranges from community events, to national holidays, to local footy rivalry, to Hollywood movies. Thank you to Scott and Matt, and Turfco, for getting in to the Olympic spirit and creating an entertaining experience for travellers of the Princes highway.

MCCI

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Ltd [MCCI], formerly known as the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council [IECC], established in 1975 in Wollongong. MCCI was recently selected to deliver the Australian Government's Settlement Engagement and Transition Support program [SETS] and I commend Chris Lacey, Chief Executive Officer, and staff who have delivered this service from July this year. The program supports humanitarian entrants and eligible migrants to advance their participation in society. Its purpose is to equip and empower humanitarian entrants, 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, self-agency, self-efficacy, and personal well-being. Service delivery under the SETS program is available in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. The program builds on MCCI's foundations developed through our 50-year history of community service to migrant & refugee communities in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven and the ACT and, particularly, our 2021 merger with SCARF Refugee Support that saw MCCI deliver a range of multidisciplinary support to 850 Illawarra community members from refugee backgrounds in the 22-23 financial year. Thank you, MCCI.

COLLEEN BOUCHER

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Local Cobar resident Colleen Boucher was recognised in this year's King's Birthday Honours list. Colleen has been recognised for her contribution to the Cobar community, including

her involvement with the Brennan Centre Senior Citizen Amenities Organisation for 20 years. Colleen started volunteering at school with the Red Cross and later joined the Girl Guides in 1985 as a Guide Leader when her two daughters joined. After Girl Guides, Colleen joined the 221 Australian Army Cadet Unit as a serving member, becoming the unit's Captain and Commanding Officer in 2008, a role she still holds today. Colleen has also been involved with the Cobar Branch of the Country Women's Association for 27 years. Over those 27 years, Colleen has held the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Handicrafts Officer roles as well as being Vice President of the CWA Far West Group. Later this year the Honourable David Hurley will present Colleen with her Medal of the Order of Australia. I would like to congratulate Colleen for receiving this outstanding medal and thank you for all your outstanding achievements, volunteering, and dedication for the local community of Cobar.

BALMAIN AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB UNDER 15 GIRLS TEAMS THE HORNETS AND THE BULLETS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to congratulate the members from two of Balmain & District Football Club's Division 1 teams, The Hornets and The Bullets, whose combined side became champions in the Under 15 Girls Kanga Cup Tournament in Canberra earlier this year. Football is an integral part of the Balmain community, with the Balmain & District Football Club helping junior athletes grow their skills and shine on the field for over fifty years. This incredible result from the Balmain & District FC Girls is a testament to the strength and passion of our local female athletes, who have inspired us all by showing us what teamwork, practice, and commitment can achieve. Perhaps one day our community will come together to celebrate these Girls' first win as World Champions playing for the Matildas. Wherever these young leaders go, I am sure they will go far. Congratulations to these players, their coaches, parents, and all who have supported them to enjoy and excel at football in the inner west.

AUNTIE EUPHEMIA BOSTOCK

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the house the passing of Auntie Euphemia Bostock. Aunty Phemie was a descendant of the Bundjalung and Mununjali people from northern NSW. She was a respected Elder. She was active in the arts community for many years. She was a founding member and Chairperson of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, which has gallery space in Leichhardt in the electorate of Balmain. Her work has been exhibited widely in Australia and internationally. Her long history of creating images ranges from travelling to Paris in 1987 as a textile and fashion designer, to having her work reproduced by Australia Post in 1999 for the Design Australia Stamp Series. She was an inspiration to many in Sydney's inner west and the Aboriginal arts community. Her life and her work impacted so many in my community, and indeed across the many communities she was a part of. Auntie Phemie passed away last month, aged 88. My condolences to her family and loved ones on her passing.

MAUREEN THORNETT

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I'd like to acknowledge Maureen Thornett, who was recently inducted into the Australian Hotels Association's Hall of Fame and awarded the Cyril Maloney medal, for her ongoing service to the patrons of Balmain. Maureen has been the owner of the Royal Oak Hotel since 1987, one of Balmain's oldest and most well-known pubs. For the past 35 years there has been no shortage of challenges for business owners in the hospitality industry, especially recently, yet today the Royal Oak stands as a beacon to the history of Balmain. Balmain was still very much a working-class suburb when Maureen took over the pub in 1987. She worked to make the pub a respectable, safe, and welcoming place for all, especially women. Unbelievable though it may seem today, only a decade earlier women were still barred from drinking in most pubs. Because of Maureen's tenacity, the Royal Oak Hotel has not only remained a beloved fixture in Balmain but has also become a symbol of our community spirit, welcoming all who walk through its doors. Congratulations, Maureen, and thank you for all your work.

PAMELA EVERINGHAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I am pleased to be able to acknowledge Pamela Everingham from the rural community of Hannam Vale highlighting her unwavering service to education as Principal of Hannam Vale Public School. A respected and popular leader in the Hannam Vale community, Pamela has always gone above and beyond in improving educational and health outcomes for her students. Pamela was the driving force behind the establishment of the Kitchen Garden program. Described as a wonderful educational resource for students aged from four to thirteen, the Kitchen Garden showcases paddock to plate from sowing, cultivating to cooking and consuming nutritional meals. It is amazing how the school community has embraced the Kitchen Garden, with increased levels of social interactions among children of all ages. The Kitchen Garden which I have had the pleasure of visiting on many occasions includes a worm farm, fruit and vegetables garden, herbs and poultry. Pamela dedicates additional work hours to the performing arts program and in her spare time organises the annual community ANZAC Day service involving the students learning new songs and poems for

the commemorations. Pamela has enriched the lives and left a lasting impact on so many during her time at the school.

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today, I recognise a milestone rarely accomplished in the radio industry. John O'Callaghan from Radio 531 in Port Macquarie was recently joined by friends and colleagues to celebrate his 50 years in radio. A stellar career on regional airwaves, John was only 15 years of age when he first started a gig with 2UE in Sydney as a Panel Operator and Production Assistant, alongside his father, the renowned king of breakfast radio Gary O'Callaghan. Keen to make a name for himself, John made his first on-air appearance as an announcer on 2KO Newcastle. This began an illustrious career in the newsroom and in production at 2NZ Inverell, 2WG Wagga, 2CS in Coffs Harbour, 4AK Toowoomba, 2GZ Orange, before venturing to Port Macquarie in 2000. John is highly respected for his many accomplishments in radio and indeed the community. As the Station Manager of Radio 531, John regularly endorses not-for-profit organisations broadcasting their events, promotions and fundraisers. A perfect example of this is Rotary's Winter Woollies Drive which collects donations for those doing it tough. John's broadcasts from Nambucca on FM 93.5 to the Camden Haven on 531 AM. Congratulations John on reaching this incredible milestone.

TACKING POINT SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB - NEWCASTLE PERMANENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club [TPSLSC] for being awarded major accolades at the Newcastle Permanent Awards of Excellence for Surf Life Saving held on 29th June 2024. The annual Newcastle Permanent Awards of Excellence recognises outstanding achievements and contributions across all aspects of surf life saving. Tacking Point SLSC was the named the coveted Club of the Year for overall dedication and service throughout the 2023/24 season. The members have worked tirelessly to maintain a high standard of commitment and professionalism and I applaud them for this worthy achievement. Coach of the Year – Mick Lang from TPSLSC; Official of the Year – Leanne Hatherly from TPSLSC; Rookie of the Year – Andrew Griffin from TPSLSC; Training Officer of the Year - Alex Fisher from TPSLSC; Dennis O'Sullivan and Ken Wilson Award for Youth Lifesaver – Ewan McAllister from TPSLSC; Volunteer of the Year – Dave Moore from TPSLSC; Chalkie Bob Smith OAM Lifesaver of the Year – Chris Sexton from TPSLSC. I congratulate all members and Club officials for their exceptional efforts and dedication to protecting the community throughout the 2023/24 season.

GOOD CITIZENS

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Congratulations to Good Citizens on winning Best Sustainable Business at the 2024 Northern Beaches Business Awards. Founded by Avalon family, Jocelyne Simpson and Nik Robinson, Good Citizens produces 100% recycled eyewear that are sustainable, eco-friendly, and protect both the wearer and the planet! The idea for Good Citizens was born in 2018, when the Robinson kids, Harry and Archie wanted to see something done about all the plastic waste piling up in the world. The family came together with a plan to 'untrash the planet' by making products that last, with 100% recycled materials, that don't exploit people or the planet. After 752 days, and 2503 attempts, the team finally invented a way to turn one single-issue bottle into a pair of 100% recycles and ethical sunglasses frames. Today, Good Citizens glasses are proudly made in Australia, and their gorgeous designs pay homage to our beautiful Sydney beaches, including Palm Beach and Newport. Offering prescription lenses and spare parts to reduce waste, Good Citizens have been recognised for their style and sustainability by the likes of Selfridges London, Marie Claire UK and more. Thank you, Good Citizens, for helping take care of our planet!

PET RESORTS AUSTRALIA – INGLESIDE

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Congratulations to Pet Resorts Australia Ingleside on winning Best Pet Care at the 2024 Northern Beaches Business Awards. Anyone with a pet knows how important they are to them and their family, and it can often be nerve wracking to entrust your pets to someone when you might be away or not available. At Pet Resorts Ingleside, owners have peace of mind that their pet will be happy, healthy and have fun, offering pets plenty of outdoor space, fresh air, and exceptional service. Driven by a desire to be the most trusted and passionate pet care professionals in Australia, it's no wonder that Pet Resorts Ingleside was named Best Pet Care Service on the Northern Beaches. Congratulations to Coordinator, Olivia Clemesha and the whole team on this amazing achievement, and thank you for taking such good care of Pittwater's pets! I am pleased that acknowledgement of Pet Resorts Australia Ingleside is now preserved for all time in the records of the oldest parliament in our nation.

SIMPLY SUBAROO – MONA VALE

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—Congratulations to Simply Subaru Mona Vale on winning Best Automotive Services at the 2024 Northern Beaches Business Awards. Offering minor and major services for any make or model of vehicle, the team at Simply Subaru are driven by a desire to 'bring ethics back into mechanics'. From getting to work to getting the kids to weekend sport, we rely on our cars to get us to all of life's important moments, so having a trusted mechanic is so important. Simply Subaru consistently offers clients quality and professional service, receiving high praise across hundreds of positive google reviews. Reviewers commend Simply Subaru for their good prices, thorough communication, and friendly and comprehensive service. Based on all this positive feedback, it's no wonder that Simply Subaru was awarded the Best Automotive Service on the Northern Beaches. Congratulations to Director, Charlie Mashalany, and the whole team on this amazing achievement, and thank you for taking such good care of locals' cars! I am pleased that acknowledgement of Simply Subaru is now preserved for all time in the records of the oldest parliament in our nation.

DAVID MCINROY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Congratulations to Mr David McInroy for achieving a Silver Wattle for outstanding service to the Scouts NSW Association. The Silver Wattle is presented to adult members for at least 10 years of outstanding service to the Scout NSW Association. Mr McInroy also received an Outstanding Service Award which was presented in acknowledgment of over 12 years of outstanding service to the Scout NSW Association. Scouting is a dedication to bettering one's community and Mr McInroy has done just that by making Scouts a fun and safe place for younger members and leading by example through selfless acts of service to the community. Mr McInroy has gone above and beyond to make a positive contribution to the community he lives in. Without people like Mr McInroy and organisations like Scouts, we as a society would not be as fortunate as we are. Congratulations, Mr McInroy on your outstanding achievements.

CAFE ON CORPORATION

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Congratulations to the team at Café on Corporation who recently hosted the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley and Mr Dennis Wilson as part of a tour of the Central West. Café on Corporation was established to provide employment for people of all abilities in the Bathurst region. The café has since expanded into a mobile coffee van and florist as well providing employees further opportunities to broaden their skillsets. In a recent Vice Regal visit, organiser Carol Smith and the team seized the opportunity to showcase everything the Café had to offer. From a delicious high tea with a selection of savoury bites and sweet treats to demonstrations of the team's floristry skills, artworks and crafts, all members put their best foot forward and impressed their guests. The whole Café warmly welcomed Her Excellency and other official guests including community leaders and long time supporters of the organisation. It was a fantastic event that showed the true community spirit of Bathurst and the wonderful people who live within. Thank you for your hard work in preparing this event, you have all made your community proud.

BATHURST DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Congratulations to all members of the Bathurst District Historical Society who recently hosted the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley and Mr Dennis Wilson at the Bathurst Historical Museum as part of a tour of the Central West. More than just a museum, the Bathurst District Historical Society has curated a collection of artifacts and items of historical significance. The Society was established in 1947 and is currently located in the east wing of the historic Bathurst Courthouse, a fitting location for such a varied and invaluable collection that tells the tales of a bygone era. In a recent Vice Regal visit, the committee welcomed Her Excellency and other official guests into the museum for a tour and presentation on the history of the region. It was a fantastic occasion that showed the rich history of the Bathurst region, its contribution to Australia's development and the true community spirit of Bathurst. Thank you for your hard work in preparing this event, you have all made your community proud.

ROTARY CLUB OF FIVE DOCK

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate the Rotary Club of Five Dock on their successful changeover dinner which was held on 1 July 2024. The event recognised past executive as well as the election of the Board and Committee Leaders for 2024-25. Five Dock Rotary is a pillar of service in our local community, frequently hosting fundraisers, community events and working on international projects. I would like to sincerely congratulate the 2024-25 President of Five Dock Rotary Jenny Pedley, who will lead with passion and dedication. I also congratulate the newly elected committee members including Secretary Alan Laughlin, Treasurer Vince Russo, Community Leader Margaret Noonan, Club Service Leaders Patrick Natoli and Steve Taranto, International Community Leader Philip Paul, Welfare Leaders Alan Laughlin and Wayne Bredin, Publicity & Communication Leader Peter Komander, Sergeant-at-arms Vince Plenzich, Logistics Leaders Jim

Simpson and Steven Simpson, and Social Secretary Devi Thirunavukkarasu. I acknowledge immediate Past President Margaret Noonan and all past Board and Committee members for their distinguished service to our community. I sincerely wish the Rotary Club of Five Dock and its members all the very best. Their commitment to our local community to be commended.

NEW PROBATIONARY CONSTABLES

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate and welcome the newly appointed Probationary Constables to Burwood Police Area Command. On Friday 21 June, these officers were attested to the NSW Police Force at the Goulburn Police Academy as part of Class 362, and began working at Burwood Police Area Command shortly after. I would like to acknowledge Probationary Constable John Capistrano, Probationary Constable Said Asadullah, Probationary Constable Zehra Ballica, Probationary Constable Henry Li, and Probationary Constable Christian Henney on their appointment to the Burwood Police Area Command. It was a pleasure to meet and spend some time with these officers recently. It is evident that all new officers have a passion and dedication to serving our area. Their commitment is to be commended, and I thank them for their service to our community. They have taken up the incredibly challenging but rewarding responsibility of serving our and protecting our community. I wish these five new police officers all the very best. I extend my sincerest gratitude to the entire Burwood Police Area Command and congratulate the newly appointed Constables. I wish them many good years in the NSW Police Force.

SONIA UNDY - GRIFFITH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to recognise Wiradjuri woman Sonia Undy for her dedication to preserving and revitalising traditional weaving practices in Western Riverina. She is a multi-disciplinary artist who promotes culture, heritage, and community from her studio in Griffith. Her weaving practice is a testament to her deep-rooted connection to Wiradjuri traditions, learned and nurtured by her family's storytelling. Sonia fosters safe spaces for cultural learning and healing through weaving circles, enriching lives with ancestral knowledge and creative expression. Her impact resonates hugely through her involvement in regional festivals, such as the Warangesda Festival and the 2023 Cocoparra Corroboree. Sonia collaborates with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to deepen Wiradjuri cultural awareness. This year, Sonia was awarded as the April 2024 Artist of the Month for her cultural preservation of traditional weaving practices. Sonia Undy is to be commended for her efforts in empowering future generations through the timeless art of weaving.

JANNALI EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge Jannali East Public School's Parents and Citizens Association for receiving a funding boost of \$30,000 from the 2023 Community Building Partnership Program. Jannali East Public School is a warm and welcoming community that offers a dynamic learning environment in the heart of the Sutherland Shire. This funding will create the next area in the school's bush playground which provides opportunities for students to engage in creative and imaginative play outside. The mini-golf project was visualised by students who were digging holes in the playground to putt into and will help realise what students want in their school. This extension would not be possible without the tireless effort and dedication of the executive committee of Jannali East Public School's Parents and Citizens Association. I recognise President Lyndell De Ridder, Treasurer Heather Nash, Past Treasurer Shamus Toomey, Secretary Ajshe Pritchard and Grants Coordinator Kristen Blinco for their incredible work delivering this project, as well as the leadership of Principal Katherine Horner and Acting Principal Vicki Williams. I thank Jannali East Public School's Parents and Citizens Association for bringing the importance of this project to my attention.

ENDEAVOUR SPECIAL KIDS WITH A DISABILITY

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the Endeavour Special Kids with a Disability for receiving a funding boost of \$28,475 from the 2023 Community Building Partnership Program. Endeavour Special Kids with a Disability is a registered charity that supports students in Special Education at Endeavour Sports High School, which aims to increase the participation and community contributions of students with intellectual disabilities and special needs. Importantly, Endeavor Sports High has the largest population of high school students with special needs in the Sutherland Shire. This funding will help build three double-bench shelters to create greater accessibility for students who access the campus through assisted or carer transport as well as provide shelter on hot days or when it rains. This new transport hub would not be possible without the hard work of the volunteers at Endeavour Special Kids With A Disability. I recognise Helen Mabbutt, Katie Kennedy, Andrew McKay and Elizabeth Annetts, as well as the leadership of Principal James Kozlowski. I thank Endeavour Special Kids with a Disability for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact this transport hub makes for our local community.

EMILY ARMSTRONG - CARRATHOOL

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to recognise Scholarship Winner Emily Armstrong for her wholehearted efforts to empowering rural and remote women through movement. Emily is a proud resident of Carrathool in the Riverina region and her business, Saltbush Stretch, demonstrates her passion for yoga and Pilates, offering a vital connection for women in the Australia's outback. Emily's journey to becoming a certified yoga and Pilates instructor is inspiring. Her commitment to improving the well-being of rural women reflects her deep understanding of the challenges they face. Emily's enthusiasm for Barre Body's training opportunity underlines her ongoing quest to enhance her skills and enrich the lives of her clients. The 2022 Teacher Training Scholarship is not only a personal achievement for Emily but a testament to her mission to foster positive change in her community. Through Saltbush Stretch, Emily has uniting women in pursuit of wellness. Emily Armstrong is to be commended for her well-deserved recognition as one of the 2022 Teacher Training Scholarship winners and continual support of women in her community.

BRUCE STAINES - LEETON

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to recognise driving instructor Bruce Staines for his commitment to promoting road safety among young drivers in Leeton Shire. Bruce's dedication spans over 16 years with the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness [RYDA] program, where he passionately educates year 11 students on road safety practices at the Yanco Agricultural Institute. As a former policeman, Bruce understands the profound impact of road accidents, predominantly on youth, motivating him to impart life-saving skills and knowledge through workshops like 'Drive So Others Survive'. His engaging approach and practical demonstrations resonate deeply with the community, bringing awareness of road responsibilities. Beyond RYDA, Bruce operates a driving instructor business, further ensuring that young drivers are well-prepared for safety and responsibility. Bruce Staines is to be commended for his enduring involvement in community safety, representing his role as both educator and mentor in shaping a safer driving culture.

BREAKFAST POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge the Breakfast Point Community Association for their dedication and contribution to our local community, particularly in their service to the residents of Breakfast Point. The Breakfast Point Community Association is the largest in the state of NSW and has been established to provide support and leadership to the residents of Breakfast Point. The Community Association's responsibilities include organising local events, maintaining and facilitating the management of the Breakfast Point Country Club, and advocating for residents of Breakfast Point. I would like to acknowledge Chairperson Sue Campbell-Lloyd AM, Secretary Kerryanne Knox, Treasurer Richard Cowan, Country Club General Manager Kim Radford, and all committee members for their contribution to our community. These individuals work tirelessly each day to make Breakfast Point a wonderful place to live. I thank the Breakfast Point Community Association for all the support it provides to local residents. I wish the Association and all Breakfast Point Residents all the very best.
