

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 17 September 2024

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER (12:02): I acknowledge and thank all those members who are now no longer active in local government. I think the member for Balmain is very excited about that. I am sure other members are also relieved about the finalisation of their service. I thank members for what they have done in their time in local government.

Members

MEMBER FOR ROCKDALE

MEMBER FOR ORANGE

MEMBER FOR GRANVILLE

MEMBER FOR OATLEY

MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

The SPEAKER: A number of members enjoyed their birthdays over the break. Happy birthday to the member for Rockdale.

Mr Stephen Kamper: The big 6-0.

The SPEAKER: You don't look it, mate. Happy birthday also to the member for Orange, member for Granville, member for Oatley, member for East Hills and member for Northern Tablelands.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome staff members and students from Al Amanah College, who are guests of the member for Holsworthy. I welcome Joline George, founder of Help You Cope, and Antoinette Sulfaro, founder of Ladies Like to Lunch—which goes without saying—who are guests of the member for Fairfield. I welcome students from Riverbank Public School, who are guests of the member for Riverstone. I welcome members of the Indian Ocean Society of Australia, who are guests of the member for Ryde. It sounds like a takeover of our area from the Indian Ocean. I welcome students from James Ruse Agricultural High School and Ballina Coast High School, who are here with the Parliament education office. Finally, as the member for Lake Macquarie, I acknowledge my guests, school leaders from Arcadia Vale Public School. Not to be outdone, the member for Blue Mountains has just told me that we are joined by Mr Geoff Mason from South Carolina. I understand why somebody from South Carolina would want to be in Australia right now. Geoff worked in the legislature in South Carolina and was a deputy director of mental health services. Welcome.

Members

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF PITTWATER

Vacant Seat

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that on 30 August 2024 I received a letter from Roderick Gilmore Amon resigning his seat as member for the electoral district of Pittwater.

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That, in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017, the seat of the member for Pittwater be declared vacant, by reason of the resignation of Roderick Gilmore Amon.

Motion agreed to.

The SPEAKER: Members will note that I have caused a by-election for the seat of Pittwater to occur in conjunction with the two other upcoming by-elections, for Hornsby and for Epping, on 19 October.

Bills

OMBUDSMAN AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

BETTER REGULATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2024

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

RETAIL TRADING AMENDMENT (ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS) BILL 2024

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT (ADMINISTRATOR) BILL 2024

Assent

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

Governor

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

Bills

RETAIL TRADING AMENDMENT (ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS) BILL 2024

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR FINANCE AMENDMENT (INTEGRITY AGENCIES) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill received from the Legislative Council, introduced and read a first time.

The SPEAKER: I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for a later time.

Question Time

ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (12:09): My question is directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations. What advice has the Government received as to significant impact on the New South Wales economy from ongoing protected industrial action by the Electrical Trades Union?

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (12:09): That is a very important question. Last week at a budget estimates hearing, the Opposition shadow Minister, Mr Tudehope, asked the same question about the Electrical Trades Union. I answered those questions. Those answers are on the public record. There is a number of issues. There are four energy entities and there is a number of disputes with respect to those energy entities. The Leader of the Opposition may wish to further clarify his question with respect to which particular entity he is referring to. Otherwise, he can refer to what I said last week.

STATE ECONOMY

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (12:10): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is rebuilding the State's finances?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:10): That is an important question from the member for Strathfield. Members of the House will be aware that this Government inherited the largest debt ever handed from one government to another in the history of the State of New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: No government, after being elected into office, has received a larger debt, not only as a whole figure but also as a percentage of the New South Wales economy. Historically, it is the largest debt ever recorded—\$180 billion of gross debt racked up by the previous Government. A lot of people will say, "That was all COVID spending. We were trying to prop up the economy and businesses." But members should be aware that in its last nine months there was \$27 billion of new policy measures from the former Treasurer, Matt Kean. In addition to handing over the largest debt ever handed from one government to another in the history of New South Wales, the previous Government also racked up the first and second biggest deficits the State has ever seen.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: There was a \$15 billion deficit in 2021 and a \$10 billion deficit in 2022. In addition to that, there was \$7 billion of unfunded promises that were left on a cliff. The former Government went into the election campaign—

Mrs Wendy Tuckerman: How about the ones you left unfunded? What's your excuse?

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Is this all a big shock to you? I don't understand. Weren't you around the Cabinet table? Prior to the election campaign, \$7 billion worth of promises were wholly and fulsomely entered into by the previous Government, but no funding was allocated to them. That was \$7 billion. The New South Wales Government is getting on with the job of pulling back the debt that will be inherited by the next generation of young Australians. Under the New South Wales Labor Government, the debt will be \$9.3 billion lower than under the previous Government's trajectory. At 1.7 per cent, our expenses growth is three times lower than under the Coalition. To put that in perspective, the previous Government spent 6.3 per cent, year on year, on expenses growth. If the COVID years are taken out, it was still 5.1 per cent growth, which was well above inflation and the highest spending ever recorded. This Government has made difficult decisions to bring down the debt. We do not want to hand over a terrible inheritance to the next generation of young Australians. That is important.

The SPEAKER: The member for Tamworth will come to order. I call the member for Strathfield.

Mr Jason Li: I seek additional information.

The SPEAKER: I grant an extension of two minutes. I expect members' behaviour to be much better during the next two minutes.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: There was \$180 billion worth of debt. The Government has made decisions to reduce the amount of debt that the next generation will inherit. All of that has been opposed by members of the Opposition. They do not support it. They do not support the changes. They say, "That's not a problem. We can hand it over to future generations."

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I will hear the Leader of the Opposition's point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129 and relates to direct relevance. The Premier should be telling the people of New South Wales why the interest bill is going up by 36 per cent under his management.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: It is clearly because the previous Government left us \$180 billion worth of debt. The Leader of the Opposition is acting as if he gave us a clean sheet and not the largest debt ever handed to a new government in the State's history. The gall of this bloke! In addition, in Opposition he spent \$660 million on the reintroduction of land tax to New South Wales, \$1.3 billion on Dungowan, \$4.6 billion on Wyangala, \$11 billion on the Great Western Highway underneath the Blue Mountains, \$10 billion on the Northern Beaches link and \$7 billion to have the Commonwealth Games in New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Tamworth to order for the first time. I call the member for Dubbo to order for the first time. I call the member for Coffs Harbour to order for the first time.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: It is not just Matt Kean's problem. In opposition, they are spending like crazy. It begs the obvious question: Where will this money come from? It will come from privatisation and selling off government assets to the private sector, and from dodgy deals on electricity generators, electricity distributors and transmission lines in New South Wales. It has failed in the past and it will fail in the future. It is an economic theory of the New South Wales Opposition. I do not think it is shared by their friends in Canberra, but it is a position held by the New South Wales Coalition.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Coalition position is to rack up debt, not worry about the implications and then sell off government assets. That is the truth. That is what the previous Government did for 12 years and that is what the Opposition is proposing to do. New South Wales voters have had enough. There is a better way with Labor.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Goulburn to order for the second time.

MONA VALE HOSPITAL

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (12:16): My question is directed to the Minister for Lands and Property. Will the Minister rule out selling off any part of the Mona Vale Hospital campus as a consequence of the land audit?

The SPEAKER: The member for Manly will resume his seat. He has asked his question. The member for Myall Lakes will come to order. The member for Dubbo will come to order. The member for Hawkesbury will come to order. I will have members removed from the Chamber if they continue to interject. The Minister was asked a question but he has not been able even to begin his answer.

Mr Kevin Anderson: Because he doesn't know.

The SPEAKER: The member for Tamworth will not interject while I am speaking or he will be removed from the Chamber. Members will listen to the Minister's answer. If they do not find his answer acceptable, I will deal with it then.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (12:17): I thank the member for Manly for his question.

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

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: The member for Manly is a lovely fella, but he is a little bit naive. What sort of question is that? We are preparing an audit. We are not making decisions on what we are selling. No decisions have been made and there have been no conversations about it. You are just making things up, like you have been for the past year and a half, and before that.

[An Opposition member interjected.]

I do not need a life jacket.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Oatley will come to order. The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: As I said, my responsibility is to prepare an audit and provide a list of land that could be available for housing. What do they not understand? They do not understand. They have been confused from day dot about what a property audit or land evaluation is. All it is is a list of properties that could be made available, where appropriate, to provide a solution to our housing problem, which the former Government created over 12 years.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. I call the member for Oatley to order for the second time.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Why are they so offended about anything that has to do with providing housing for our community?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. I place the member for Terrigal on two calls to order. I will not put up with that behaviour. He is the Opposition Whip; I expect better from him. The member will be removed from the Chamber if he continues to interject. I call the Leader of the House on a point of order.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The House is far too orderly. I cannot hear the answer to the question.

The SPEAKER: Disorderly, I think.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I ask that you bring Opposition members to order.

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Macquarie will come to order. The Leader of the House is taking a point of order about behaviour in the House and she is interjecting. That is very dangerous ground.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I ask that those opposite be called to order so the answers to questions can be heard.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. At least three Opposition members are on two calls to order and another four members are on one call to order. I have been very clear about the fractious behaviour in the House. It is also coming from Government members. Government members will tone down their behaviour. They are not helping. The Minister will direct his remarks through the Chair. He will not have a conversation with the member for Oatley across the Chamber.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I think the question from the member for Manly was asked in good faith. I was trying to provide quality information that is probably not—

Mr James Griffin: The question was asked in good faith so I seek an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: I grant additional time of up to two minutes; however, the Minister does not have to use it.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I want the Opposition to get behind the agenda, which is to provide housing for our community, and stop trying to find flaws and knocking something that is positive. For 12 years, the Opposition chose to do nothing in relation to delivering—

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: I take my point of order under Standing Order 129, relevance. The question was specific. The Minister has not come anywhere near the specifics of the question.

The SPEAKER: It is probably not possible for the Minister to give the type of answer that the Opposition would like to hear. The Minister has been directly relevant.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It is very hard to answer when a silly question has been asked. At the end of the day, the Opposition has to get on with the job of helping the Government deliver housing for the State of New South Wales. That is what the Government is focused on. The Opposition should stop continuing—

Mr James Griffin: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, relevance. The question was about whether the Minister is going to sell off Mona Vale Hospital; it was not about housing. Is the Minister talking about housing on the Mona Vale Hospital site?

The SPEAKER: I understand. As messy as the answer might have been, I have ruled that the Minister was directly relevant in the initial part of his answer. That ruling stands. Has the Minister completed his answer?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I think I have been clear. The member for Manly has asked me a question as the Minister for Lands and Property. I have been extremely clear that I am providing a list of properties that could be available. That is all I can say. He asked me the question as the Minister for Lands and Property and, at the end of the day, I do not make the final decision. It is not a conspiracy.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

TEACHER WORKFORCE

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (12:23): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Minns Labor Government's support for New South Wales teachers is leading to fewer vacancies in our schools?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:23): I thank the incredible member for South Coast for that very sensible question. Before I answer that question on one of the biggest priorities for the Minns Labor Government, I acknowledge some special people in the gallery, Jeanie Brown and the students from Riverbank Public School. Last time I was at the school they told me that they also run a parliament there. I hope their parliament is better behaved than this Parliament, which they are unfortunately watching today.

The question from the member for South Coast went to the heart of what the Government is hoping and working every day to achieve in education, which is a lift in student outcomes by investing in the one thing we know above all others that makes a difference in student outcomes, whether it is academic or wellbeing, and that is a teacher in front of the classroom. Those students from Riverbank know that, because of the excellent teachers in their classroom. But this Government has invested like no other government before in teachers in classrooms. We are proud to have given teachers the biggest pay rise in a generation. We have invested in the profession and respected and trusted it from day one.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: As a result, our schools started term 3 with vacancies at a three-year low. That is what happens when we invest in the profession that starts all other professions, the profession of teaching. Vacancies

are down 24 per cent from the same time last year. Because that is an average, in some places this change is significant. Year on year in the electorate of the member for South Coast, vacancies are down 55 per cent. That makes a difference to the number of merged and cancelled classes because the rubber hits the road when we have teachers in our classrooms imparting the life-changing gift of education. We cannot do that with fewer teachers in our classrooms. In Ryde, vacancies are down 39 per cent. In Tamworth, vacancies are down 50 per cent. Resignations are falling, retirements are down and more of our experienced teachers are staying longer to mentor and support our newer teachers. Compared with the vacancies from two years ago, the improvement is massive. Vacancies are down 35 per cent from two years ago. [*Extension of time*]

That is proof positive that what this Government is in the middle of doing in education is working in terms of teacher numbers in our classroom. In Penrith—a community close to my heart and next to my electorate—vacancies are down 60 per cent. I wish former Premier Perrottet was in the Chamber because in Epping vacancies are down 66 per cent. The Leader of the Opposition can take some delight after a couple of tough weeks because vacancies in Cronulla are down 81 per cent. I could go through all the communities around New South Wales. This is making a difference. I am biased, sure, but one of the most important things that the Government delivers for the community—

The SPEAKER: Opposition frontbench members will cease their discussions.

Ms PRUE CAR: —is the gift of public education.

Mr Kevin Anderson: It is not a gift.

Ms PRUE CAR: It is a gift; I disagree with the member for Tamworth. It is a gift that we are providing, and the data does not lie.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: The data does not lie. The numbers show in black and white that what this Government is doing is working in education. We inherited an absolute mess from those opposite.

Mrs Sally Quinnell: Diabolical!

Ms PRUE CAR: "Diabolical" says a former teacher, the member for Camden. By making those investments in teachers in classrooms, we are seeing an improvement. We know that this is happening in classrooms because of the investment in teachers and the teachers who are staying. This vindicates our decision to scrap the wages cap. I notice that shadow Minister Tudehope, as mentioned by the Minister—

Mr Jihad Dib: Comrade Tudehope.

Ms PRUE CAR: Comrade Tudehope says this is a very good decision. We stand by scrapping the wages cap to invest in teachers for our kids.

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT AND RECREATION ATHLETIC TRACK

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (12:29): My question is directed to the Minister for Sport. Is the Minister aware that participation in athletics clubs is down 40 per cent on the northern beaches after the closure of the synthetic track at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation at Narrabeen in December 2023? What is the Government doing to fix the track or build a new one elsewhere in northern Sydney so that athletes, young and old, can get back to the sport they love?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (12:29): I thank the member for Wakehurst for his question and for his continued and ongoing advocacy on this matter and on many matters in his community. We should all take a leaf out of his book. He is a great MP. I am aware that participation may be down this season, with the temporary arrangements potentially contributing to the lower participant numbers. The existing synthetic track in its current condition has been deemed unsafe for users, although the throwing and jumping areas remain in use. While working through the issues with the synthetic track, the Office of Sport has committed to providing and maintaining a temporary grass track on site, providing access to school carnivals, Little Athletics and other athletics groups, and casual users. Being a natural grass track, it is subject to weather conditions and does not require more ongoing maintenance. The Office of Sport and the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation are working hard to try to balance multiple user groups using the facilities in less than ideal circumstances.

I will focus on the core issue, which is remediating the track itself. This problem has been ongoing for a number of years—ever since the synthetic track suffered significant flood damage in March 2022. Approximately 60 per cent of the surface of the track was repaired between April and July 2023. However, on the weekend of 9 and 10 September 2023, users reported "bubbling" on a part of the new surface. That week the Office of Sport

notified the contractor that completed the repair work. A short time later, the Office of Sport also notified the insurer, icare. Over the following 12 weeks, the Office of Sport worked with the contractor that completed the work and the office's insurer, icare, to manage the bubbling. Over that time, the site experienced a series of wet weather and hot weather events and a gradual expansion of the bubbling problem.

On Wednesday 20 December icare provided the Office of Sport with a risk assessment that recommended the Office of Sport close the track due to safety risks associated with the bubbling itself and the effects of the bubbling on the track surface. The Office of Sport's insurer, icare, engaged a specialist third party to investigate the cause of the bubbling and to provide advice on rectification. An engineering consultancy firm was engaged to conduct groundwater monitoring, which was done over a three-month period, from 8 February until the middle of May 2024. The member will want to hear this. [*Extension of time*]

Over this time, ground and surface water data was captured and extracted from four boreholes that were drilled in the athletics track. A draft report was received by the Office of Sport on Thursday 18 July. This report outlined underlying watertable data during rain events. We do things properly, and members opposite are offended by that. The Office of Sport is currently working to engage design and engineering consultants to prepare concept designs that would not only reinstate the athletics track but could also improve the flood resilience of the track, with the aim of avoiding future significant flooding impacts.

As the member can attest to, we have had several stakeholder meetings to keep the community up to date with progress. While we acknowledge that some in the community would like this problem solved faster, we must acknowledge that this is a complex problem. We do not want to paper over the cracks and then find ourselves in the same position a few months down the track. We want to fix this problem and we want to do it correctly. The Office of Sport has communicated to the athletics community that it expects to have more certainty around the viable available options in this regard over the coming months. The Office of Sport has kept, and will continue to keep, key stakeholders updated. I look forward to doing the same for the local member and this House.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Lismore, I have received a note from the Premier's chief of staff, James Cullen, to wish the Premier a happy birthday for today. Happy birthday, Premier, on behalf of your chief of staff! A big tick for James Cullen.

RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (12:34): I wish the Premier a happy birthday for the second time today. My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Health. Will the Minister update the House on the implementation of the regional health inquiry recommendations?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:35): I thank the member for Lismore for her question and for her advocacy on behalf of communities, particularly those on the North Coast. Members on both sides of this House would agree that the member for Lismore is a terrific advocate for rural, regional and remote New South Wales. Many members know, particularly those now in opposition, that a landmark inquiry into rural and regional health services was initiated by Labor when in opposition to highlight what we thought were some significant challenges in rural and regional communities across New South Wales.

One of the first things I did when I became the Minister was appoint a deputy secretary into the role of looking after Regional Health so that we had a key decision-maker around the bureaucratic table who represented communities outside of our metropolitan areas. In addition to that, over the past 15 months we have implemented 25 of the 44 recommendations from that inquiry. The remaining 19 are all underway at various levels. We are very determined that the landmark inquiry results in better health services for rural and regional New South Wales, but we are not waiting. That is an important note for all of us to understand.

Many people across communities in New South Wales would be aware of the rural and regional incentive scheme. This Government increased that to \$20,000 for hard-to-fill areas, which has had significant success. The program has run for longer than this, but in just the past 12 months it has seen 2,000 healthcare workers recruited and just over 3,000 retained. That is particularly important for rural and regional communities. We are also investing heavily in housing. I was recently with the member for Barwon in his electorate for two days, again. When you hear from healthcare workers and health managers directly, obviously they talk about staffing, but one of the things they also talk about is access to appropriate housing. That is why the Minns Labor Government is investing over \$200 million over the next few years in key worker health accommodation across the length and breadth of New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

That is \$200 million that will go into communities to make sure we provide key worker and key health worker accommodation, so that we are more likely to attract, recruit and retain the healthcare workers that we need across rural and regional New South Wales. Of particular importance are some of the areas that we have

focused on in places like Moree, which is in the electorate of the member for Northern Tablelands. Significant investment has gone into that area, and that will certainly continue in relation to housing. We understand that it is an important part of the mix to get right.

The Government is also rolling out the rural generalist program, which allows GPs to transfer between the hospital and a GP practice whilst keeping their employment benefits. That is particularly important. The program was initiated in the Murrumbidgee, and it is working on the ground to deliver more GPs into rural and regional New South Wales. The next round for that has recently opened up. I am pleased that there is big uptake of that program across southern New South Wales, western New South Wales and northern New South Wales, where the member for Lismore is from.

Finally, there is a program that many members know, the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme, which provides incentives and support rebates for people who travel long distances. That is particularly important. There has been an increase in people accessing that scheme and rebate, going from \$320-odd to around about \$467. That is a massive increase. It is part of the suite of measures that the Government is implementing to increase rural, regional and remote healthcare services.

MONA VALE HOSPITAL

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (12:40): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Does the Government still have no plans to deliver renal dialysis services at Mona Vale Hospital?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:40): It is interesting that that is the first question I have got from the non-health Minister. I do not want to state the obvious, but the ability of those opposite to put in applications on time is a little bit swayed. I went 40 days without a shadow health Minister. It is a relatively small portfolio. Timing is not their thing.

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

Mr RYAN PARK: We are all depressed about the Dragons. It is not just the member for Oatley. Renal services are a significant issue across metropolitan, regional and rural New South Wales. I recently had a discussion with a clinician in Western Sydney about some of the issues and increases in dialysis there. We must remember that we are providing services across the State. As the Minister, I am more than happy to continue to look at ways in which we can enhance that. Unfortunately, the demand on dialysis continues to be significant. The Government will continue to invest in that. I am more than happy to have a dialogue with the local member about that. In fact, I am more than happy to have a dialogue with any member about a range of issues across the board.

As someone who had nephrotic syndrome as a child, I can assure members that renal dialysis is important. I know that it is important to most members. Staffing is one of the challenges, which is why the Government is investing significantly in the nursing workforce and moving, for the first time, into a ratio-based system of nursing care. That is something that the Nurses and Midwives' Association campaigned on for a significant period of time. There are now 2,000 more nurses in the system than when this Government took over. The Government is investing \$1 billion and saving 1,112 nurses who, just a couple of months ago, would have lost their jobs under the previous Government.

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

Mr RYAN PARK: The Government is going to continue to invest in dialysis services, in dialysis services that can be done in the home and in the staff needed to support that. I am more than happy—and most members in this place would agree—to engage with members on how we improve services in their particular area.

PLANNING LEAGUE TABLES

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (12:43): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Will the Minister inform the House how the recently published council league tables will increase the accountability of councils' housing assessment performance?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (12:43): I thank the member for The Entrance for his question. I was recently at The Entrance, and the member took me around to some of the key sites where the planning problems are—The Entrance, Shelly Beach and Long Jetty. Yes, there is a long jetty, for members who are not aware. We talked about some of the planning changes and how we might improve performance within the planning system so that we can deliver good outcomes for communities in housing, jobs and infrastructure improvements. We discussed the Government's recent introduction of league tables of planning performance. Those league tables measure both council performance and New South Wales government agency performance.

The New South Wales planning system needs to be swift, certain and fair. It needs to instil confidence so that investment continues in this State. Part of how the Government is addressing that is through the better setting of expectations and performance measurement. If you do not measure something, you cannot manage it properly. Councils assess around 90 per cent of residential development applications, so they are crucial to expanding housing supply and confronting the housing crisis. Crucial to confronting the housing crisis is expanding housing supply. The league tables provide transparent, consistent data on how councils are performing.

In July I set new expectations with respect to reductions in assessment times each year out to July 2027. I can report to the House that the average residential assessment time is 105 days as at the end of August this year. That is still too long. Nearly 60 per cent of applications are meeting their target, but a little over half of councils are currently meeting their performance target under the statement of expectations. For all of the councillors elected on the weekend—and I congratulate all of them, whether they were elected or re-elected—if they are looking at something to do to make a real difference to their communities, they should look at their performance on the league tables and start asking questions of the staff.

In acknowledging the newly elected councillors, I acknowledge the first woman elected as Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Tania Brown. She will make a great Lord Mayor. While I usually jump to the worst performing councils, I think it is important that those new councillors have an idea of the best performers so that they can look at what those councils are doing and see if they can replicate or even outperform them. For the areas between the Hunter and the Illawarra, the best performing areas include Fairfield council, at 60 days. That is well below that council's expected 107 days. [*Extension of time*]

Blacktown council is at 53 days, with 89 per cent of applications meeting the expected time frame. Port Stephens, where there is a great new mayor in Leah Anderson, has an average of 50 days. Lane Cove is perhaps a surprising entry in the best performing list, with an average of 44 days. It has only done 19 applications this year, but it is doing them fast. The best performing council as at the end of August is Wollondilly council, at 27 days—nearly 50 days below its expected performance of 72 days. Outside of those major metropolitan areas, I also acknowledge the speed of Cobar, Narrandera, Warren, Hay and Gilgandra councils.

I am pleased to report that 90 per cent of State agencies' concurrence and referrals were within the legislated time frames. Just as there are good performers, there are 17 councils that are above the maximum of 115 days set for this financial year. Three of those have an average assessment time of more than double the maximum. The new councillors have a lot of work to do to lift that performance. If they do not, housing supply pressures will only grow. While over the past few weeks we have been watching campaigns around the State, I am pleased to see that many candidates have understood the need to confront the housing crisis.

The planning reforms that the Government has started, along with the improved performance of all parts of the system, are going to ensure that the Government is delivering the homes that people need well into the future. For the councils that are leaning in and improving their performance, there will be a reward for effort. They will share in \$200 million that the Government has set aside for councils that are meeting their milestones. There are ambitious targets in New South Wales because there needs to be. We cannot continue to lose young people from this State. Sensible outcomes will help to close the housing supply deficit that this Government inherited from the previous Government.

MONA VALE HOSPITAL

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (12:49): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister rule out any reduction of opening times, services or resourcing of the urgent care centre at Mona Vale Hospital?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:49): Urgent care services are very important; they help to take a load off our busy emergency departments. I will have more to say about that over the next few days. Urgent care centres are working, and we are investing around \$124 million into them. They have helped to divert tens of thousands of patients away from our emergency departments and into more appropriate care. We are also diverting patients away from emergency departments by heavily investing into services behind Healthdirect on 1800 022 222, which is important. We are always looking at ways in which we can provide alternative pathways to busy emergency departments.

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, relating to relevance. The Minister has gone nowhere near the words "Mona Vale Hospital".

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister has the call.

Mr RYAN PARK: I am aware that Mona Vale urgent care centre saw over 2,000 patients in July 2024 and over 25,500 patients in the 12-month period of 2023-24. We have no plans to reduce that service. It is important to note that I have found out that, in the member's local health district—roughly, so cut me a bit of slack on this—if we didn't invest over \$500 million into saving the 1,112 nurses that would have been terminated, that would have been—

[An Opposition member interjected.]

No, I can't be more relevant. That would have caused 82 nurses in her area to be terminated.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The question is about Mona Vale Hospital, not the local health district of the member for Vaucluse. The Minister has strayed completely from the question.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Manager of Opposition Business for his point of order. I have heard enough. The Minister has been directly relevant and has answered the question.

Mr RYAN PARK: To the point of order: This is a weird concept for those opposite, but Mona Vale is in the local health district that I am talking about. I do not want to state the obvious. They should get their applications in on time for that leadership role. We are investing in the staff and frontline services that take pressure off emergency departments.

AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:52): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister please update the House on how the New South Wales Government will trial average speed cameras to explore their merits in protecting lives and addressing speeding as part of a multi-pronged approach to tackling the rising road toll?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (12:52): I thank the member for Wallsend for that question. She is a great advocate for safer roads. I have said in this place many times that speeding is the leading cause of death and injury on our roads and contributes to about 41 per cent of fatalities every year.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: The road toll has risen in the past couple of years from historic lows during COVID, and it is back to about the same level as 2018. As at today, we have lost 239 people on our roads in New South Wales—or 342 over the past 12 months—and hundreds more have been seriously injured. In the past 12 months, 244 people died on our roads in regional New South Wales. That is nearly 2½ times the number of people who died on roads in metropolitan areas over the same period. We are not sitting on our hands. These are not just statistics. Every person who dies is one too many. They are someone's mum or dad or brother or sister or grandfather or grandmother. That is why our goal is always towards zero.

Earlier this month we announced a 12-month trial of average speed cameras for light vehicles at two locations: the Pacific Highway between Kew and Port Macquarie, and the Hume Highway between Coolac and Gundagai. Warning signs about average speed cameras are already in place, but we will bump them up so that light vehicles know that they will also be checked. Before the trial starts, there will be a comprehensive awareness campaign and a 60-day warning period before fines are issued. After 12 months, the trial outcomes will be reviewed to determine the next steps. We are the only jurisdiction that does not use average speed cameras for light vehicles. All other mainland Australian States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Italy and the Netherlands have found average speed cameras to be effective in reducing the road toll by sometimes in the order of more than 50 per cent. That is why we are conducting a trial.

Members opposite have said that they want a broader approach to road safety. How much broader can we get? The other day in Dubbo the Premier announced more than \$200 million for safer roads infrastructure, including rumble strips, median widening and all that sort of stuff. We have held the State's first Road Safety Forum, and this initiative was one of the outcomes of that forum. We held the State's first symposium on wildlife strike, which is a real issue in regional New South Wales. We are upgrading safety at 23 level crossings, and a couple of weeks ago I visited Corindi with the member for Tamworth to look at that issue. *[Extension of time]*

We have upgraded our Speed Adviser app and open data to highlight to drivers where level crossings are located. We are doubling the mobile speed camera approved sites so that they can be installed in more areas around the State. Members of the community can nominate areas where they are concerned about speeding.

Mr Dugald Saunders: You are trying to raise revenue, basically.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I acknowledge the interjection about revenue raising from the Leader of The Nationals. What a disgrace.

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo will cease interjecting.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: We know that every single dollar out of these speed cameras or any sort of enforcement goes back into the Centre for Road Safety. That is what funds the \$200 million worth of upgrades for road safety.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: The Nationals are a disgrace. The former roads Minister, Duncan Gay, signed the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020. It states that in the first three years of that strategy the former Government would:

b. Install where appropriate point-to-point cameras to improve speed compliance among all vehicles.

It ran away from that. The Leader of The Nationals was on 2GB saying—just like he is saying now in the Chamber—that regional New South Wales will pay for toll relief in Western Sydney. What bunkum. The revenue all goes into road safety. I hope we do not get one cent from those cameras. I want drivers to slow down. The candidate for Calare is deliberately misleading his community by saying that the cameras will be installed on Central West roads, but that is false. The trial does not include the Central West. The Hon. Wes Fang is calling for a 130-kilometre speed limit and saying, "Don't you find it annoying when you have to comply with the Road Rules? God knows, I do." And the shadow Minister wants a broader approach. I have just outlined all the things that we are doing. Labor is the party of the bush. We are saving lives in the bush and we will continue to do that, despite members opposite.

RURAL AND REGIONAL PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:58): My question is directed to the Minister for Seniors. During budget estimates hearings the health Minister indicated that the Government is not providing 500 extra extended care and intensive care paramedics for regional New South Wales. How will that impact seniors in New South Wales?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:58): I thank the shadow Minister for Seniors for his question, but I refer him to the Minister for Health. That is a health issue.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Riverstone, I welcome to the gallery 16 Italian exchange students from years 10 and 11 who are here with Sydney Grammar School, guests of the member for Sydney. Welcome to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. I hope you have a wonderful time while you are in Australia.

SYDNEY METRO CITY AND SOUTHWEST

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (12:59): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport. Will the Minister update the House on the Sydney Metro city section and how that is being integrated into Sydney's public transport network and the community response to the opening?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:59): I thank the member for Riverstone, who is a passionate advocate for public transport in his community. His residents have been enthusiastically jumping onboard the new metro opportunity because they do not have to change at Chatswood anymore to get all the way through to our CBD in record time. The launch of the city metro has been an incredible success. I thank everybody who has worked around the clock to make this incredible new public transport system work and to ensure that the rollout has been incredibly smooth.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Ms JO HAYLEN: As the Premier has rightly acknowledged, we also thank the former Premiers and those who have dedicated and committed to delivering this massive change to our city over many, many years. This was not just a big event for Sydney; it also attracted global attention. We now have a world-class metro service running under our iconic harbour. Our city has never been more connected than now due to the magic of the metro. Those services run every four minutes, and it is already slashing passengers' journey times. Passengers are saying that they have saved five minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes or even 30 minutes on their commute. In fact, it only takes three minutes to travel from Barangaroo to Victoria Cross under our harbour.

It has also been a game changer for our entire public transport system. It is taking pressure off our rail network, and we are seeing greater reliability on our rail network as a result. In fact, some mornings we are seeing 99 per cent reliability on the metro and 99 per cent reliability on Sydney Trains. That is a fantastic opportunity for people to choose public transport more often, and great global cities of the world work exactly this way. The metro is also for everybody. It is a step-free, gap-free service, particularly for people with disability.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her seat. I will hear from the Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: The point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. If the Minister is to give an update, she needs to explain why Labor backflipped on its opposition to the metro in 2015.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. There is no point of order. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time. Members will come to order.

Ms JO HAYLEN: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to think about when the member for Ryde was in high school and what the policies were at the time, well, good on him. I am focused on making sure that we are delivering services for passengers. The Leader of the Opposition should focus on making sure that his party maybe gets forms in on time. Good luck with the rabble you have on that side of the House.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Coffs Harbour to order for the third time.

Mr Warren Kirby: I seek additional information.

The SPEAKER: An extension of two minutes is granted.

Ms JO HAYLEN: Every five days, more than a million journeys are made on the metro. In fact, we are seeing real interchange from our different services. This is an integrated public transport system working together—21 per cent of an uptick in change from heavy rail to the metro and a 7 per cent increase in people changing from bus to the metro as well. Again, that means we are taking more pressure off our public transport network. That is great news for passengers. And because of that high level of reliability, this week the metro's training wheels are coming off. It will run from earlier in the morning to late at night and a greater frequency during the day as well. Instead of seven to 10 minutes in that interpeak, services will run every five minutes—between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. For example, at lunchtime, passengers could travel from Martin Place to Victoria Cross to get the best Marrickville Pork Roll.

Mr Jihad Dib: Come on, what if you do not eat pork?

Ms JO HAYLEN: I recommend it; it is fantastic. It is now available on the other side of the harbour and it will take passengers just three minutes to get there. That is the kind of opportunity we have and the new way that public transport is changing our city. It is changing our city for the better; it is connecting people more often. Importantly, people are also choosing buses for an end-to-end public transport journey. We have provided 375 new bus services through the north-west and the North Shore to connect people to the metro. That is how great global cities of the world work, but we are not stopping there. We will see changes across our train network to, again, provide more services to people to allow them to choose public transport more often. It is pretty clear that "metromania" is not leaving Sydney any time soon.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. I note that pork rolls are a contentious issue amongst members. They can take that debate outside the Chamber.

PICTON BYPASS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (13:05): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. Through the Minister for Roads, the Government has committed to work with my community and share the outcomes for the engineering and tender for the Picton Bypass. Will the Minister share with the House what has happened and what the department staff are doing on this vital project?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (13:05): I thank the member for Wollondilly for her question and for her incredible, strong advocacy for transport services for a part of Sydney that has been long promised these opportunities but does not have the essential infrastructure that is needed. Under our Government, I guarantee the member for Wollondilly that we will begin work on the project, which is so important to her community, in this term of government. We know that building the Picton Bypass is absolutely crucial, and it is a very large undertaking. That is why in our recent budget we allocated \$18.3 million towards the planning of the Picton Bypass—and that is funded between us and the Federal Government.

As I am sure the member is aware, a registration of interest was released in June this year for industry to come forward in the upcoming tenders for concept design and environmental impact assessments for a number of projects in Western Sydney, including the Picton Bypass. I am also pleased to update the House that the preparation for the final business case is well underway. The registration of interest process has been successful, and the assessment is now being completed. We expect the tender to be awarded early next year. Over the next few months Transport will be carrying out field investigations in preparation, and the member's residents will see action that I know they have been long waiting for in that area.

The Picton Bypass is an important step in providing an alternative for motorists and heavy vehicles, linking Thirlmere with the Hume Highway via Picton Road. The aim of the project is to reduce the number of vehicles travelling through the Picton town centre, to reduce travel time, and to improve reliability and safety for road users. It will also improve the resilience of the road network, particularly in those emergency events that the member's community experiences such as bushfire and flood. Coming into government, it has been made painfully clear that members opposite left us large infrastructure backlogs across Western Sydney, with billions of dollars in roads, particularly in the north-west and the south-west. They left massive holes when communities have been waiting for a very long time, with those projects being unfunded.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Ms JO HAYLEN: In fact, in 2018 those opposite committed \$3 million to investigate options for the Picton Bypass, but they did not even get a business case completed. This Government knows that the majority of the community in Picton want to see a bypass built. We are upgrading Picton Road, and we are planning for a future to make sure that we can have growing communities that will support business in Western Sydney, particularly in the electorate of Wollondilly.

OPERATION RAID

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (13:08): My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. Will the Minister inform the House about the work our police are doing in keeping our roads safe through Operation RAID and new random drug test technology?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (13:08): I thank the member for Fairfield for his question and for his ongoing support of police in this place and in his community. They know that they can rely on him for his support when it comes to the work that they do day in, day out. It is sad that too many people are losing their lives or being seriously injured on our roads. I acknowledge all of those who are impacted by such trauma. The New South Wales police are on our roads day in, day out. They are enforcing the law and doing everything they can to make our roads safe. Our officers, along with their paramedic colleagues—the health Minister knows what I am talking about—see the horrors of road trauma firsthand and up close. They see the devastating and everlasting impacts it has on victims' families and communities more broadly.

New South Wales police recently ran Operation RAID, short for Remove All Impaired Drivers, a high-visibility operation across the State. Police looked at the data from previous years, which showed that road fatalities began to climb and spiked in September. What did police do? They were determined to address that. Over four days large numbers of officers were out in force, targeting drink driving, drug driving and fatigue—three major contributors to the State's annual road toll. Others are speeding and distracted driving.

Let me go through some of the results. A massive 120,093 random breath tests were conducted. Sadly, 211 drivers were charged for offences relating to a prescribed concentration of alcohol and driving under the influence. Some 10,885 random drug tests were conducted, and 470 of those were positive. To give some context, that is one driver in 20 with drugs in their system. Some 6,441 traffic infringement notices were issued, including 1,895 for speeding, 261 for mobile phone use and—I cannot believe that I am saying this—136 seatbelt offences. When did it become okay not to wear a seatbelt? Those drivers should wake up. Their illegal behaviour puts them at risk but, worse, they risk the lives of their passengers and everybody else who is using the road. Too often, their behaviour results in tragedy. *[Extension of time]*

Police are out there 365 days of the year day in, day out, doing their part to keep us safe on our roads. They are ensuring our roads are as safe as they can be. That is an absolute priority for the New South Wales police. On 1 September, police introduced new roadside drug tests that not only save masses of police time but also allow drivers under the influence of illicit drugs to be detected more quickly and easily than ever before. The new technology means police can potentially conduct just one roadside test, with results available on the spot. It is in stark contrast to the previous system, under which police had to transport someone to a police station where further testing was required. It saves massive amounts of time for police so officers can spend more time on the road, catching more offenders.

Let me be clear: Driving under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs simply costs lives. It is a crime. No-one should be killed or horrifically injured for using our roads. They should feel safe. Police are enforcing the law rigorously because we want everybody to arrive home safely. The Minns Labor Government is ensuring that we have the modern resources that we need to do that critical work of keeping our roads safe. Our hardworking police are doing an extraordinary job to make our roads safe, but they simply cannot be everywhere. The onus is on us to obey the rules and drive safely so we get home safely. I thank our police for all that they do every day and every night of the year. They keep turning up. The Labor Government cannot thank them enough.

WATER SHARING PLAN

Mr RYAN PARK: Pursuant to Standing Order 131 (7), I table a written response to a question asked of me by the member for Northern Tablelands during question time on 15 August 2024.

Documents

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 *Investigation into actions taken against bystander inmates following an incident at Clarence Correctional Centre*, dated August 2024, received on 21 August 2024.
- (2) Special Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Investigation into inmate discipline in NSW correctional centres*, dated August 2024, received on 21 August 2024.

I order that the reports be printed.

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Electoral Act 2017, I announce receipt of the report of the Children's Guardian investigation into child protection declarations made by elected members of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, dated August 2024, received on 28 August 2024.

In accordance with the Children's Guardian Act 2019, I announce receipt of the report of the Office of the Children's Guardian entitled *Strengthening out-of-home care and broader child protection system*, received on 29 August 2024.

I order that the reports be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989, I announce receipt of the Annual Determination of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal of additional entitlements for members of the Parliament of New South Wales, dated 24 May 2024, received out of session on 21 August 2024 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 following:

- (1) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Collision between banking locomotives and grain train 5446: Near Werriis Creek, New South Wales, on 6 January 2022*, dated August 2024, received out of session on 22 August 2024 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Bus Safety Investigation Report: Bus collision with road barrier, Belmont North, 13 November 2022*, dated September 2024.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Review of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 annual reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC*, report No. 1/58, dated August 2024, received out of session on 22 August 2024 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL****Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992, I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *Monitoring the retail market for E10 2024 - Final Report*, dated August 2024, received out of session on 6 September 2024 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION****Inquiry**

Mr JASON LI: As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption has resolved to review the 2023-2024 annual reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC, the full details of which are available on the Committee's home page.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**Reports**

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 18/58*, dated 17 September 2024. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES
AMENDMENT (PROHIBITING NO GROUNDS EVICTIONS) BILL 2024****Reports**

Ms JENNY LEONG: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Evictions) Bill 2024 entitled *Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Evictions) Bill 2024*, report No. 1/58, dated September 2024. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON REMOTE, RURAL AND REGIONAL
HEALTH****Inquiry**

Dr JOE MCGIRR: As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health has resolved to conduct an inquiry into the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities, the full details of which are available on the Committee's home page.

*Business of the House***DISPOSAL OF BUSINESS**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that, in view of the resignation of the member for Pittwater and in accordance with past practice, I have ordered the removal from the *Business Paper* of general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 1737, 1806, 1868, 1976, 1986 and 2015.

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 1533 to 1683, general business notice of motion (for bills) Water Management Amendment (Water Access Licence Register) Bill 2024, and general business order of the day (for bills) No. 3 ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2024 have lapsed.

[Notices of motions given.]

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

Bills

**CRIMES (DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL VIOLENCE) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL 2024**

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Michael Daley, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (14:31): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Domestic and family violence is one of the most troubling social issues that we face in New South Wales, in Australia and around the world. It is a complex, multifaceted problem that is serious and widespread. We have seen all too often that domestic and family violence can have devastating impacts for victim-survivors, who are overwhelmingly women who suffer abuse at the hands of men. The impacts can reverberate throughout the lives of victim-survivors, taking a toll on their social, emotional, economic and physical wellbeing. Of course, this abuse can tragically turn lethal, as we have seen in too many cases in New South Wales. It is important to remember that such deaths are sadly not rare or isolated incidents.

As the most recent report of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team highlighted, almost a third of homicides in New South Wales between 2000 and 2022 were domestic violence related. I will digress for a moment to thank the Domestic Violence Death Review Team for the incredible work they do. I had a meeting with Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan and the two remarkable young women who head up that team. We cannot do without the work they do. The recent report included very sobering figures. It is incumbent on all of us to continue to work to combat the blight of domestic and family violence.

All Australian Governments are committed to improving our responses to domestic and family violence. The New South Wales Government is working closely with our counterparts across the nation. These are important efforts to ensure that we as a nation are dealing with this issue in a holistic manner. Domestic and family violence is a complex and challenging social issue that requires a coordinated and concerted effort across many areas and service systems. The New South Wales Government has progressed swiftly with the actions we know are needed to help strengthen the response to domestic and family violence in our State. Law reform is just one part of that response, but it is an important one. Criminal laws set the standards of conduct we expect in our society, and they enable our law enforcement agencies to investigate and respond to harmful and dangerous behaviours.

This bill continues our ongoing efforts in law reform to enhance legislative responses to domestic and family violence. Earlier this year, the New South Wales Government introduced important reforms through the Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024. I thank members for their constructive engagement with that legislation. That Act introduced significant legal reform, making it more difficult for accused persons charged with serious domestic violence offences to get bail. Among other things, the Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024 expands the categories of show cause offences to include serious domestic violence offences, as well as the new coercive control offence. The Act strengthens the unacceptable risk test, including by requiring a bail decision-maker to consider the red flags of domestic abuse. It will require electronic monitoring of people charged with serious domestic violence offences who are granted bail, despite the strengthened show cause and unacceptable risk tests. It will prevent registrars from making bail decisions, thereby requiring either a judge or a magistrate to make those important decisions in respect of bail.

Our work has, of course, not only been legislative in nature. The Government has also announced a \$245.6 million package to improve the response to domestic and family violence through primary prevention, early intervention and crisis response measures. This funding has gone towards a range of interventions focused on proactive measures to prevent violence and offending. The bill I have introduced today builds on the work that I have just spoken about. It does so in a number of important ways.

First, this bill introduces laws and additional tools for our criminal justice agencies to target and respond to high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. These reforms include two new aggravated offences, which will enable higher penalties to be imposed when a person breaches an apprehended domestic violence order with the intent to cause harm or fear, or when a person persistently breaches an ADVO. The reforms include a new

civil protection order scheme for serious domestic abuse prevention orders, which are modelled on the serious crime prevention orders that are currently available to respond to serious and organised crime. The reforms include amendments to the definition of stalking to better capture technology-facilitated tracking or monitoring conduct, such as the use of GPS trackers or monitoring a victim's online accounts.

Second, this bill supports the implementation of the bail reforms contained in the Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024 by providing an exception to the requirement for an accused person to appear physically in first-appearance bail matters when a magistrate is not physically present at the location at which the accused would otherwise appear to enable audio visual link [AVL] access to a magistrate in another location and support implementation of the policy to remove registrars as bail decision-makers, particularly in regional areas. The bill also provides that where an accused person granted bail for a serious domestic violence offence is subject to electronic monitoring under new section 28B of the Bail Act 2013, they must not be released from custody until they are fitted with the electronic monitoring device.

Finally, this bill also streamlines processes to address identified operational concerns raised by our agencies when responding to domestic and family violence. This includes amendments to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow sole parents with appropriate Family Court orders to change their child's name, and technical adjustments to requirements in relation to the service of apprehended violence orders. As I have said, these reforms are not the end. We will continue to work with our expert domestic and family violence sector and people with lived expertise to monitor and build on our reforms, and continue to fight domestic and family violence. I thank those people and groups within the domestic and family violence sector, and also within the legal fraternity, for their feedback on the proposals that have made it into the final form of the bill.

I turn now to the detail of the bill. I start with the two new offences that capture particularly serious forms of ADVO breaches and specifically target high-risk domestic violence offenders. These amendments are set out at schedule 1 [4] and will be inserted into the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007. Under this Act, there are two kinds of apprehended violence orders, or AVOs, which can impose prohibitions or restrictions on a person to protect other people. These include prohibitions on assaulting, threatening, stalking or intimidating the protected person, and limitations on where the person the subject of the AVO can go or restrictions on how they can contact the protected person. If the parties have a domestic relationship with each other, the order is an ADVO, and in other cases it will be an apprehended personal violence order or APVO. These reforms are targeted to combatting domestic and family violence, which is why these new offences specifically relate to ADVOS.

The ADVO scheme is a key legislative tool to respond to domestic and family violence. In the 12 months to March 2024, over 39,000 ADVOS were made. It is already a criminal offence to breach an ADVO. Under section 14 (1) of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, a person who knowingly contravenes an ADVO is guilty of a criminal offence and faces a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, a fine of 50 penalty units, which is \$5,500, or both. However, some conduct is so serious that it warrants a different approach, especially where the breach of an ADVO is intentionally intimidating or threatening, which can seriously risk the safety of the protected person. This is why the bill introduces two new aggravated offences for breaching ADVOS with higher maximum penalties to make sure that our criminal law can better differentiate between breaches and recognise that some are more serious. These offences are modelled in part on comparable offences in Victoria under its Family Violence Protection Act 2008.

The first offence will be inserted as proposed new section 14 (1A), which covers breach of an ADVO with intent. It has two elements. First, it requires that a person knowingly contravened a prohibition or restriction in an ADVO made against them. This aligns with the existing standard breach offence. Second, the offence also requires that the person intends to cause physical or mental harm to the person protected by the ADVO, or for the protected person to fear for their safety or the safety of another person.

Proposed new section 14 (1B) (a) also provides that a person is taken to intend the victim to be harmed or feel fear if they know that such harm or fear is likely. This mental element is the differentiating factor for this offence. It recognises that when you breach a court order with the intent to harm someone or make them scared, such conduct is extremely serious and potentially dangerous. The drafting of the mental element is aligned with the existing offence of stalking or intimidation, and similarly the bill provides at new section 14 (1B) (b) that the prosecution does not have to prove that the accused person actually caused the victim to be harmed or feel fear. The maximum penalty for the intentional breach offence is three years imprisonment, 100 penalty units, which is \$11,000, or both.

The second offence will be inserted as proposed new section 14 (1C), which covers persistent breach of an ADVO. It has three elements. First, it requires that a person knowingly contravened a prohibition or restriction in an ADVO made against them. Again, this aligns with the existing standard breach offence. Second, it requires that the person also knowingly breached their ADVO two or more times within the previous 28-day period. In combination with the first element, the offence therefore requires three or more breaches of an ADVO in the

28-day period. Multiple breaches of an ADVO within a short period of time is evidence of a disregard for the law and the orders of the court, and can indicate, and often does, a higher risk of harm to the protected person.

Rapid, frequent and ongoing breaches of an ADVO comprise a course of abusive conduct which represents a heightened level of risk. It is entirely appropriate for the criminal law to recognise this by imposing a higher maximum penalty than the penalty for the existing standard, basic breach offence. The offence of persistent breach will be able to capture breaches in relation to the same protected person, whether under one ADVO or multiple orders; or one ADVO that protects multiple people, even if the breaches are not in relation to the same person; or ADVOS made against the accused person arising from the same application, such as a police-issued provisional order or an interim court order, whether or not in relation to the same protected person.

The third element of the persistent breach offence is that a reasonable person must consider that the conduct would be likely, in all the circumstances, to cause the protected person physical or mental harm, or to fear for the safety of the protected person or another person. This element does not require proof that the harm or fear was in fact caused. This is an objective assessment, based on community standards, of how serious the accused person's conduct is and its likely impact on the victim. Importantly, this reasonable person test applies to the breaches collectively. This ensures that individual breaches, which on their own might appear minor, are considered in the context of the overall course of conduct in question. The reasonable person test ensures this offence is targeted to this kind of serious conduct and distinguishes multiple minor technical breaches from the kinds of breaches that signal an ongoing campaign of abuse designed to hurt and scare victims.

The maximum penalty for the persistent breach offence is five years imprisonment, 150 penalty units, which is \$16,500, or both. This will make it the most serious of the offences for breaching an ADVO. I stress that for the persistent breach offence, there is no requirement for each breach to have been separately reported or charged by police at the time it occurs. We know that victims of domestic abuse often face difficult choices and may not always go to police in the first instance. There is no barrier to this offence applying where, for example, a protected person presents to police and reports multiple breaches that have occurred over the required time period. Similarly, while the offence focuses on a 28-day period, there is no barrier to charging this offence multiple times for consecutive 28-day periods in cases where persistent breaching occurs over an extended period of time.

Finally, on ADVOS, I quickly touch on some procedural aspects shared by both offences. First, schedule 2.3 [4] lists both of these offences in table 2 of schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. This means that these new offences will be dealt with summarily in the Local Court, unless the prosecution elects to have it dealt with on indictment in the District Court. Second, the bill also provides at proposed new section 14 (1D) that the standard breach offence is a statutory alternative to the intentional breach offence, and at proposed new subsection (1E) that both the standard and intentional breach offences are statutory alternatives to the persistent breach offence. This means that if the court or a jury is not satisfied of the more serious offence but is satisfied that the person has committed one of the alternative offences, they can be found guilty of that alternative.

Third, section 10C of the Crimes Act 1900, which applies to all criminal offences, will also apply to these offences. This provision extends criminal liability to conduct occurring outside New South Wales that has a geographical nexus with New South Wales. This includes where an offence is committed wholly or partly in New South Wales, or where the offence is committed wholly outside New South Wales but has an effect in New South Wales. This is particularly relevant for the persistent breach offence, which deals with a course of conduct over a time period. Finally, the transitional provisions at schedule 1, item [19] provide that these aggravated breach offences will apply prospectively to breaches occurring on or after the commencement of the offence, regardless of when the ADVO was made.

I turn now to the second major reform in the bill, which is the serious domestic abuse prevention order scheme contained in schedule 1, item [17] of the bill. I shall refer to these as abuse prevention orders. These abuse prevention orders are modelled on the serious crime prevention orders under the Crimes (Serious Crime Prevention Orders) Act 2016, which respond to serious and organised crime. This reform reflects our determination to ensure that domestic abuse is treated as seriously as other criminal acts, like organised crime. I did say at a press conference with the Premier a few weeks ago that if men—and it is mostly men—or the cowards who perpetrate domestic violence think we, by virtue of these provisions, are treating them like some of the worst criminals in the State, we are—and we are doing that intentionally. I repeat that sentence: This reform reflects our determination to ensure that domestic abuse is treated as seriously as other criminal acts, like organised crime.

Adaptations have been made to ensure these new abuse prevention orders are tailored to the domestic and family violence context. They will be another tool in the toolkit of our law enforcement agencies. Abuse prevention orders will complement the ADVO regime as a more serious order that will enable greater police supervision and monitoring. Under proposed new section 87B, subsection (1), abuse prevention orders can be made by an appropriate court on application by the Commissioner of Police or the Director of Public Prosecutions

if the court is satisfied on the grounds of three criteria. First, prevention orders can only be sought against a person who is over 18 years of age. This is an important safeguard, given the significant imposition that these orders may have on a person. Second, the court must be satisfied that the person is eligible for a prevention order on the basis of either convictions or charges occurring within the past 10 years that occurred when the person was at least 16 years of age.

For a prevention order to be made on the basis of convictions, the threshold will be whether the person has had two or more convictions for domestic violence offences with a maximum penalty of seven years or more. "Domestic violence offence" is a term defined in section 11 of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 and covers a number of prescribed offences when committed by one person against another person with whom they are in a domestic relationship. It also includes a catch-all provision so that any offence can be considered a domestic violence offence if the conduct constitutes domestic abuse, as defined in section 6A of the Act. The seven-year threshold for these offences would include, for example, the offence of coercive control, reckless grievous bodily harm or serious non-fatal strangulation offences. The appropriate court for orders made on the basis of convictions will be the Local Court.

For a prevention order to be made on the basis of charge, the eligibility threshold will be where the person has been charged with a serious domestic violence offence, regardless of whether the person has been tried, acquitted or convicted, and including where a conviction is quashed or set aside. "Serious domestic violence offence" is defined under proposed new section 87A as offences under part 3 of the Crimes Act committed against a current or former intimate partner or a family member, which carry maximum penalties of 14 years or more, or offences of another jurisdiction that are similar to such offences. "Intimate partner" is also defined under proposed new section 87A as those who are married, de facto partners within the meaning of section 21C of the Interpretation Act 1987, and those in an intimate personal relationship with one another, whether or not it is sexual in nature.

This definition incorporates current and former intimate partners and mirrors the definitions in section 54C of the Crimes Act 1900 for the coercive control offence and section 4 of the Bail Act, both of which commenced on 1 July this year. It is also aligned to the existing provisions in section 5 (1), paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, which defines "domestic relationship". "Family member" is defined under proposed new section 87A to include relatives as defined under section 6 of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 and, in the case of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those connected as extended family or kin according to the indigenous kinship system of the person's culture. The appropriate court for orders made on this basis is the Supreme Court.

The third requirement for making a prevention order is that there are reasonable grounds to believe making the order would protect former, current or potential intimate partners of the person, or people whom that intimate partner has a domestic relationship with, or family members of the person, by preventing the person engaging in domestic abuse. "Domestic abuse" is already defined under section 6A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act and covers behaviour by a person towards another person that is violent or threatening, which coerces or controls them, or which causes them to fear for their safety or wellbeing or that of others. This is a flexible definition, which reflects our understanding that the behaviours used by abusers will differ depending on the circumstances, and may not be limited to conventional notions of physical violence.

I highlight that this third element for making an abuse prevention order is one of the key differentiating factors from the ADVO framework. Abuse prevention orders aim to protect a wider section of the community through, among other things, a consideration of risk to potential future intimate partners of a person. In contrast, ADVOS are targeted to protect specific persons who are already known and connected to the perpetrator. This future-focused approach goes to the intent of this scheme, which is to target high-risk domestic violence offenders because of the risk they pose to the community at large and to people who may in the future become connected to the perpetrator. The scheme explicitly includes people who are connected to intimate partners in a domestic relationship because we know that perpetrators can seek to target their primary victim's support network as well as to establish and entrench their domination and control.

Family members are also included as a cohort whose protection ought to be considered. As the Domestic Violence Death Review Team's most recent report has highlighted, almost 35 per cent of domestic violence homicides involved either filicides—the death of a child by a parent—or deaths caused by a relative or kin. Additionally, when considering an application, proposed new section, 87B subsection (6) requires the court to have regard to the views of relevant people connected to the person whom the order is sought against—namely, their family members, former or current intimate partners or persons in a domestic relationship with such intimate partners—if these views are available to the court. This may be in the form of actually appearing before the court to provide evidence as a witness or in other forms, such as written statements put before the court in proceedings.

This provision is similar in intent to the reforms passed for the Bail Act 2013 earlier this year, which require the views of victims and their family to be taken into account in all bail decisions for intimate partner domestic violence offences as part of an assessment of bail concerns. While the court must have regard to these views, they are not determinative. The core question for the court remains whether there are reasonable grounds to believe the order will prevent the person from engaging in domestic abuse. If the court makes an abuse prevention order, proposed new section 87C provides that the court may impose any condition it considers appropriate to prevent the person from engaging in domestic abuse. This might include positive obligations or requirements to do certain actions, which also differs from ADVOs, where conditions can only impose restrictions or prohibitions on engaging in certain actions.

By way of example, some conditions that might be sought under an abuse prevention order could include a requirement to report to a police station at certain times; a requirement to notify authorities, such as police, when the offender changes their address; a requirement to notify authorities, such as police, when the offender commences an intimate partner relationship; a restriction or prohibition on the use of social media, including dating applications, or a requirement to notify police of such use; a requirement that a person give authorities, such as police, information or assistance reasonable and necessary to enable them to access data, such as a password or PIN to unlock a digital device; or a prohibition on the purchase or use of tracking devices and applications. The legislation is intentionally open ended and does not impose standard or mandatory conditions that ought to be part of every order. That is because of how these orders are intended to be used. They will be tailored to high-risk offenders and the offender's specific behavioural patterns. This approach aligns with the existing operation of serious crime prevention orders responding to organised crime.

While there is flexibility in the conditions that can be imposed, there are prohibitions on imposing certain kinds of conditions, as set out in proposed new section 87C (2). These include a prohibition on an abuse prevention order requiring a person to answer questions or provide information orally, or answer questions or provide information which is privileged or otherwise cannot ordinarily be disclosed. Similarly, if information is provided in compliance with a requirement under a prevention order, proposed new section 87C (3) provides that such information is not admissible as evidence, except for in proceedings for breach of a prevention order or when adduced by the defendant. These requirements are aligned to the limitations on serious crime prevention orders in the Crimes (Serious Crime Prevention Orders) Act 2016. They reflect important safeguards for civil liberties and fundamental justice principles, such as the privilege against self-incrimination.

In addition to the conditions imposed by an abuse prevention order, schedules 2.5 and 2.6 will amend the Firearms Act 1996 and the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998, respectively, to ensure the making of an abuse prevention order has the same effect as a final AVO. This includes automatic revocation of a firearms licence or prohibited weapons permit. Under proposed new section 87D, the duration of a prevention order is determined by the court, with a maximum duration of five years. However, new subsection (3) makes it clear that there is no barrier to the court making further prevention orders against the same person, which would need to be sought through a fresh application.

It will be an offence to knowingly contravene a prevention order under proposed new section 87E. This offence will carry a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or 300 penalty units, which is \$33,000, or both. To be guilty of the offence, the person must have been served with a copy of the order or been in court when it was made. Schedule 2.3 [3] to the bill lists this offence in table 1 of schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure Act, meaning that it is to be dealt with summarily in the Local Court unless the prosecution or accused elects for it to be dealt with on indictment in the District Court.

I turn now to some procedural provisions. Under proposed new section 87G, abuse prevention orders may be varied or revoked on application by any of the parties if there has been a substantial change in the relevant circumstances. In determining a variation or revocation application, the court must allow the parties to be heard, consider the same factors that must be considered in the making of an abuse prevention order and have regard to the views of the defendant's family members, their current or former intimate partners or persons in a domestic relationship with such partners. Decisions in abuse prevention order proceedings may be appealed, in accordance with proposed new section 87F. Local Court decisions will be appealed in the Supreme Court. Supreme Court decisions will be appealed in the Court of Appeal. If appealed, new subsections (6), (7) and (8) make clear that the abuse prevention order is only stayed by a decision of the court if satisfied that it is safe to do so and having regard to the need to prevent the defendant from engaging in domestic abuse.

Proposed new section 87J makes clear that proceedings relating to abuse prevention orders are civil proceedings, except for criminal proceedings for breaches of such orders. This means that the relevant standard of proof is the balance of probabilities, and the rules of evidence that apply to civil proceedings will apply in abuse prevention order proceedings. Schedule 1 [8] to [16] and schedule 2.3 [1] and [2] make consequential amendments to extend the procedural protections that currently apply for certain people to appear in AVO proceedings to also

apply in abuse prevention order proceedings. These protections include, for example, closing the court or having the presence of a support person when the person gives evidence.

Finally, in relation to abuse prevention orders, I highlight some provisions relating to how abuse prevention orders will interact with AVOs. These will be able to operate concurrently because, as I have mentioned, an AVO aims to protect a specific person or persons, with terms tailored to those circumstances, whereas an abuse prevention order is focused on the risk that the perpetrator may pose to a general class of people in the community. Proposed new section 87H provides that, when making an abuse prevention order, the court has the power to vary, alter or revoke as necessary an existing AVO if satisfied in all the circumstances that it is proper to do so. This is to ensure there is consistency and alignment between orders. If such a variation or revocation occurs, the AVO will need to be served, as is the case currently for standalone AVO variations or revocations.

As this scheme is being inserted into the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, the existing powers to vary parenting orders for the same reasons under section 68R of the Commonwealth's Family Law Act 1975 will also extend to the abuse prevention order scheme. To facilitate the court's exercise of these powers, proposed new section 87B (2) requires the applicant to provide the court with details of any AVOs in force against the person and any orders under the Commonwealth Family Law Act of which the applicant is aware. This is to assist the court with the exercise of its powers to vary such orders. In the event of an inconsistency with an AVO, proposed new section 87I provides that the abuse prevention order will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. This means that the prevention order will only override the AVO where specific conditions cannot be complied with at the same time, and both will continue to be in force.

I turn to the amendments to the definition of "stalking" in the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007. Schedule 1 [3] clarifies that the definition of "stalking" explicitly includes the monitoring or tracking of a person's activities, communications or movements, whether by using technology or in another way, and whether or not the monitoring or tracking involves contacting or approaching the victim. This amendment reflects the fact that electronic surveillance in the domestic and family violence context may cause the victim to feel fear or be harmed in the same way that in-person conduct does, noting that in-person conduct is already covered by the existing definition. This also reflects the findings of the 2024 NSW Crime Commission's report in Project Hakea, which found that there is frequent use of tracking devices by domestic and family violence perpetrators.

This amendment means that technology-facilitated tracking or monitoring conduct will be captured in three ways by the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007. First, the conduct would be covered by the existing offence of stalking and intimidation under section 13. This means that, where a perpetrator engages in this kind of technology-facilitated tracking or monitoring and they have an intention to cause the victim to fear physical or mental harm, or knowledge that such fear is likely because of this conduct, they will be committing a criminal offence. Second, technology-facilitated tracking or monitoring would also be able to form the basis for the making of an AVO under sections 16 or 19 if a court is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that a person has reasonable grounds to fear and, in fact, fears that the defendant will engage in conduct that stalks the person and the conduct is, in the opinion of the court, sufficient to warrant the making of an order.

Finally, this amendment would also expand the mandatory prohibitions taken to be part of every AVO. Under section 36 (2) (b), a defendant must not stalk the protected person or a person they have a domestic relationship with. This will now expressly mean that a person subject to an AVO cannot use technology-facilitated tracking or monitoring against the protected person. As I have already noted earlier in this speech, breaching an AVO is a criminal offence. The bill also makes changes under schedule 1 [7] to streamline requirements for the service of AVOs. Service is an important component of the AVO framework because a person cannot be found guilty of breaching an AVO if it has not been served in accordance with the Act. The first amendment under proposed new section 31 (3) will enable electronic service of a provisional AVO. Police ordinarily issue provisional AVOs when responding to an incident to provide immediate protection.

Currently, a police officer is required to personally serve a provisional AVO on a defendant as soon as practicable after it is made. This has sometimes involved having to detain a defendant in place or bring them back to the police station to have a physical copy of the AVO made and given to a defendant. A protected person must also be served with the order, unless it is impractical to do so. This amendment means that that electronic service will now be able to occur through means such as email. However, it will only be available where the person has consented and the police officer has explained the effect of the AVO, the consequences for breaching it, and the person's rights in relation to the order. The matters to be explained are aligned to what the court currently must explain when making an AVO, as set out in section 76 of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007.

The second amendment clarifies the service requirements that apply when provisional AVOs are converted into interim or final AVOs. Proposed new section 32 makes clear that, when a provisional order first returns to court, the court may dismiss the application for a court AVO, revoke the provisional AVO, or actively make an interim or final AVO, with or without variation. If the court does none of those things, the provisional order is

deemed to have become an interim court order in the same terms as the provisional order. Further service of the order is required only where the defendant is not at court and either the provisional AVO was unserved; the court chooses to make an interim order, with variations to the provisional order; or the court chooses to make a final AVO, rather than an interim court order, with or without variations. Proposed new section 32 (3) notes that, where a new order is made by the court, the provisional order is revoked either on the making of the order, if service is not required, or on service if it is required. This clarifying provision ensures that the provisional order will not cease until the interim or final order is in force, which means that victim-survivors retain ongoing protection of an AVO while service is being effected.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill also supports the implementation of reforms contained in the recent Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024 relating to electronic monitoring and removing registrars as bail decision-makers. Following the tragic death of Molly Ticehurst, there was significant community concern surrounding the appropriateness of registrars making bail decisions. Those concerns were heard by the Government and new section 70A of the Bail Act 2013 was introduced, which ensures that bail decisions will be made by magistrates or judges. Operationally, this will require increased use of AVL to allow accused persons to access a magistrate or judge, particularly in the regions.

Currently, the Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act 1998 requires that, for first appearance bail proceedings, the accused must appear in court in person unless an exception applies, the parties consent, or the court otherwise directs. Section 5BA of that Act lists the available exceptions to this rule, which includes where the bail hearing is on a weekend, public holiday or other time period specified in the Act, or where it occurs at a location exempted by regulation. Schedule 2.4 [3] to the bill adds another exception to that list, which allows an accused to appear via AVL in first appearance bail proceedings where a magistrate is not available at the location at which the accused would otherwise appear. This exception is required to support the implementation of the reform to remove registrars as bail decision-makers, particularly in some regional areas where there are no permanently sitting magistrates.

The Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024 also introduced a new regime of electronic monitoring for people granted bail for serious domestic violence offences. New section 28B of the Bail Act 2013 requires that, where a person is granted bail for a serious domestic violence offence, the bail authority must impose a bail condition requiring that the accused be subject to electronic monitoring unless sufficient reasons in the interests of justice exist not to do so. Schedule 2.1 [1] to the bill clarifies that, where a person has been granted bail and is subject to electronic monitoring under this provision, they must not be released from custody until an electronic monitoring device has been fitted.

I now turn to the amendment to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow sole parents with appropriate family court orders to change their child's name. This amendment is set out at schedule 2.2 to the bill. Both parents' approval is generally required to change a child's name. A sole parent may change their child's name in very limited circumstances. Under current section 28 (3) of the Act, a sole parent can change their child's name if they are the sole parent named in the registration of the child's birth, there is no other surviving parent, or a court approves the proposed change of name. However, a sole parent with a parenting order granting them sole responsibility for their child's name cannot apply to change the child's name unless the order approves a specific new name. That poses a safety risk to some victim-survivors of domestic violence who want to change their child's name.

Even if the Family Court has made a parenting order that it is in the child's best interests that one parent has sole parental responsibility to make decisions about the child's name, that parent would still, under State law, need the consent of the other parent, who may be a perpetrator, or a further court order approving the proposed name change. Requiring that parent to obtain a further court order is an unnecessary obstacle and may increase risk by making the applicant's details accessible to the perpetrator or revealing the child's new name.

This amendment would allow a sole parent to change their child's name where they have sole responsibility under a final parenting order made under the Family Law Act 1975 to make decisions about major long-term issues or the child's name. This means that a separate court order approving the specific name change would not be required. The amendment retains judicial oversight over when a sole parent has the authority to change their child's name, without requiring the court to approve a specific name. This amendment will bring New South Wales into alignment with the legislative frameworks for changing a child's name in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, which do not require a court to approve a specific name if a parent has been granted appropriate parenting orders under the Family Law Act.

Finally, I note that, under clause 2 of the bill, the amendments will commence at a future date by proclamation. That is for two reasons. Firstly, some of the changes contained in the bill, such as the abuse prevention order scheme, are novel and break new ground in New South Wales for how the justice system can respond to domestic and family violence. We want to make sure that we are doing this right, so time is needed for

training and education for justice agencies. Training is absolutely critical, given the challenging and often nuanced nature of domestic and family violence. Secondly, these reforms will have impacts on the operating systems of the justice system and time is needed to make necessary updates to these and other operating procedures. We know how urgent it is to respond to domestic and family violence and we are committed to commencing the new provisions as swiftly as possible.

Schedule 1 [18] to the bill provides for a statutory review of the substantive reforms 12 months after commencement. The review includes the new breach ADVO offences and the abuse prevention order scheme. A report is to be tabled in Parliament within six months of the review commencing. This ensures that a timely review can be conducted once we have the benefit of seeing how these amendments operate in practice. It is expected that the review will consider, among other things, the penalties received for breaching ADVOS and abuse prevention orders; whether the 28-day time period for the persistent breach of ADVO offence remains appropriate; whether the eligibility and scope of abuse prevention orders is wide enough; and the impact of these reforms on certain parts of our community, including on First Nations people and communities. Other reviews, such as those for the offence of coercive control required under section 54J of the Crimes Act, will also consider some of these reforms insofar as they interact with the coercive control offence.

In conclusion, the bill is the next step in an ongoing reform journey. It provides important additions to the legislative tools available to tackle high-risk perpetrators of domestic and family violence, allowing for more tailored responses to better hold perpetrators to account. However, there will always be further work to be done to guard against domestic and family violence. We know that there are no easy solutions or one single fix that we can implement; victim-survivors remind us of that, often. If there was, it would have been done a long time ago. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with other members in this place and in the other place, our critical first responders, experts in the domestic and family violence service sector, and victim-survivors in moving forward to a world where domestic and family violence becomes a rarity. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDERS REGISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 13 August 2024.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (15:21): On behalf of the Opposition, I make a contribution to debate on the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024, which makes amendments to the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000. I indicate from the outset that the Opposition supports the amendments, because the Opposition sees that applying greater mandatory reporting obligations to convicted offenders of child abuse and registrable offences, clarifying administration confusion and strengthening police powers in monitoring registered persons is well and truly needed.

First and foremost, it is important that we discuss this type of insidious crime that the bill aims to address. The bill aims to significantly strengthen current reporting processes for individuals convicted of registrable offences relating to child abuse. The victims of these crimes are children who have been stripped of their innocence and carefree childhoods and, in many cases, will now experience lifelong effects from the trauma and the abuse that they have endured. The individuals convicted of child abuse crimes are a menace to society. They are monsters in our communities and cannot be trusted. Therefore, they will now become a registered person, and they will need to be monitored for the protection of our most vulnerable members of society—our children.

Child abuse can include physical, emotional and sexual mistreatment. It is a grievous violation of trust and innocence. I remind the House that these kids should be at school learning, outside playing in parks and on slippery dips or hanging out with their mates on the weekend. They should not be facing court hearings or police interviews, heading to therapy every week to discuss their trauma or scared to be out in the community or, sadly, in some cases, scared to be in their own homes.

The trauma inflicted on abused children often has enduring effects. Victims may suffer long-term psychological, emotional and physical damage, including anxiety, depression and difficulties forming healthy relationships. The conviction of abusers highlights the need for justice for those young victims, but it also reflects the severe nature of the crimes that have been committed against them. The vile nature of child abuse lies not only in the act itself but in the profound betrayal of a child's trust and the violation of their fundamental rights. Convictions are a necessary step in addressing these grave crimes. They also reflect our society's commitment to protecting its most vulnerable members and striving for justice in the face of such insidious crimes.

The conviction process can be a painful experience for victims and their families. Testimonies and legal proceedings may reopen old wounds and force children to relive traumatic experiences. Despite this, it is crucial

for ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and that justice is served, which is essential for a victim's sense of closure and the safety of other potential victims. That is why it is imperatively important to get the conviction process right and let victims move on, knowing that the courts and police are doing their jobs by properly registering a convicted person, and knowing that that person is meeting their reporting duties. The NSW Police Force self-reported to the Law Enforcement Corruption Commission multiple miscommunications and miscalculations relating to cases of convicted child abuse offenders. This has left offenders in the community with incorrect reporting requirements, and there was some confusion between New South Wales police officers, judicial officers and convicted offenders.

The New South Wales police are doing all they can to protect children and to stop reoffenders, and this reform will help equip officers with further powers to continue to do so. On behalf of the Opposition, I thank the New South Wales police officers who are involved in targeting and monitoring child abuse offenders and holding them accountable for the atrocities they commit. It would be a very confronting job, seeing the darker side of society, but a wholeheartedly necessary one to protect the children of this State. It is by no means an easy role and would be extremely taxing on an officer's mental health. Whatever we can do in this place to make their job easier can only be a good thing.

The New South Wales Opposition acknowledges that the bill proposes reforms to not only address administration processes, mark clearer responsibilities between the police and courts, but also apply stricter reporting requirements to ensure any adult convicted of a registrable offence becomes a registered person and is required to report to the New South Wales police. We can all agree that this is a step in the right direction. However, through discussions with stakeholders and members of the Government, it has been raised that judicial officers will take on much of the administration duties and will be responsible for the application of much of these reforms. Therefore, I ask that the Minister indicates in her reply whether or not the courts, especially in regional and rural communities, would be resourced to ensure that the administrative work is done in a timely manner. If additional resources are required to implement the reforms, they should be made available at the same time that this bill is enacted and provided as soon as possible to ensure that these reforms are as effective and efficient as possible for the sake of victims, the safety of the communities and the satisfaction of staff involved.

In summary, child abuse of any form is an insidious crime that needs to be stamped out of our society. One in seven Australians have experienced child abuse, ridding those individuals of an innocent childhood and, in some cases, leading to further trauma or difficulties throughout their adulthood. This reform will benefit the people of New South Wales by providing greater security for children and creating certainty for victims by reducing the risk of reoffending. It will also allow the New South Wales police to keep a closer eye on registered persons because it sets out very clear expectations on registered persons of their reporting responsibilities. I thank the Minister's office for the opportunity to be briefed on the bill about this important matter. The Opposition supports any reform that will further protect children. We support the bill.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (15:29): I make a brief contribution to debate in support of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. The bill includes important amendments to ensure the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 remains fit for purpose in New South Wales. That legislation, which establishes a Child Protection Register administered by the NSW Police Force, supports New South Wales police to monitor and manage risks associated with convicted child sex offenders who are living in the community. Under the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000, people who have been convicted of registrable offences against children must report their personal details to police while they are living in the community.

Depending on the severity of the offences committed, an adult offender may be subject to the conditions of the register for a period from eight years to life. Information held on the register is not public and access to the register is limited to police officers who are responsible for monitoring registrable persons. Details of registered persons from New South Wales are recorded on the National Child Offender System, which is used by Australian police forces to monitor offenders across jurisdictions. Central to the effective operation of the regime are registrable offences subject to the requirements of the Act. The list of registrable offences specified in the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 plays a crucial role in ensuring that registration and reporting obligations provided for under the Act automatically apply to adult persons who are convicted and sentenced for those offences.

Under the bill, when an adult offender is convicted of and sentenced for a registrable offence, the sentencing court must make a registrable person order that advises them of their obligations to register with police and report their personal information to police for a specified time. It follows that it is of fundamental importance to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme that the list of registrable offences covers all the key offences where it is appropriate for adult offenders to be automatically subject to reporting obligations when they are released into the community.

Under the current Act, a range of serious offences against children are included as registrable offences. They include offences involving sexual intercourse, sexual touching, and producing, disseminating or possessing child abuse material. Under the bill, those offences are retained as registrable offences, and additional offences that have been identified as appropriate for automatic reporting obligations for adult offenders to apply when they are in the community have also been included. It is my understanding that many of the additional offences have been added to the New South Wales or Commonwealth criminal frameworks since the enactment of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act in 2000.

It is very important and appropriate that the New South Wales child sex offender registration and reporting regime keep up with developments in criminal law and the enactment of new offences that involve sexual or other serious harm to children. For example, the bill adds as a registrable offence section 45 of the New South Wales Crimes Act, prohibition of female genital mutilation, when committed against a child. Image-based offences have also been added, including but not limited to section 91P of the Crimes Act, record intimate image without consent, when committed against a child; and section 91HAA of the Act, administering a digital platform used to deal with child abuse material.

It is important that such offences are captured within the scheme, given the sad reality that the consumption of online child abuse material has increased exponentially, with global child exploitation agencies receiving upwards of 15 million reports annually. Damning evidence from the Australian Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre has revealed that Australia is, to our shame, the third largest market for online child abuse material, and prosecutions relating to child abuse material have increased across the country. Viewing child abuse material is not a victimless crime. Thousands of children globally are exploited daily to fuel this crime. It is appropriate that those who are connected to such activities via a conviction are subject to the requirements of the child protection registration scheme.

Further, the bill ensures that offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code, including serious violent and sexual offences against children such as crimes against humanity—rape, sexual slavery, sexual violence, enforced prostitution or forced pregnancy—and war crimes when committed against children, are registrable. Other registrable Commonwealth Criminal Code offences include grooming a person to make it easier to engage in sexual activity with a child outside Australia, under section 272.15A, and possessing or controlling child abuse material obtained or accessed using a carriage service, under section 474.22A.

It is clear the Government recognises that violations against children unfortunately occur in different ways, and it is important that the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act applies reporting obligations to relevant offences concerning sexual behaviour committed against children under New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation. This proposed legislation does not represent the only legislative response to such offences, but it does provide additional protections to the community by ensuring that police are provided with the tools and information that they need to better protect children from harm.

The Government is confident that the measures in the bill will strengthen the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act. As I have said, a key way the bill achieves that is by ensuring that key offences that the community would expect to give rise to reporting obligations are included as registrable offences. The list of offences is clearly set out in the legislation so that offenders and courts can easily identify when reporting obligations should apply. That, alongside other improvements in the bill that strengthen reporting obligations and inspection powers available to our police, is an important improvement in the legislative regime that will help ensure the statutory objectives of the Act are achieved, particularly protecting children from serious harm and ensuring the early detection of offences by recidivist child sex offenders. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove) (15:38): As a foundation member of Bravehearts, I support the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. The proposed legislation bolsters the effectiveness of the child protection offender registration scheme. It sickens me that we live in a world where people commit sexual and violent offences against children. Those crimes are heinous, and I have absolute sympathy for people who regard them as unforgivable and who believe that they warrant the offender never being brought back into the community again. The child protection offender registration scheme is vital to ensuring that the risk of re-offence is actively mitigated. The bill seeks to improve the scheme and is a significant step forward in our efforts to safeguard our children.

The proposed changes address key areas, including the definition of registrable offences, the process of issuing registrable person orders, the reporting obligations for registrable persons and the Act's application across jurisdictions. Additionally, the bill introduces consequential amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999. These changes are the result of Operation Tuskett and a subsequent review of the Act by police. The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's final report on Operation Tuskett found that significant errors have regrettably plagued the register. Those errors include the incorrect inclusion of individuals, the improper determination of reporting periods and, disturbingly, cases of offenders being unmonitored. The subsequent

review found that a significant cause of these errors was the complexity of the current legislation and difficulties with its interpretation.

The principle of the bill is to make it easier for police to identify when a reportable person breaches their reporting requirements and to take appropriate action. It will benefit the Chamber to remind members of the charges that lead to someone becoming a reportable person. The register includes people who have murdered children, groomed and raped children, and forced children into marriage or sexual slavery, and individuals who have produced and distributed child abuse material. First and foremost, the bill refines the criteria for what constitutes a registrable offence. By updating the definitions in new sections 2D through to 2I, and by incorporating new schedules, the bill works to ensure that the legislative framework remains relevant and clear.

The introduction of class 1 and class 2 offence categories provides clarity and precision, ensuring that all serious offences are captured under the Act, while also detailing how similar offences, or those arising from the same incident, should be treated. The bill also enhances the process for issuing registrable person orders. New sections 3C and 3CA mandate that courts issue these orders when sentencing for registrable offences in specific circumstances. This change ensures a more consistent approach across cases, and that a registrable person order is appropriately applied in relevant situations. It also provides clarity on the implications of appeals against such orders, thereby strengthening the overall legal framework.

The reporting obligations for registrable persons are a crucial aspect of the bill. New sections 10, 10A and 11 clearly outline the requirements for annual personal information reports, updates on relevant personal information and reporting contact with children. These updates ensure that the information we collect is comprehensive and current, enhancing our ability to monitor and manage registrable persons effectively. Another significant amendment is new part 2B, which addresses corresponding registrable persons from other Australian jurisdictions or international locations. By defining when a person qualifies as a corresponding registrable person and establishing their reporting requirements, we are bridging gaps that previously existed between jurisdictions. This will ensure that individuals who pose a risk are monitored, regardless of where they are located.

The bill also introduces various other important changes. These include the requirement for audits of the Child Protection Register every two years, administrative reviews by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, updates to the powers of police officers, and defences available to registrable persons. These changes contribute to a more transparent and effective system, enhancing both oversight and accountability. In conclusion, the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024 addresses the evolving needs of our child protection framework. It strengthens the Act by clarifying definitions, refining processes and enhancing reporting obligations. These changes are essential to ensuring that we are equipped to manage risks effectively and keep our children safe.

I thank the numerous men and women across our State who have dedicated their lives to the protection of children, including the men and women of the NSW Police Force, the justice system and the charity sector, and people like Karen Linley, Wendy Woodward, MP Leslie Williams, Ralph Lucas, Carl Morris, Virginia Judge and Bob Wilson, who, alongside myself, became foundation members of Bravehearts close to two decades ago. We are still very much involved. We cannot thank these selfless, dedicated individuals enough for the work they do. I commend the Minister for introducing the bill, which is the consequence of work that began under the previous Coalition Government. There is nothing as abhorrent as crimes against children. It is imperative that our legislative framework supports the agencies that keep our children safe.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (15:43): I address an issue of paramount importance to the people of Heathcote and all families across New South Wales: the protection of our children from those who would do them harm. The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024 represents a crucial step in the Government's ongoing commitment to protecting children from serious physical and sexual harm. As a mother of two children, and with four generations of my family residing in the Heathcote electorate, I know how important it is to safeguard our children's wellbeing and mitigate the risk of harm from those with bad intentions. The Minns Labor Government is committed to keeping the children of this State safe. The bill significantly strengthens the powers of New South Wales police, ensuring that they are better equipped to use the Child Protection Register to safeguard children from recidivist child sex offenders.

By enhancing the child protection offender registration regime, we can ensure that those convicted of serious sexual offences against children are subject to stronger reporting obligations and closer monitoring. The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 currently requires child sex offenders in New South Wales to report key personal information to the police. This information, such as a change in residence, employment or interactions with children, is essential for the police to assess in order to mitigate potential risks to our children. The register is a crucial tool for ensuring that those who have committed serious offences remain under proper supervision and are held accountable. By mandating the reporting of such information, we are giving the police

the tools they need to intervene and respond where necessary and in a timely fashion, reducing the risk of further harm to children in our State.

The bill strengthens the child protection offender registration scheme in several critical ways. Firstly, it expands the range of offences that trigger mandatory reporting obligations. Offences introduced in recent New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation, including crimes against humanity committed against children such as sexual slavery and enforced prostitution, will now be included. This expansion ensures that all relevant offenders are captured under the scheme without the need for further court intervention. Additionally, the bill tightens the timelines for reporting changes in key personal information. Registered persons will now have just five days, rather than seven, to report changes in residence, employment or vehicle ownership. More importantly, all contact with children, whether in person or through digital platforms like social media, must be reported to the police within 24 hours. This measure will allow police to act quickly and decisively, identifying risks and preventing harm to children.

The bill also requires offenders to report new forms of personal information, such as participation in web-based games that allow for online communication, as well as any ownership of boats or caravans. This reflects the evolving ways in which offenders can exploit digital platforms and other means to access children. Effective monitoring is key to ensuring compliance with the obligations placed on registered offenders. The bill doubles the number of annual residential inspections that police can carry out. By increasing the frequency of inspections, police will be better equipped to identify any breaches of the reporting obligations, reducing potential risks to children and strengthening compliance. The bill also improves the processes surrounding registration decisions, ensuring greater clarity and fairness. Courts will now be required to make registrable persons orders at the time of sentencing, clearly outlining the reporting obligations of offenders. This guarantees that offenders and authorities are fully informed from the outset.

For adults convicted of child sex offences, these orders will be mandatory, as they are under the current regime. However, for juveniles, courts will have discretion to issue these orders if they deem the individual to present a risk to the sexual safety of children. This will ensure a more considered approach to young offenders who may not pose the same level of risk as adult offenders. The bill will also improve how we handle offenders from other jurisdictions. A person who is subject to reporting requirements in another State or Territory and enters New South Wales will now have five days to report their presence and provide key personal information. For longer-term visitors, a notice will be issued requiring them to report in the same manner as New South Wales-based registrable persons. This will ensure that police have timely and comprehensive information regarding all individuals who are entering the State and pose a potential risk to children.

The reforms in this bill are informed by the findings of Operation Tuskett and the ongoing input of the Police Force. In 2019 Operation Tuskett revealed several issues with the Child Protection Register, highlighting gaps in enforcement and monitoring. Since then the Government has worked closely with the police and child protection advocates to address these issues. This bill incorporates recommendations from the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and builds upon the operational experience of our law enforcement agencies. It has been carefully refined over the past three years, with input from key stakeholders in the legal and child protection sectors.

The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024 is a vital step towards ensuring that our children are protected from the serious harm posed by recidivist child sex offenders. By expanding the offences that trigger reporting obligations, reducing reporting timelines and strengthening the police's monitoring powers this Government is sending a clear message: We will not tolerate any threat to the safety of our children. In conclusion, I thank our police officers and all those who on a daily basis deal with these issues and take care to protect our children. I thank the police Minister and her team for their work and time spent in keeping our young people safe. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (15:51): I speak in support of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. The main purpose of this bill is to make miscellaneous amendments to the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000, hereafter called the Act, as well as consequential amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999. The bill seeks to assist the NSW Police Force to manage the risk associated with convicted child sex offenders living in the community and arises from feedback sought from a range of government, legal and child protection stakeholders. It has also been informed by a review of the Act by the Police Force and by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's final report from Operation Tuskett in 2019.

The bill nominates additional offences, including relevant New South Wales and Commonwealth offences, as registrable offences, which attract reporting obligations under the Act. The bill will also require a court to order that a person is a registrable person when sentencing the person for a registrable offence in certain circumstances. A discretionary approach is included for children who commit registrable offences. In those circumstances a court must be satisfied that the child poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of children. The bill will allow the

Commissioner of Police to exempt people currently on the register because of offences committed as a child from reporting obligations.

The bill will provide for enhanced reporting obligations. For registrable persons entering New South Wales from another jurisdiction, key information is required to be reported to the Police Force within five days of arrival. Standard reporting periods are reduced from seven days to five days for a registrable person's changes to personal information. This bill will also strengthen the police's entry and inspection powers to assist with verifying compliance of reporting obligations, increasing the number of permitted residence inspections from one per year to two per year, with additional inspections able to be undertaken with approval from a senior police officer. These amendments strengthen enforcement powers to identify risks and reduce the risk of harm in the community. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:53): I speak in favour of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. I thank the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism for bringing this important bill to the House. The bill will substantially strengthen the NSW Police Force's ability to protect children and young people from reoffending sex offenders in New South Wales and is a tangible demonstration of the New South Wales Government's commitment to protecting children from harm. This bill will amend the administration of the Child Protection Register and expand the number of serious child sexual abuse offences that trigger the mandatory reporting requirements under the Act.

The statistics on child sexual abuse demonstrate disturbing figures. According to the *Australian Child Maltreatment Study* published in 2023, which surveyed 8,500 Australians aged over 16 years of age, 28.5 per cent of Australians have experienced some form of child sexual abuse. This study also reports that more than one in three girls and one in five boys have experienced sexual abuse. When these statistics are broken down to look at the 3,500 youth respondents to the survey, who are aged from 16 to 24, they show that 25.7 per cent of those surveyed experienced child sexual abuse. The impact of the trauma of child sexual abuse on the individual is lifelong, and people who have a lived experience of abuse are more likely to experience mental health disorders, smoke and binge-drink, as well as harm themselves or attempt suicide. The impacts on each individual child who is a survivor of abuse are ongoing and demonstrate our need as legislators to take steps towards protecting children and young people in our constituencies.

In its current form, the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 ensures mandatory reporting of personal information to police by a range of persons convicted of sexual offences against children. The changes proposed by this bill were informed by the final report from Operation Tusk in 2019, which found limitations and errors in the administration of the Child Protection Register, including incorrect decisions when determining the status and reporting period of individuals on the register. Those errors were found to present risks to children and young people, and to provide offenders with increased opportunities to reoffend.

Substantial input from a range of government, legal sector and child protection advocates has been included when refining the changes presented in this bill. The bill will strengthen the scheme by expanding the offences covered to include additional offences such as the administration of digital platforms that distribute child sexual abuse material. Additionally, the bill will require persons on the register to report changes to their personal details within five days, from the current seven-day requirement, and all contact with children, including via social media, must be reported within 24 hours. The aim of those changes is to support our police to rapidly identify children at risk of sexual abuse.

Understanding that we now live in a society where the internet presents risks to children, the bill will also expand information that needs to be reported to police, including participation in web-based games. The number of permitted annual inspections of the home of a person on the register will be doubled by the changes proposed in this bill, and there are new requirements for our courts to issue a registrable person order that clearly sets out the offender's reporting requirements when they are sentenced. Those court orders, with the passage of this bill, will be mandatory for adult offenders. The bill also acknowledges the complexities of child offenders. The court will be able to issue similar orders to a minor when the court believes that the young person presents an ongoing risk to other children.

Finally, the bill will require all persons visiting this State who are on a register outside of New South Wales to report to New South Wales police within five days of entering the State. Longer-term visitors will have the same reporting requirements as New South Wales residents, assisting police with more up-to-date information on entrants to this State who pose a risk to the community. Our local police—including the Blacktown Police Area Command in my electorate, led by Superintendent Rod Pistola—work tirelessly to protect our community. It is vital we support their ability to protect our vulnerable children and young people from any risk of harm.

Given the lifelong impact of being a victim of child sexual abuse on an individual, any changes that work to prevent children from being harmed by sexual abuse not only support victims of abuse but also provide support

to the many government and non-government organisations that support victims following abuse. My office and I have a positive working relationship with the hardworking managers and caseworkers at Blacktown's Department of Communities and Justice [DCJ] child protection unit. I recently met the manager of the Blacktown Community Services Centre, Rebecca Saklaoui, as well as Kate Roels, who heads up the Western Sydney response hub.

This hub is an innovative program that commenced in 2023 through community services, which is the first point of contact for any children and young people reported to be at risk of significant harm. The hub works in partnership with families, services and the community to strengthen connections and reduce risks to children and young people. The hub consists of a triage team, family engagement team, adolescent team and prenatal team. Kids Helpline and its empathetic counsellors operate out of Western Sydney, taking calls and messages from children and young people aged five to 25 who are in distress on a whole range of issues. The service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 55 1800. During the 2022-23 financial year, Kids Helpline reported 122,356 responses by counsellors, 70,618 counselling sessions and 3,893 crisis and safety interventions, with 33 per cent of the national calls coming from New South Wales. Those figures demonstrate the significant need for support for children and young people in our community who are struggling.

Act for Kids has a site in Blacktown and provides therapy for children and young people who have experienced trauma or are at risk of harm, as well as education services focused on protective behaviours to prevent children from harm. Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health Centre, led by executive officer Jhan Leach, provides a safe place for women and children. The centre provides health and wellbeing services in a holistic fashion to support victims of abuse and trauma. Rosie's Place, based in Rooty Hill, commenced in 1986. At the time it was one of only four community-based sexual assault services in New South Wales. Rosie's Place was named after one of the first clients who attended the service and is made up of a highly skilled group of counsellors who provide support to victims of sexual assault. [*Extension of time*]

Additionally, several agencies in Blacktown—including OzChild, Wesley Mission Blacktown, CatholicCare Blacktown and Anglicare Blacktown—provide case management and support to children and families who are experiencing abuse, neglect or trauma issues. I thank those local organisations for their tireless work and dedication. I also acknowledge my senior electoral officer, Elizabeth Banks, who previously worked in child protection for DCJ. She gained valuable experience and knowledge at DCJ and provides heartwarming empathy, creative skills and innovation to provide solutions for community organisations and constituents. The bill supports the work that each of those valuable frontline organisations and their workforces do to support children who have experienced abuse and trauma, and assists the police in minimising the risk of harm. The bill provides both administrative changes and tangible improvements to protect children from sexual abuse. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:04): As Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and member for Prospect, I support the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. Today we debate a socially uncomfortable topic. But nothing is more severe than the sexual and physical abuse that has been afflicted on more than 1,443,500 children in Australia. In the words of a brave survivor of child sexual abuse and 2021 Australian of the Year, Grace Tame, "Let us redirect this discomfort to where it belongs: at the feet of perpetrators of these crimes." I thank the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism for her preparation of the bill and her consultation with stakeholders to develop effective reforms to strengthen child protections in New South Wales. The bill amends the child protection offender registration regime that guides the NSW Police Force to manage risks associated with convicted child sex offenders.

The Child Protection Register was established by the NSW Police Force in 2001 following passage of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000. The Act requires registrable persons, including people sentenced for certain violent and sexual offences against children, to report relevant personal information for a specific period. By imposing reporting requirements on child sex offenders in this State, law enforcement gathers crucial information to reduce risk and inform police responses to protect our children. The New South Wales Government is committed to protecting children from physical and sexual harm.

The bill plays a crucial role in significantly strengthening the use of the Child Protection Register to protect the community in New South Wales from recidivist child sex offenders. The bill expands the number of serious sexual offences against children that trigger mandatory reporting and applies more stringent reporting obligations to persons on the register. It also strengthens police powers to ensure there is compliance with reporting obligations. These amendments will equip our hardworking law enforcement officers on the front line with the information and tools they need to prevent harmful acts being committed against children.

In 2017 the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission commenced an investigation—Operation Tusk—into the administration of the register. Operation Tusk identified several errors with the register and some complexities within the Act that impact the capacity of police to prevent further offending. The bill addresses

those errors and responds to recommendations in the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission *Operation Tuskiet Final Report*, dated 2019. When detailing the findings of Operation Tuskiet, the then Chief Commissioner of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the Hon. Michael Adams, QC, dubbed the Act "a legislative minefield". The commission's investigation established that problems with the register started as early as 2002. Since then, the NSW Police Force has made over 700 incorrect decisions about who "registrable persons" are and about the length of registrable persons' reporting periods.

The investigation found that some of those errors resulted in child sex offenders being in the community without being monitored by police. It also found that, as a result of incorrect information in the register, the NSW Police Force had unlawfully required people to report their personal information and conducted unlawful inspections of persons' homes. People had also been charged and arrested for not complying with reporting obligations when those people were not required to report under law. As a result, at least seven people were wrongly convicted of offences. To highlight the impact of those errors, I review two key case studies identified in Operation Tuskiet. In case study four, Mr DD was arrested and charged on three separate occasions for failing to comply with reporting obligations. Mr DD was not a reportable person and therefore reporting obligations should not have applied to him.

Despite that, Mr DD was convicted and sentenced, spending a total of 413 days over a five-year period in prison. As a juvenile first-time offender, Mr DD fell within an exception under section 3A of the Act. He should not have been on the register. Case study two demonstrated the alarming consequences of failing to provide an effective register. Mr AA was convicted of two offences involving aggravated indecent assault of a child. Following his release on parole, Mr AA was determined to be a registrable person. However, an error in an interpretation of the Act resulted in an incorrect calculation of his reporting period. Mr AA's reportable period was eight years rather than the 15 it should have been under the Act. During the time he was unmonitored, Mr AA boarded a public bus and committed an act of indecency in front of a 10-year-old girl.

I now address the key amendments that seek to prevent those errors recurring and restore community confidence that reporting obligations will be applied correctly and swiftly. Chiefly to better protect our children from further harm, the bill ensures mandatory reporting obligations apply to a greater range of serious offences against children. New section 2D sets out several additional State and Commonwealth offences that are registrable. The bill applies the same classification system, providing that schedule 1A offences are considered the most serious and require longer reporting periods than schedule 1B offences. For example, someone charged with genital mutilation of a female child under section 45 of the Crimes Act 1900 will report under schedule 1A, whilst a perpetrator charged with possession of child abuse material under the Commonwealth Criminal Code section 474 will be required to comply with schedule 1B reporting requirements. By encompassing a wider range of offences into these reporting obligations, the NSW Police Force can recognise, monitor and intervene to prevent harmful acts.

The bill includes further amendments to address errors identified by Operation Tuskiet. The responsibility for identifying registrable persons and their reporting periods will no longer be assumed by the NSW Police Force. The bill shifts responsibility to judicial officers at the time of sentencing. New part 2A of the bill introduces a new requirement for judicial officers to issue an order that a person is a registrable person and specify the applicable reporting period when sentencing a registrable offence. New section 3C (3) provides that reporting periods must be calculated in accordance with section 31. The manner of that calculation will retain the current settings of the Act. Reporting periods apply for eight or 15 years or life, depending on the classification of the offence and the offender's criminal history.

The bill amends section 43 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999. In the instance that sentencing requirements are misapplied, section 43 enables a proceeding to be reopened to correct a registrable person order. These amendments, in conjunction with others in the bill, will ensure that registrable person orders are clear and able to commence as soon as a registered person enters the community. A key amendment in the bill is the reduction of time in which registered persons must report changes in important information such as a change of residence, employment or motor vehicle. New section 10A requires that changes be reported within five days—a reduction from the previous seven-day requirement. [*Extension of time*]

I thank the House. In the 23 years since the register was introduced, our understanding of the crime of child sexual abuse has developed considerably. As our understanding of the nature and impact of the crime has become more sophisticated, so too have our systems for reporting, investigation and prosecution. But so too have the means by which perpetrators offend. Offenders lurk behind gaming avatars, fake Facebook profiles and AI-generated content. Under new section 11, the bill also ensures that all contact with children must be reported to police within 24 hours, including contact through social media, apps and games. This amendment reflects the grave reality that many persons who prey on children use online services to connect with and groom victims.

Under new section 16D (1), the bill also strengthens the ability for police to monitor offenders by doubling the number of residential premises inspections of up to two per year. This will help the NSW Police Force ensure compliance with reporting obligations by registered offenders. It will also support police to identify potential breaches and promptly address emerging risks. To ensure that our NSW Police Force is equipped to combat these horrendous criminal acts, we must provide a fit-for-purpose register and legislative framework. The means by which villains in our society prey on the innocence and safety of children are ever increasing, and we must ensure that our laws are ready and evolving to prevent further suffering.

I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the NSW Police Force, particularly officers working in the Child Protection Registry. Registry officers were first to identify the issues I have touched on and they have worked diligently to correct them. Those officers are to be commended for their continued commitment to the important work of maintaining the register. A victim of child sexual abuse bravely shared their story during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and I quote from that:

The memories, guilt, shame and anger live with you every day. It destroys your faith in people, your will to achieve, to love, and to cope with normal everyday living.

Those haunting words reflect the complex and multifaceted impact that child sexual abuse has on individuals long past childhood. As a Parliament, we must address issues identified by Operation Tuskett to ensure that the Child Protection Register is a robust and accurate tool to assist law enforcement. I approach this issue as a lawmaker and as a father. It is imperative that we act to effect laws that reflect the gravity and long-term impacts of such heinous criminal activity. This bill will equip our NSW Police Force with the means to monitor and reduce the risk of reoffending and, most importantly, better protect children in our New South Wales community. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:18): The important reforms in the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024 were informed by the findings of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission in Operation Tuskett in 2019, with additional input from the NSW Police Force. The New South Wales Government is committed to protecting children from physical and sexual harm. In order to strengthen the ability of New South Wales police to use the Child Protection Register to protect children from recidivist child sex offenders in New South Wales, the NSW Police Force has identified a range of improvements based on operational experience while addressing emerging trends in relation to child sexual offending.

On behalf of the New South Wales Parliament, I thank every member of our Police Force who works in this challenging area of policing. They do amazing work to stay in front of the technologies and seize the opportunities that are out there. I remember being horrified when I read about the dark web, the predators and the horrendous criminal activities that go on in that space. I cannot thank enough those who work in that section. They are exposed to so much and take the necessary pathways to chase criminals, seek justice and improve life for the people in our State.

The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 requires mandatory reporting of personal information to police by offenders convicted of sexual offences against children. This ensures that New South Wales police are equipped with the information they need to reduce future risk and protect our children. To improve protections for children, the bill includes a range of additional offences that trigger mandatory reporting requirements under the Act. These additional offences that affect the safety of children have been introduced in New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation. As such, they will attract reporting obligations. It includes Commonwealth offences relating to crimes against humanity and against children, and New South Wales offences relating to administering digital platforms used to deal with child abuse material.

The bill strengthens the scheme by expanding the type of personal information necessary to be reported to police, including web-based game use that allows online communication between potential criminals and criminals. The bill also ensures that contact with all children must be reported to police within 24 hours. This constitutes a change from previous guidelines for registered reporters, which required notification only when there was a change in the children generally residing with them. The bill responds to some challenges of the modern age by requiring reporting of contact with children through social media or online gaming. Additionally, registered persons will now be required to report to police within five days when important information changes, such as residence, employment and car ownership, which is down from the previous seven-day requirement.

Strengthening the ability of police to monitor offenders will enable them to readily identify potential breaches of reporting obligations, ensuring that emerging risks to children can be addressed promptly. The bill also provides for a range of improvements in dealing with persons on similar registers who come to New South Wales by requiring persons subject to reporting requirements to report key information within five days of entering New South Wales. Longer term visitors will also be required to provide a full report in the same way as New South Wales registrable persons. Protecting our children is one of the most important jobs in our community. By

strengthening the child protection offenders registration scheme, the bill ensures that our police are given the tools to reduce risk and respond swiftly to protect our children. I thank the Minister and her team for the preparation of this important bill.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (16:22): It is almost unthinkable that anybody would want to hurt a child. For decades, the unthinkable was also unspeakable; the crimes horrific and yet hidden, kept secret by victim-survivors out of shame or the thought that no-one would believe them. This silence was all too often perpetuated by societal pressure, institutional inertia and a willingness on the part of so many in positions of power to turn a blind eye to suffering. The suffering was compounded by the silence. How can we try to fix a problem if we cannot bring ourselves to acknowledge that there is a problem at all? Yet, as we all know, there is a problem. We all know that these crimes happen. Most of us in this place—if not all of us—have over the course of our work as parliamentarians, in our professional lives before we entered this place or in our personal lives come into contact with someone whose life has been impacted by the commission of a violent or sexual crime against a child.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse put into stark focus just how frighteningly common the unthinkable can be. This has helped to end the silence. We can name the problem; we can talk about it. And now we are taking steps to fix it. There are two elements to this, which must be balanced. On the one hand, it is incumbent on us, as parliamentarians, to ensure that criminal actions are met with appropriate sanctions. On the other hand, we must ensure as best we can that we reduce the risk of these crimes happening at all. The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024 achieves that needed balance by ensuring that those found guilty of these heinous offences have fewer chances to reoffend.

I am proud to be part of a government that is working to address the scourge of violence against the most vulnerable members of our society. I am pleased to speak in support of the bill. A key part of the way our State manages the risks associated with those who have offended against children is the child protection offenders registration scheme, which applies to certain registrable persons who have been convicted of sexual offences against or in relation to children, some violent offences against children and offences for the production, dissemination or possession of child abuse material. The Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act requires these offenders, once convicted, to register certain personal information with the NSW Police Force and to update that information should it change.

The bill will strengthen that scheme, ensuring that the Act remains fit for purpose in 2024 and can better meet its statutory obligation to protect children from serious harm. New section 2D sets out in detail the offences that are registrable, the circumstances in which the offences require registration and for how long a person is to remain on the register. Additional offences under both New South Wales and Commonwealth law relating to the safety of children have also been included under the proposed amendments. For example, the bill will make an offence under section 45 of the New South Wales Crimes Act, which relates to the genital mutilation of a female child, a registrable offence. It will also add certain crimes against humanity set out in Commonwealth legislation—including sexual slavery and enforced prostitution—to the schedules of registrable offences.

The bill also strikes a balance between the need to punish offenders and the need to protect potential future victims. It recognises the need to offer rehabilitation where the offender is themselves a child by granting more discretion to the courts in these instances. For instance, under new section 3C (1), when a person under the age of 18 is sentenced for a registrable offence, a registrable person order will be required only when the court is satisfied that the "order is necessary because the person poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more children or of children generally". In an era when a poorly thought-out selfie might constitute child sexual abuse material, this updated approach strikes a balance between ensuring that serious offenders are still subject to registration requirements if needed while also making sure that young people who commit a crime but pose no ongoing risk are not unduly burdened.

Under new section 3CA, a registrable person order will not be considered part of the sentence imposed for the offence that gave rise to the order. This means that an order will remain in place while a conviction is being appealed. If an appeal against a conviction or sentence is successful, the same section enables an appellate court to revoke an order if it was not required to be made under the Act, if the decision of the appeal court was the original decision at the sentencing. The bill also tightens the reporting requirements for what are called "corresponding registrable persons", which is to say a person required to register under an equivalent scheme in a different jurisdiction. Previously, those who were required to register in a different jurisdiction were given seven days to report their details to New South Wales police upon entering the State. Under the bill, they will be required to do so within five days. They must report before leaving the State, even if their stay is less than the five-day cut-off. This will allow New South Wales police to have a better picture of where there may be threats to the safety and wellbeing of children.

The bill also provides for the regulations to prescribe locations outside New South Wales where residents who are corresponding registrable persons will need to provide this new report only if they are in New South Wales for a period of 24 hours or more, such as border towns where residents may enter New South Wales frequently. The bill further requires that registrable persons from outside the State are informed of their obligations under the Act in writing if their stay in New South Wales reaches or exceeds 14 days in length. This section requires that a person must comply with reporting obligations under the Act for whichever is longer between the longest reporting period that they are subject to in another jurisdiction or the period that would apply to them if they had been sentenced in New South Wales.

Under new section 10, the bill requires registrable persons to give the Commissioner of Police a personal information report each year during their reporting period. Section 10A requires changes to the personal information captured by the scheme to be duly reported, and section 11 requires the reporting of certain kinds of contact with children to the commissioner within 24 hours of the reportable contact. That includes supervising or caring for a child, visiting or staying at a household where a child is present, exchanging contact details with a child, befriending a child or attempting to establish further contact with a child.

New section 16D (1) of the bill strengthens the powers of New South Wales police to conduct inspections of a registered person's residential property. It provides that inspections can happen up to two times a year at each residential premises identified or required to be identified in a personal information report. Subsection (2) allows for further inspections if they are authorised by a senior office ranked superintendent or above, so long as they have a reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed under the Act and has not previously been dealt with. Reflecting advice from police and the nature of communications in 2024, registrable persons are required to report web-based services, platforms, apps and games that could potentially be used to contact and groom targets. However, the bill provides that the use of services and apps such as the Service NSW app or a banking app are not required to be reported, as the use of these apps poses much less or no risk to potential victims.

Under section 11G, the bill requires that a registrable person may apply to the Commissioner of Police for approval to travel outside Australia, bringing the Act into line with the Commonwealth Criminal Code. For the purposes of oversight, section 23 of the bill requires that the Child Protection Register be audited at least every two years. That will ensure that the register is being properly administered and is meeting the goals set out for it by this Parliament. The bill includes commonsense reforms that will ensure the children protection offender registration scheme is fit for purpose in the twenty-first century. It is, as I have said, a key part of the State's child protection system. I acknowledge that the improvements outlined in the bill come via comments from the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's Operation Tusk final report in 2019 and a subsequent review of the Act by the NSW Police Force. I thank those involved in the review and all of the committed officers who enforce the system. I am pleased to be part of a government that is working to protect the most vulnerable people in the State. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:32): I speak on behalf of the Opposition in support of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. As outlined by the member for Bathurst and the member for Lane Cove, the bill will significantly strengthen the current reporting processes for individuals who are convicted of a registrable offence relating to child abuse. There is nothing more heinous than crimes perpetrated on the most innocent people in our community. I acknowledge the great work done by the Brisbane Water and the Tuggerah Lakes local commands on the Central Coast. They do an outstanding job. I have had the privilege of spending time with officers of both commands. The stories of the insidious nature of child abuse, especially pertaining to online grooming of children, are terrifying. None of us can possibly imagine that world. The incredible men and women of the NSW Police Force deal with that vile crime on a daily basis, which in itself is incredibly confronting. I thank all of the police officers in New South Wales, who, on a daily basis, go into battle to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

The bill includes more stringent and frequent reporting by a registered person, as well as increased powers for the NSW Police Force to check on those registered persons. The bill makes the requirements of registrable persons clearer to understand and identifies where responsibility lies between the police and judicial officers. I again acknowledge the great work done by the NSW Police Force in bringing this forward through the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's Operation Tusk, as outlined by the member for Charlestown. As a result of that self-reporting, the Operation Tusk review was done into the NSW Child Protection Register and the NSW Police Force's implementation of the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000. To the NSW Police Force's credit, it identified the incorrect decisions, and the amendments have come forward as a way to update an Act. Amending bills come through this place all the time. It is what we as legislators should do and are required to do. We have to make sure that we stay ahead of the curve and provide our enforcement agencies with up-to-date legislation that gives them the tools and the ability to enforce those tools appropriately.

The bill proposes to ensure that any adult convicted of a registrable offence becomes a registered person, and a reporting time period is specified. Offences are to be added to the schedule of registered offences for repeat convicted offenders who are under the age of 21. That includes—and it is very confronting—genital mutilation of a female child, administering a digital platform to share or access child abuse material, recording and distributing intimate images of a child, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, processing or controlling child abuse material or grooming a child outside of Australia, and enforced pregnancy. There are new requirements for judicial officers to be responsible for issuing an order that clearly states that the person is registered and their reporting requirements straight after a person is convicted of that offence, relieving the onus on police officers. It provides support and clarity for police officers in the NSW Police Force.

In addition, the bill allows for expanded discretion for a court to treat two or more offences as one for the purpose of calculating a reporting time period. Further discretion would be granted to courts on whether to register a person under 18 years of age who has committed a registered offence, depending on the likelihood of re-offending. Sadly, there are multiple times when re-offences have occurred in this particularly grubby, sordid and seedy area of child abuse. The spread of the dark web and the almost unlimited access for perpetrators has meant that children are more vulnerable than ever. That is where technology, sadly, has not provided protection to so many young people. They are groomed and used by those incredibly sneaky and vile individuals.

A registered person remains registered throughout the appeal process, and rightfully so. However, if the appeal is successful, the court has the power to revoke the registrable person order. In addition, a registered person will have to apply to the NSW Police Force to travel outside of Australia, and rightfully so. Time spent in other jurisdictions may or may not count towards a registered person's reporting time, depending on the location. A list of approved jurisdictions will be provided. In addition, registered persons from another jurisdiction must report certain information to the NSW Police Force within five days of their arrival in New South Wales, reducing the existing time frame from seven days. While that may not sound like much, those few days can make a massive difference if someone is pursuing those vile activities.

The bill also removes the onus on the NSW Police Force to identify a registered person entering New South Wales. The onus is on the registered person. The individual will now be responsible, and quite appropriately. There are further requirements added for individuals planning on staying in New South Wales for longer than 14 days. The registrable person will need to provide the NSW Police Force with a personal information report annually for each year of the reporting period and must report any changes to that personal information, certain kinds of interactions with children within 24 hours and the use of certain digital platforms or games known to be services used to groom children. Sadly, we have seen a rise in the use of technology in this incredibly grubby form of grooming children.

Police will be given expanded powers to inspect a registered person's residential premises up to two times a year, and further inspections can be granted by an authorised senior officer. That is important because it means that those people will have no idea when a police officer could knock on the door to conduct an inspection, and rightfully so. Again, I have seen the work being done by our own police on the Central Coast. Our community has an expectation that those people will be held to account. We have seen that in other areas, not just the Central Coast. It is great that the NSW Police Force will be given those additional powers. Those inspections will be expanded to include a registered person's vehicles and electronic devices.

In summary, the bill also includes amendments that will make registrable person orders clearer and introduce a biannual audit of the administration of the Child Protection Register. I thank those members who have made a contribution to debate on the bill, especially the member for Bathurst and the member for Lane Cove. The people on the Central Coast welcome additional strengthening of child protection laws. We need to keep on top of this matter. Changing technologies and the incredibly shrewd behaviour of perpetrators mean they continually find ways to use technology, predominantly, to target children, who are the most vulnerable in our community. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (16:41): I contribute to debate on the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. The Minns Government is committed to protecting children from serious physical and sexual harm. As a mother and grandmother, I know how extremely important that is. The amendments to the bill will significantly strengthen the ability of the NSW Police Force to use the Child Protection Register to protect children from recidivist child sex offenders in New South Wales. I thank all officers in New South Wales who undertake this important job.

The bill will apply more stringent reporting obligations to persons on the register and will strengthen the powers available to police to ensure that those persons are complying with their obligations. Many of the reforms in the bill were informed by the findings of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission in Operation Tuskett in 2019. That review identified several errors and other issues associated with the register and some complexities within the Act that needed to be addressed. The reforms also included input from the NSW Police Force, which

identified a range of matters to be improved based on operational experience and understanding of emerging trends in relation to child sexual offending.

The proposals included in the bill have also been refined based on input sought from a range of government, legal sector and child protection advocates over the past three years. Currently, the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 requires mandatory reporting of personal information to police by a range of persons convicted of sexual offences against children. By ensuring that child sex offenders in this State report information about key personal information, the NSW Police Force is equipped with crucial information that can be used to reduce risk and inform any police responses necessary to protect our children.

The bill also expands the offences that result in reporting obligations by adding child sex related offences that have been introduced in New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation in recent years. That includes Commonwealth offences relating to crimes against humanity committed against children such as rape, sexual slavery and enforced prostitution, and New South Wales offences relating to administering digital platforms used to deal with child abuse material. That ensures that all relevant child sex offenders will be subject to reporting obligations without the need for further applications to the court.

The bill also reduces the time in which registered persons must report to police changes in important information, such as a change of residence, employment or vehicle, from seven days to five days. The bill also ensures that all contact with children must be reported to police within 24 hours, including gaming or social media contact, and not just children generally residing with them. That will support police to more swiftly identify possible risks to children. The bill strengthens the ability for police to monitor offenders by doubling the number of annual residential premises inspections of persons on the register to ensure that they are complying with their reporting obligations. That will ensure that police can more readily identify potential breaches of reporting obligations and that any emerging risks to children can be more promptly addressed.

The bill also makes a range of improvements to ensure that persons are accurately advised of their reporting obligations as clearly and as quickly as possible. That includes new requirements for courts to make a "registrable person order" that clearly sets out a person's reporting obligations at the same time they are being sentenced for their offence. This will ensure that the expertise of judges and magistrates is used to apply the legislation correctly and clearly at the time they are being sentenced for their offence. For a person who commits an offence as an adult, the order will be mandatory, which is an existing feature of the scheme. For a person who commits an offence as a child, the order will be available if the court is satisfied that the person presents risk to the sexual safety of children. That provides a fairer and clearer approach as to how the Act applies to children as opposed to the complex current system that relies on the application of complex exemptions.

The bill also provides for a range of process improvements regarding how persons on similar registers in other jurisdictions are to be dealt with when they come to New South Wales. The bill requires all persons who are subject to reporting requirements to report key information about their stay in New South Wales within five days of entering the State. Longer term visitors will receive a notice requiring them to report in the same way that New South Wales registrable persons report. That will ensure that police have timelier and more fit-for-purpose information regarding all entrants to the State. The amendments in the bill will strengthen the current regime, will ensure persons are advised of their reporting obligations as clearly, accurately and quickly as possible, and will increase enforcement powers, making it easier for police to detect and respond to breaches of reporting requirements. I thank the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism for introducing the bill and commend it to the House.

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (16:47): I contribute to debate and indicate my support for the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. As set out by the Minister in her second reading speech, the bill makes important amendments to the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 to ensure that the Act remains fit for purpose in meeting its statutory objects and protecting children from serious harm, ensuring the early detection of offences by recidivist child sex offenders, monitoring registrable persons and ensuring that registrable persons comply with the Act. While I support all of the measures included in the bill, I particularly support the amendments that will enable the police to monitor compliance and take action when they detect that a registrable person has failed to comply with their obligations under the Act.

An important feature of the current Act that assists police to monitor risk is the power provided in new section 16C that enables a police officer, without prior notice, to enter and inspect any residential premises of a registrable person for the purpose of verifying relevant personal information reported by the registrable person. Under the current Act, police are limited to one inspection per residential premises in the first 28 days from their initial registration and a further inspection in the following 11 months. After that, police can conduct an inspection only once per year. This limits the options available to police to enter a person's home to verify compliance after they have completed their annual inspection. One can imagine there may be some registrable persons out there

who exploit this and undertake offending behaviour in the period following their inspection, with the knowledge that police cannot use the powers under section 16C for the remainder of the 12-month period.

The blanket restriction of one inspection per calendar year also reduces the deterrent effect on noncompliant behaviour and potential further offending. The bill will improve the effectiveness of those inspections for police in managing compliance under the Act. The bill increases the number of inspections that police may undertake in respect of registrable persons to up to two times in a calendar year for each residential premises reported or required to be reported under the Act. The bill further provides that this power may be exercised more than twice if the inspection is authorised by a senior police officer who holds the rank of superintendent or above and who has reasonable suspicion that the registrable person has committed an offence under the Act that has not previously been dealt with. Those important enhancements will strengthen the integrity of the regime by ensuring that police are provided appropriate powers to investigate compliance all year round, regardless of the number of previous inspections they have completed in a particular year.

A second key improvement in the bill is to clearly provide that the scope of the inspection power includes inspection of the registrable person's relevant vehicles or other transport and their electronic or other devices at the premises or in the relevant vehicle or other transport. The bill defines "relevant vehicle or other transport" as including motor vehicles, caravans or trailers, or vessels or aircraft. The world is evolving quickly when it comes to the online environment and technology, and police powers must keep up with those rapid advances to ensure children are safe from harm. The amendments will ensure that there is no doubt about the police ability to inspect vehicles owned or used by the registrable person and electronic devices at the premises or in the relevant vehicle as part of their compliance activities.

The bill also makes it clear that it is a reporting obligation for registrable persons to assist police officers who are exercising entry power, by providing the police officer with the information or assistance that is reasonably necessary for the police officer to view, or enable access to, the data held in or accessible from an electronic or other device. This provides the expanded police powers with additional backing to ensure the updated child protection regime is effective. As children increasingly participate in the digital environment and electronic platforms and technological devices evolve to help criminals avoid detection from law enforcement, so too do our police's powers need to evolve to ensure the child protection regime in New South Wales remains robust and fit for purpose.

I note some recent media in July 2024 concerning a registered convicted sex offender in Sydney's west, who was subject to a police inspection. That registered offender willingly provided police with information necessary to inspect his phone, under the false belief that he had deleted or encrypted any evidence of his offending. The article reports that the police found over 1,000 child abuse material files, including material involving pre-pubescent children being tied up and assaulted. This behaviour is absolutely sickening and illustrates why ensuring clarity about the extent to which these inspections extend to digital devices will support police to readily identify potential breaches of reporting obligations, offences under other Acts and act swiftly in responding to any emerging risks to children.

The experience from our law enforcement officers is that inspection powers are a critical and effective measure to proactively detect serious child sex offending. The bill will enhance this regime and support our police in monitoring convicted offenders in New South Wales. The Government does not apologise for being tough on crime, and it will not allow serious sexual or physical harm against children to ripple through our community. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (16:53): In reply: I thank the following members for their contributions to debate on the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024: the member for Bathurst; the member for Mount Druitt; the member for Lane Cove; the member for Heathcote; the member for Fairfield; the member for Blacktown; the member for Prospect; the member for Gosford; the member for Charlestown, and Minister for Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; the member for South Coast; the member for East Hills; and the member for Terrigal. Comments of all members in support of the amendments in the bill are particularly welcomed.

As has already been acknowledged, this is the last of a tranche of recommendations that came out of the 2019 Tusket review by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. Dedicated staff from the New South Wales police have been on that journey. I offer my sincere thanks and pay credit to them for their tenacity and for being able to assist my office, as well as being able to implement the last of those recommendations today. I acknowledge Jane Holden, Justin McLean, Jane Doherty and Arthur Lloyd. I also acknowledge my staff members Kelsey Sully and Tilly South. I appreciate their commitment, which I know is shared by the Government. Without their commitment and their expertise, it would have been difficult to get to this point. I have received

thanks from everyone in this Parliament, including Opposition and crossbench members, for their work in ensuring that everyone was prepared for presenting this important bill to the Parliament.

The bill makes significant amendments to the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 to ensure that the Act remains fit for purpose in meeting its statutory objectives of protecting children from serious harm, ensuring the early detection of offences by recidivist child sex offenders, monitoring registrable persons and ensuring registrable persons comply with their obligations under the Act. The reforms in the bill will also substantially reduce the risk of errors in the administration of the register and should give the community confidence that reporting obligations for registrable offenders are being applied correctly and swiftly. I acknowledge the comments by the member for Bathurst seeking confirmation that courts, in particular regional courts, would be appropriately resourced to perform their functions as proposed in the bill. I am advised that appropriate resourcing will be considered as part of implementation of the reforms, and the courts will be closely consulted as part of this process.

The child protection offenders registration scheme in New South Wales is a critical component of this State's response to the risks associated with offenders who have offended against children while they are in the community. The bill will significantly strengthen the current regime to ensure that our children are better protected from further potential harms posed by persons who have been convicted of serious sexual and violent offences against children. This Government fully supports the important work that our police do to monitor compliance by registrable persons with their obligations under the Act and to take action in the event of a breach. I end where I begin: This is an important bill which makes significant amendments to the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 to ensure that the Act is fit for purpose and to protect the children of New South Wales. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Public Interest Debate

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:00): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports more housing for young people.
- (2) Supports the New South Wales Government's housing policies to provide much-needed housing around transport infrastructure.
- (3) Condemns the Liberal-Nationals Coalition policy to legislate against transport oriented development.

The New South Wales Government has a clear plan: build thousands of well-located homes close to transport and, crucially, close to jobs. Minister Scully has said in this House that those homes will be supported by infrastructure. In fact, transport oriented developments, referred to as TODs, were selected because of their access to infrastructure. The Premier has committed the Labor Government to providing \$200 million in infrastructure grants to councils to provide amenities to build those great communities. The Labor Government has also committed \$520 million for infrastructure in accelerated transport oriented developments. TODs are more than housing. What else do young people need? They need jobs. Jobs will be created through the design and planning stages, and in construction—in the building of roads, new parks and reserves, and footpaths. All the different aspects of the developments will create thousands of jobs to support the thousands of new homes that are needed, from builders to truck drivers and suppliers to get the materials to the site.

Minister Scully has estimated that something like 100,000 jobs will be directly created through the TOD programs over the next 15 years. That is in addition to the 200,000 indirect jobs being created. That is 300,000 extra jobs in New South Wales to deliver about 170,000 new homes, supporting the next generation into their homes and into their work. Young people want to live close to their families. Opposition members probably want to get rid of their kids, but most grandparents in my electorate want to see their kids close by and raising their families—and will probably do childcare duties. Housing affordability is a huge issue and we need to address housing supply in a major way. Increased housing supply will address the immediate needs of the population and provide a natural way to keep housing price rises at an affordable level.

Labor is different to the Liberals. In the Blacktown north region in my electorate, and in Riverstone, Marsden Park, the Hills council area—and I note the member for Castle Hill is in the Chamber—Box Hill et cetera, the infrastructure has been poorly designed. Fancy the Liberals at the last local government election putting out fliers saying that Tallawong Station is full and the car park is not enough when they designed and built the car park. They did not build it according to need. Roads are not meeting demand. Schools that needed to be built to support the capacity of the rising population were delayed across the Riverstone electorate. There is a lack of parks and reserves. They were underfunded in the Blacktown city area. Services for mental health, domestic violence and community engagement and support were all underfunded and barely in existence in the Riverstone electorate.

No funding was given to the electorates of Blacktown or Mount Druitt under the 12 consecutive years of the former Liberal Government—not one additional cent. Yet hundreds of millions of dollars were spent and many schools were built across the North Shore—talk about a two-tiered Sydney. I also address the elephant in the room. Although the member for Riverstone may not be the size of an elephant, he strongly advocates for and talks about his constituency. He is not in witness protection; he is sitting just behind me. He spoke in this Chamber and in the community about the TODs and how we will build the infrastructure to support them. Those are important learnings because, as far as delivering the developments go, we need strong voices like the member for Riverstone and also the Federal member for Greenway.

We need to consult with the community through the TOD program, which we are doing right now. There were over 6,000 submissions—from the member for Winston Hills, the member for Riverstone and everyone in the community—on the TODs in the Hills district and on the border of the Blacktown electorate. Imagine if we just decided to up-zone the land owned by the State Government and did not even talk to the rest of the community. I know the Liberals are pretty good at that. How many Ministers have they lost to ICAC over the past 12 years—in addition to two Premiers? But our perspective is we want to consult with the people.

The previous Liberal Government built the Riverbank Public School in 2019, only five years ago. It was built for 800 students. This year there were 2,200 enrolments. The Ponds High School was built in 2019 for 1,200 children. It now has 2,400. We have to get the planning right. That is why the member for Riverstone and the Federal member for Greenway have spoken so solidly, saying, "We are happy to take the development or the people, but we need the infrastructure to support communities. If the Labor Government does not deliver, then we do not want people to be put into a shantytown."

We are going through the 6,000 submissions that have come to the planning department. We have identified where it can work and where it cannot. We have listened to the community. Whether people live on the North Shore or in Western Sydney, the TODs will be heavily negotiated and talked about. We need to match the infrastructure—whether it is roads, parks, schools, health care or support services—to the population. The member for Castle Hill probably is thinking, "Stick your head in the sand and just allow the developments. Just whack them all into Blacktown city and they can handle it." That happened during the 12 years of the former Government. We want to build communities. It is time we match the infrastructure to the communities and the population growth, and talk to people about how to build fabulous communities of the future.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:07): It is great to contribute to the public interest debate. I am glad that the member for Blacktown has taken into account the thoughts and concerns of his colleagues, in particular the member for Riverstone, in moving this public interest debate motion. On that note, paragraph (1) of the motion, "supports more housing for young people", reads fine. The Government supports it. But I will move an amendment to the motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting instead:

- (2) Supports housing policies to provide much-needed housing around transport infrastructure.
- (3) Calls on the Government to release its plans for infrastructure necessary to support proposed transport oriented development, or TOD, sites.

I am sure that the residents and voters of the Riverstone electorate would surely want to support our amendment to paragraph (3). Given the remarks of the member for Blacktown, it makes great sense. The essence of good government really is the delivery piece. Formulating the policy is one thing; issuing the press release is another. But getting the shovels in the ground is what matters. That is where this Government will finally come undone.

To be very clear from the outset, the Opposition supports increasing density along transport corridors, making housing affordable for people no matter where they live across New South Wales, giving everybody the opportunity to own their own home, if they want to do so, and to live where they want to live. But for 18 months the Government has huffed and puffed and made every noise it can about its number one priority, which is housing affordability. So let us look at what has gone on, because the figures tell a very different story to the press releases that Government members have issued: Houses are less affordable and rents continue to skyrocket, housing

approvals have gone backwards by 11 per cent, and the Government has made housing more expensive with a \$12,000 housing tax on every new home.

In fact, the latest NSW Planning Portal data shows that, after a year of the Labor Government, there has been a 22 per cent fall in development applications lodged and a 26 per cent drop in development applications determined. James O'Doherty had it right when he said last week that the clock is ticking and these homes will not build themselves. Given the absence of any reformist vision or idea for this State, if this is what the Government has come up with for New South Wales, then it is time to deliver. But in the past six months no progress has been made. In fact, there has been a decline of 17 per cent in development applications lodged. That is a massive failure of the Government's own key performance indicators. Rather than telling communities to get out of the way, like the Labor Government has done, the Opposition believes in working with local communities to set housing targets and allowing them to formulate local plans. If they refuse to do that, then that is the appropriate time to impose local planning controls—not at the beginning.

In that sense, we are backing the member for Riverstone. Before the last election, the Labor candidate made an ironclad promise to voters. He said, "We're going to have a bit of a pause on the amount of residential development that's going on." But how good is this: The public interest debate today to support TODs was moved by his Labor colleague—just like the one in the member for Riverstone's electorate! The proposed rezonings in the member for Blacktown's will increase capacity in the wonderful Stanhope Gardens by 7,477 dwellings, which is a 362 per cent increase, and capacity will increase even more in Glenwood—by some 573 per cent. That is hardly a pause on development! I remember it vividly: As a new MP, we put our trust in Ministers and their advisers, if we can get in the door to see them—I note Temporary Speaker Clayton Barr is laughing, because he knows exactly what it was like.

They say, "Everything will be all right. It's fine; just trust us." I know times are tough—my margin is not great anymore—but the member for Riverstone has a margin of 3.7 per cent. He has to make sure he stands up for his community. He made those comments on pausing development before the election, and now the Government is going to whack a 573 per cent increase on new dwellings—that ain't no pause! The member for Riverstone needs to work with the member for Blacktown to sort out the Government's position. If Government members look at their record, things are going backwards on their biggest priority, which is affordable housing in this State.

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (17:12): It is a pleasure to make a contribution to this debate. I was surprised by the contributions of members opposite—aliens have clearly just landed from another planet—who asserted that there has been no reform. The transport oriented development [TOD] reform is the biggest reform to planning laws to tackle the housing crisis in New South Wales in a generation. It is particularly galling for Opposition members to say that there has been no action after a year of Labor Government when they were in power for 12 years. This housing crisis did not happen overnight; it slowly festered and built over the 12 years that those opposite were in power, when they did nothing about it. That was a lost decade of housing opportunity for New South Wales.

Members opposite are all over the place on housing policy. On 7 December the member for Wahroonga said on 2GB with Ben Fordham, "I think we definitely need to drive more housing in Sydney." But just a few months later in *The Sunday Telegraph* he said, "The unregulated overdevelopment of neighbourhoods is going to end up in a visual slum. Sydney will become a congested eyesore." Similarly, the member for Vacluse said, "The eastern suburbs is committed to increasing density and having appropriate uplift in the areas that can manage it but, realistically, there is just not enough space to build new apartment blocks." Opposition members are all over the place on housing policy. Let us not forget that, in spite of Opposition members saying they support increased development, they introduced legislation in the other place to try to stop the TODs, but that was voted down. That was extraordinary. I am not an expert in Liberal Party philosophy, but that strikes me as distinctively anti-liberal.

We thought Australia was a distinctively classless, egalitarian society, but that is out the window with this housing crisis. We used to think that through our own hard work and industry we could afford to buy our own home, but not anymore. In New South Wales and Australia, our ability to own a home no longer depends on our initiative; it depends on our inheritance. The ability of one's family to chip in to help one buy a home is absolutely unacceptable. One would have thought that Opposition members, consistent with Liberal Party ideology, would have backed personal industry and enterprise. "By working hard you can buy your own home", but that's not the case with the housing crisis. The Opposition introduced legislation to stop it!

One would have thought that the Liberals would have supported the New South Wales economy. Yet the housing squeeze is choking our economy. In 2022 alone some 43,000 people, mostly young people, left New South Wales, largely because of the cost of housing. This massive brain drain is robbing our economy of the talent and capability that it needs to thrive. During the 12 years that those opposite were in power there was no action on this. But when the penny dropped, after the Minns Labor Government was elected, there was denial. It

was almost industrial-scale government gaslighting—similar to what we saw in respect of the teacher shortage crisis. Teachers were leaving the teaching profession in droves and there were cancelled classes, yet the then education Minister said, "There is absolutely nothing to see here."

The Minns Labor Government is absolutely focused on tackling the housing crisis. It is a brave, bold thing to do—the member for Manly was correct—but we are doing it because it is absolutely crucial to the future of the State, it is crucial to our status as an egalitarian society and it is crucial to the economy of New South Wales. This development is being done in consultation with the local community. My community of Croydon is a key example of that. The Croydon community did not support the TODs. The Government listened. We paused that development and recognised that the density could be moved close by in Burwood North, where there will be a metro. This is a key policy of the Minns Labor Government and we intend to deliver it.

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (17:17): I contribute to the public interest debate introduced by the member for Blacktown. I am surprised he chose to introduce this particular topic for debate, because the Government's policies are not working. As the member for Blacktown knows, councils were not given a fair and reasonable opportunity to be consulted during the planning process. Mayors and councillors in our city have been planning developments for years. The planning process takes considerable time and involves an extensive engagement process with our community. The implementation of the Government's housing policies around transport infrastructure have not included appropriate consultation.

While the Opposition supports the need for more housing to meet the needs of our growing communities, including by increasing density in transport corridors, the Government's targets have been put in without appropriate consultation with our communities—and the Government knows it. Government members know that the Government did not engage in an extensive or even a reasonable consultation process. The increase in density, particularly in western and north-western Sydney, should be paused, as the member for Riverstone has suggested.

Mr Warren Kirby: How badly we were let down by your side.

Mr MARK HODGES: No, member for Riverstone. You know that, prior to the election, you told your community, "We're going to have a bit of a pause on the amount of development that's going on, the amount of residential development." No doubt, that was part of your particular policies.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The member for Castle Hill will direct his comments through the Chair instead of across the table.

Mr MARK HODGES: No doubt the member for Riverstone knew that was a policy of his Government. We will chalk that up as another failed policy or another time that he has misrepresented the community. Councillor Ryan Tracey from the Hills Shire Council knows that the Government's policies are not working. In a debate in council on 23 July 2024 Councillor Tracey, an experienced councillor, said, "Our community is already at breaking point in terms of the infrastructure—lack of infrastructure—with the population growth." He further said, "People want to live in the Hills. What we are now facing, with government, with the housing approach, with the current cost of living, the housing affordability crisis—the Government's proposed plans are clearly overcooked." That is one of Labor's councillors in the area. Every community has different impacts that arise from the Government's planning process. We must consider things like tree canopy, schools and heritage precincts.

The Government's announcement of the Kellyville and Bella Vista transport oriented development precinct in July this year demonstrates exactly how it has lost all perspective of the consequences of its policies. The Kellyville and Bella Vista precinct, as the member for Riverstone well knows, will make the area one of the most densely populated areas in Australia, with population density akin to Manhattan. The precinct will have a population of over 12,000 people per square kilometre, which is comparable to Surry Hills. Some parts will have 28,000 people per square kilometre, which is like Haymarket or Chippendale. The showground precinct at Castle Hill, as you know, Mr Temporary Speaker, had a cap of 5,000 dwellings. The Government in 2023 removed the cap to place 9,500 dwellings in there, which is 9,500 students, but there is no school.

There is no infrastructure, no appropriate roads. We have been asking for a school, but we hear crickets from the other side. There is absolutely no infrastructure. The Government's policies are not working. Recently one of the economists from *The Guardian* indicated exactly how its policies are working. The economist indicated:

New South Wales trailed other major states. Its 19% retreat for private sector house approvals to 1,597 in June was the state's lowest for that category since January 2013. By comparison, Queensland approved 16.1% more houses ...

An economist at the Commonwealth Bank said, "Housing affordability in Sydney has worsened significantly". The reality is that this Government's policies are not working. It needs to consult with the community and do something it has not done. Pause it, like the member for Riverstone said, and consult.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:23): I thank my colleague for moving the motion being considered in this public interest debate. I live near the Bondi Junction train line, which is a prime example of well-located density close to a massive transportation line. There is a diversity of housing with a huge number of apartment blocks and terraces. It is close to amenities, schools and parks. People love living around there. I compare it to the Edgecliff train station down the road. It would be great if there were a little more density around there. It would be nice and close and easy, but we will not go there. It has been pointed out that we are in a housing crisis. That is absolutely true, and the reasons are complex.

After 12 years of doing nothing, the Opposition continues to want to do nothing. Not only is it doing nothing; it is actually voting against any progress, against the building of more housing. Opposition members had the opportunity to be on board with rental reform, which is another key part of addressing the housing crisis, making housing more affordable and more stable for the increasing rental market. But they voted against that as well; they do not want that. The Transport Oriented Development [TOD] Program makes sense. It means well-located housing close to public housing, amenities, parks and schools. Having housing close to public transport is great for the environment and mobility. It increases access and social inclusion and has health benefits.

We cannot continue to build homes on the outskirts of Sydney that are not close to schools and have no amenities. This urban sprawl is not working. That was the policy of the previous Government. It continued to build suburb after suburb, without schools, hospitals and public transport links. We refer to these suburbs in the Far West as Uber cities because that is the only way people can get around. This is not fair and does not make sense. The reality is that the TODs are based on evidence. Surprise—we are actually not the first people to do this. There are examples of this all over the world. We are becoming a city without grandchildren. Young people are continuing to leave Sydney because it is so unaffordable. Building more homes is one of the small parts of the puzzle of what we need to do to make housing more affordable and accessible for everyone.

The TODs mean density done well. They will reduce the need for lengthy commutes, alleviate financial burdens on households and curb traffic congestion. As I have mentioned, we cannot continue to build suburbs on the outskirts of Sydney, far from public transport, and then have droves of cars with people driving into the city. That is not how we want people in our city to live. I am incredibly lucky that I and a big part of my community live in a part of Sydney where we have pretty decent public transport. It was better before the previous Government privatised our buses and took 32 bus routes away, but it is better than other parts of Sydney. Building housing close to public transport links will improve residents' quality of life, reduce the impacts of climate change and promote active transport, such as cycling. The Opposition must get on board with this program. For 12 years it did absolutely nothing, and it continues to stand in the way, while desperate young people in our communities need more housing.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:28): On behalf of The Greens, I make a contribution to this public interest debate. I thank the member for Blacktown for moving the motion. It is wonderful that we seem to have finally moved on from successive governments and debates in this place merely quoting statistics or attempting to put policies in place that make the housing crisis worse. We are now ready to talk about solutions to more affordable housing. The scale and severity of the housing crisis demands that we in this place take it seriously and act on our responsibility to develop solutions that meet the community's need.

I acknowledge that the member for Balmain, who is a strong advocate for public and affordable housing in her community, wants to see housing delivered on the former Camperdown WestConnex dive site that the New South Wales Government is seeking to privatise, instead of delivering public housing. We absolutely support public housing being delivered. While The Greens absolutely agree that all people, including young people, need more housing and that co-locating housing with infrastructure such as transport is one of the best ways to deliver it, we do not agree that supply alone will improve housing affordability. We also do not agree that planning reforms that do not set ambitious mandatory targets for public and genuinely affordable housing are sufficient. To that end, I move:

That the amendment be amended by omitting paragraph (3) and inserting instead:

(3) Notes that effective housing policies require the delivery of public and genuinely affordable housing.

The idea of building housing around transport infrastructure is nothing new. It has been widely accepted as planning best practice for years. We know that it is one of the best ways to minimise the greenfield development and sprawl that threatens our environment and ecosystems. It also ensures that communities are well connected and can get where they need to go, as the member for Coogee explained. But it is not about only location. People need to be able to afford to live in the new homes. The way to ensure that—rather than leaving it to the whims of a completely overheated housing market—is to set mandatory requirements for public and genuinely affordable housing in new developments in the transport oriented development [TOD] sites.

Currently, developments under the TOD State environmental planning policy need to include a minimum of only 2 per cent affordable housing. If we want to ensure we build inclusive cities where everyone can afford to live in high-quality, well-connected homes near infrastructure and amenities, we need far higher targets than 2 per cent. To be clear, more ambitious inclusionary zoning targets are not some Greens fantasy. In cities such as Paris, New York and Barcelona, between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of new housing is required to be affordable. In all of those places, high targets have not restricted housing supply, nor has the sky fallen in.

Shelter NSW has also expressed concerns over the lack of ambition in affordable housing targets for the TODs. It told *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "It is unclear how such a low rate of 2 per cent, even with the intent to escalate over time, can be justified." In a discussion paper published in February 2024, the peak housing body in New South Wales also called for small infill sites near train stations or metro stations in TOD precincts to be developed as 100 per cent social and affordable housing. That is the kind of ambitious policy we need to move forward with. We also need to recognise that planning reforms are a long game, and we will not immediately improve the housing affordability crisis currently faced by people in this State in the years that it will take for development applications to be approved and new housing to be built. We need solutions that offer immediate relief to struggling households.

While the two major parties have indulged in confected outrage in the mainstream media, debating the TODs and increased density, and tirelessly engaged in discussion about nimbys and yimbys, The Greens have been busy putting forward constructive solutions to immediately improve housing security and affordability. That is why I introduced a private member's bill to this House that would make genuinely affordable housing by capping rents of affordable housing to 30 per cent of tenant incomes and ensuring it is delivered in perpetuity. We are waiting for the Government to act. The Greens have an agenda to solve the housing crisis in this State. It is time to get on board.

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (17:33): I make a brief contribution to debate on the motion moved by the member for Blacktown. I support the amendment moved by the member for Manly. While I was reading the motion, which spruiks the benefits of transport oriented developments [TODs], I thought it was quite interesting that the member for Blacktown moved the motion and the member for Coogee contributed to the debate. How many TODs are in their electorates? None. During the debate I heard some commentary—and it is important to note—that during its last five years in government, the Coalition delivered 57,000 homes a year on average, and nearly 73,000 in 2018. On this side of the House, we believe in a measured and sensible approach. We support the principle of providing a diversity of housing close to high-frequency public transport, but it must be supported by access to infrastructure and services, and delivered in consultation with local communities.

We support more housing for young people. That is something all members should agree on. We need to approach housing affordability respectfully and maturely, and work together. This is not an issue that affects only one electorate; it is an issue that affects all of our communities. As the youngest member of this House, I can empathise with what young people are going through right now, because I am experiencing it myself. Frankly, it is demoralising that, when we go to open homes and auctions, we are consistently outbid, especially by foreign buyers. It is hard for young people to have a conversation about not being able to afford to buy a home in the areas they grew up in, where their families live, and where their friends and networks are. I talk to a resident in my community every day about how hard it is to afford to live in the inner west and Greater Sydney right now, whether they are buying or renting.

The rising cost of living is affecting everyone. In the current situation, people can rent or save, but it is hard to do both. There is nuance in this debate. It is not about being a yimby or a nimby. It is about creating communities and creating the type of community that supports a growing population with access to services. It is about ensuring there are green open spaces, roads and active transport links, affordable housing, high-frequency public transport services, jobs and access to services such as health and education. Unfortunately the Labor Government's policies do not deliver.

One example of the real and drastic impacts of the TOD policy is taking place in my community. Over the past few months, the Government has exhibited a plan for a transport oriented development precinct that earmarks areas of Homebush and North Strathfield for rezoning. The plan seeks to introduce up to 16,100 new homes to the area, on top of plans for more housing in Rhodes, on top of plans for more housing along Parramatta Road and on top of sites at Concord, Mortlake, Five Dock and Kings Bay. Draft plans identify an existing primary school, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School in North Strathfield, as the location for one of the few new public parks within the TOD precinct. That suggests to our community that it will either lose a school to accommodate a small park or, if the school is retained, the park will not be provided.

It beggars belief that this Labor Government thinks it is appropriate to give the community that kind of trade-off. My community will have one less school for a growing population, or one less park for a growing population. That is outrageous. Key information about how the Labor Government will deliver infrastructure such

as new and upgraded public schools and improved health facilities is missing from the rezoning plans. At the last election I advocated for an upgrade to Concord hospital. The New South Wales Liberals committed to a new emergency department, intensive care unit and more beds. That was on top of the \$341 million stage one redevelopment completed in 2022.

At the time, the then Opposition made no similar election commitment. The current Labor Government remains silent on committing to an upgrade of Concord hospital, despite more density in the community. There are no upgraded health facilities and there is no new or upgraded public school infrastructure. That is only one example, but I can point to areas all over the Drummoyne electorate that have been slated for rezoning without any upgrades to infrastructure. The Labor Government is asking the community to sign a contract without reading the fine print. It is wrong. If the Government wants to build more housing, it needs to release its plans for the infrastructure necessary to support areas with growing communities.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:38): In reply: I thank the member for Manly, the member for Strathfield, the member for Castle Hill, the member for Coogee, the member for Newtown and the member for Drummoyne for their contributions to the debate. The member for Manly said the Government does not have a reformist vision. The whole conversation today has been about the reformist vision. The Government may take different directions and focus on different aspects but, in the end, it is amazing that for 12 years the previous Government did nothing, but now members of the Opposition are turning up wanting to do something.

The member for Manly did talk about Stanhope and Glenwood, but, once again, as someone from Manly, he has probably never been to Blacktown. Not too many people from Blacktown will come out here. The Stanhope Gardens part of the Transport Oriented Development is seven community titles, which requires 100 per cent of the people in each of those community titles to vote to have a change. The Government is doing consultation. Most people are saying no, so the Opposition does not need to worry about the titles in Stanhope Gardens because I do not think it is going to happen. In Glenwood there are lots of challenges in that area. This Government is listening; that is the point of consultation.

The member for Strathfield spoke about 12 years of lost opportunities and the brain drain where young people are leaving the State. We need more housing. I love how the member for Castle Hill talked about the Government failing to deliver trees, schools and hospitals. The electorate of Riverstone—the former member for Riverstone being a friend of the member for Castle Hill—has been chopped down and hundreds of thousands of people are moving in. We talked about the schools and the overcrowding, and nothing ever got delivered. The member for Coogee talked about how the previous Government did nothing but also reminded me of *Seinfeld*, which was a show about nothing. The Liberal Party is a party about nothing.

The member for Newtown spoke well, as she always does, about community development. I understand that The Greens and the member for Newtown have put forward lots of legislation, some of which will be debated on Thursday. I think that is the more appropriate place to deal with it, and therefore we do not support the amendments from the member for Manly and the member for Newtown. The member for Drummoyne said the housing crisis does not concern my area. For 63 consecutive years, Blacktown city has had one of the top three fastest growing populations in Australia. That is 5,500 people moving into Blacktown every year for the past 63 years. Drummoyne probably had about 50 people moving in per year. The Government is focused on delivering for the community. It is consulting with the community, and it will deliver what is required as far as hospitals and the needs of the community.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The member for Blacktown has moved a motion, to which the member for Manly moved an amendment, to which the member for Newtown moved a further amendment. The question is that the amendment of the member for Newtown to the amendment of the member for Manly be agreed to.

Ms Jenny Leong: Point of order: I seek clarification on what just happened. I appreciate that the member for Leppington said "The noes have it" but he was standing outside the Chamber when he did so. I am curious and genuinely seek the Temporary Speaker's guidance. Is it okay for a member to call for a division when they are outside the gold Chamber barriers? That is where the member for Leppington was standing. I seek the Temporary Speaker's ruling on whether it is possible to call for a division from outside the Chamber.

Mr Stephen Bali: To the point of order: I said, "The noes have it." I was not overly confident when I did so, but I did say it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): To clarify for the member for Newtown, when I heard the member for Leppington call for a division he was standing to the right of the Speaker's chair. I am not passing judgement on what the member for Blacktown has said. I am going to call for the bells to be rung for a division.

Ms Jenny Leong: Further to the point of order: The member for Leppington was standing outside the Chamber and said, "The noes have it." He said it very loudly, and I find it hard to believe the Temporary Speaker did not hear it also. I appreciate the Temporary Speaker heard the member for Leppington say it again when he was standing to his right; however, that was after the Temporary Speaker had put the question. I am seeking clarity about whether a member can call for a division from outside the Chamber such that it would get the attention of the Temporary Speaker.

I absolutely respect that the Temporary Speaker then put the question and called for a division. The member for Leppington heard members on this side of the Chamber say that he could not make that call from outside the Chamber and that he needed to be in the Chamber, so he ran into the Chamber and then called for a division again. The Temporary Speaker then put the question again. I appreciate that the member for Leppington was in the Chamber the second time. There are only three members of The Greens in this House. Sometimes we are in our offices and something happens and we want to call a division but we do not get to the Chamber in time. I am wondering if I can yell from outside the Chamber in future, so the Speaker puts the question again. That is handy for me to know so I do not trip on my way to the Chamber.

Mr Jason Li: To the point of order: I have two points. First, my understanding is that to have a division a member does not need to call expressly for a division. A member can say "The noes have it" and that dissent is sufficient. I stand to be corrected on that point. Secondly, the member for Blacktown also said very clearly, "The noes have it". I was sitting next to him, and I heard it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I thank the member for Strathfield and the member for Newtown. I offer clarification for the member for Newtown. If the member for Leppington made some comment outside the Chamber, I was not aware of it. When I heard the member for Leppington respond to the question, he was standing to the right of me. A division has been called.

The House divided.

Ayes33
Noes46
Majority.....13

AYES

Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Cross, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S
Griffin, J
Hodges, M
Kemp, M

Lane, J
Layzell, D
Leong, J
McGirr, J
Moylan, B
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Regan, M
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

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

NOES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Butler, L
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Dib, J
Doyle, T
Finn, J
Hagarty, N (teller)

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

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

NOES

Hannan, J

PAIRS

Williams, R

Car, P

Amendment of the member for Newtown to the amendment of the member for Manly negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The question now is that the amendment of the member for Manly be agreed to.

Division called for and Standing Order 185 applied.

The House divided.

Ayes33

Noes46

Majority.....13

AYES

Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Cross, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S
Griffin, J
Hodges, M
Kemp, M

Lane, J
Layzell, D
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Petinos, E
Preston, R
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Regan, M
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

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

NOES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Butler, L
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Dib, J
Doyle, T
Finn, J
Hagarty, N (teller)
Hannan, J

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

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

PAIRS

Williams, R

Car, P

Amendment of the member for Manly negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Community Recognition Statements***DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE SCHOOL LEADERS**

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (17:59): I congratulate the outgoing year 12 school leaders at local high schools in the Drummoyne electorate. As they graduate year 12, I acknowledge their exceptional leadership, dedication and hard work. Their commitment has inspired their peers and made a lasting impact. As they close the door on their schooling and embark on a new chapter of their journey, I wish those leaders every success. I recognise school captains Xavier Woods and Stella Vardanega and vice-captains Elizabeth Day, Julian O'Donnell and Emma Speranza of Rosebank College; school captains Annalise Magill and Maisy Wright-Smith and vice-captains Jessicah Mazzone and Ted Newton of Concord High School; college captain Mireille Karam and vice-captains Sophia Ghantous and Caterina Screnci of Domremy College; and school captain Emma King and vice-captain Rory Carlyle of the McDonald College. I thank them for being role models and making a positive difference in their school communities. I wish them all the very best.

FATHER RODE SITTO

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (18:00): Father Rode Sitto grew up in Batnaya, Iraq. Upon immigrating to Australia in his teenage years, he served as a volunteer teacher at St Thomas Chaldean Church Saturday school. That service to his community committed him to his vocation of priesthood. Ordained in 2017, he assumed his position in 2020 as the Parish Priest of St Mary's Assumption Chaldean Parish in Fairfield. His contribution to the parish community over the past four years has been profound. By establishing the Saturday school and youth groups, he has fostered a deeper understanding amongst his congregation of the Chaldean faith and tradition, as well as engagement in serving the community through charity. I commend Father Rode for his dedication, humility and service to the Chaldean community in Fairfield. I wish him well with his current and future studies. I thank him for his service.

ELIZABETH ALLEN

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:01): I congratulate Elizabeth Allen of Dubbo, who was recently announced as the Western NSW Local Health District Volunteer of the Year. The awards recognise the hard work and success of health teams, projects, health professionals and volunteers across the region. Elizabeth has dedicated many hours as the consumer representative for the Dubbo Health Service. Over the past 15 years, she has supported governance teams at Dubbo and actively taken part in many patient safety committees. For several years, she also provided a very important community voice in the functional and schematic design of the Dubbo hospital redevelopment. Elizabeth is a dedicated member of the Dubbo national standards accreditation program and is a regular contributor in the accreditation surveys for the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. She is also a passionate and leading advocate in raising awareness of prostate cancer in the Dubbo region and has provided support to partners and families of men diagnosed with prostate cancer throughout their journeys. I thank Elizabeth for all she does and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

NOWRA COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (18:02): I recognise and congratulate the Nowra Country Women's Association [CWA] on its 100th birthday. It is a significant milestone, reflecting a century of dedication by the women who have served our community with unwavering commitment. For 100 years, the Nowra CWA has played a vital role in supporting families and advocating for education, health and rural communities. The centenary is a celebration of the past and a tribute to the continued efforts of the current members who carry forward the proud tradition of service. Their passion and commitment keep the CWA's legacy alive. The work of the CWA has had a lasting impact not just in Nowra but throughout New South Wales. I again congratulate the Nowra CWA on reaching this incredible milestone. It was a pleasure to join in the celebratory lunch. They really do know how to have fun! Organisations like the CWA make our community stronger. I look forward to many more years of the CWA's remarkable work.

NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE, MACKELLAR GIRLS CAMPUS, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:03): I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of two school captains at the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus. Both Amber Hogan and Alicia Thomas received the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement at the recent Public Education Awards at Sydney Town Hall. Only approximately 40 New South Wales students receive that honour each year, and the Mackellar Girls Campus, in the electorate of Manly, has a proud history of recipients. In addition, Alicia Thomas is one of only two New South Wales students, from over 1,000 applications, to receive a prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship from the Australian National University in Canberra. The highly valued scholarship in the field of medicine will support Alicia in her studies, as well as in social, cultural, sporting and

leadership opportunities. I congratulate Alicia Thomas and Amber Hogan on their outstanding successes and wish them well as they pursue a promising future.

CAMDEN VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY SERVICE

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (18:04): On Sunday 18 August I was proud to be the keynote speaker at Camden's Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorative service. Held at the beautiful Macarthur Park, surrounded by roses, one kookaburra and many Camdenites, we were thrilled to have the sub-branch president, Mr Iain Richard-Evan, officiate at the service. I was joined by Ashleigh Cagney, the Mayor of Camden. It was a fantastic event, led by the catafalque party from our air cadets, which was led by an ex-student of mine, Kiara Messer. She did a fantastic job. The commemoration holds great importance for the Camden community. We have many returned veterans and a thriving RSL community sub-branch. I am proud of the work that it does and the veterans whom we honour. We laid wreaths, traded stories and sat in the beautiful Sunday weather.

PAT FOGARTY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (18:05): Tonight I recognise Pat Fogarty of Deniliquin, a dedicated public servant and a cornerstone of local government in the Edward River region. Pat's tireless work and commitment through her leadership of the Deniliquin and Edward River councils over 21 years has greatly benefited her community. Elected in 1995, Pat became a driving force behind initiatives such as the Deniliquin Youth Council, fostering youth engagement in civic matters. Pat also served the community through her full-time role at Vinnies service and active participation in organisations like the Deniliquin Boat Club and Rotary club. Her role in the successful amalgamation of the Conargo and Deniliquin councils in 2016 showcased her ability to guide the community through complex transitions. As mayor, and later deputy mayor, Pat's leadership was marked by her dedication to the region's development. I thank Pat Fogarty for her exceptional service and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

COUNCILLOR ALI KARNIB

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (18:06): Tonight I acknowledge and congratulate Councillor Ali Karnib on his long and distinguished career in local government. Last week's election saw Ali Karnib complete 29 years on Liverpool City Council—one of the longest serving in Liverpool's history. Ali was first elected in 1995. He was a former maths and science teacher, and president of the Lebanese Community Council for many years. Like so many in Liverpool, Ali and his family settled in Australia in pursuit of a more peaceful life. They arrived from Lebanon in 1984 and have since contributed so much to their new home. Ali settled in the Green Valley area and continues to call Busby home. As a councillor, Ali was known for his passion for the community and his sharp focus on the issues impacting the areas he represented. He served twice as deputy mayor, including his most recent tenure under Mayor Wendy Waller. I congratulate Ali Karnib on his many decades of service. I also note that Ali recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. Happy birthday, Ali.

CHIEF INSPECTOR CHRISTINE GEORGE, APM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (18:07): I congratulate Chief Inspector Christine George, APM, on her retirement from the NSW Police Force after 34 years of service. Chief Inspector George began as a police officer at The Rocks in 1990, performing many duties synonymous with city policing, including prisoner escorts and police cell duties. She was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2002 at Eastern Suburbs Local Area Command [LAC], where she was then promoted to inspector in 2007. Four years later, she moved to the City Central LAC before transferring to her last command at Manning-Great Lakes. In 2023 Chief Inspector George was awarded the prestigious Australian Police Medal for outstanding service to the NSW Police Force. I thank Chief Inspector George for her service, her friendship and making a difference in our local community. I wish her all the best in her retirement. It was an honour to witness her being marched out by her colleagues.

SOUTH WEST GOANNAS

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (18:08): Last Saturday the South West Goannas women's team was victorious in the grand final, taking home the 2024 Macarthur Women's Blues Tag title. The team's dedication, teamwork and never-give-up attitude were on full display as they fought their way to victory against Moorebank 36-12. The Goannas proved that they are by far the best ladies league team in the Macarthur rugby league conference after an undefeated season. I give a shout-out to Sienna Grady, who bagged four tries in the final. It is a massive achievement. I say a huge congratulations to coach Mitchell Bru and all players, officials and fans who made the season such a success. I stopped by to congratulate the team in person at the after-match celebrations, which were well under way by the time I arrived. Here's to many more premierships—and many more afterparties—and the continued rise of women's rugby league in our region. Up the Gahs!

LYNDA MACCALLUM

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands) (18:09): I recognise the achievements of Lynda MacCallum for being a finalist in two categories of the Australian Ladies in Business Initiative Awards. Those awards acknowledge the remarkable traits, efforts and achievements of Australian businesswomen, to inspire further growth and success. I congratulate Lynda on her selection as finalist in the Business Lady of the Year category and finalist in the Regional Superstar category, which aims to celebrate those who run successful businesses in rural and isolated areas. Lynda is the founder of MacCallum Performance, which is a successful family-run business at Woolbrook in my electorate that provides mentorship programs, horse training, riding lessons and health coaching. I commend Lynda for her hard work and dedication to developing a successful career and a very well-respected local business. The local community of Woolbrook and the entire electorate is right behind Lynda and wishes her all the best in the upcoming awards.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:10): Following on from CWA Awareness Week, I send my thanks to all members of the 8,000-strong New South Wales-wide membership of the CWA. We have a number of fantastic branches in the Gosford electorate, including the very active Woy Woy and Umina branches, Mangrove Mountain, Peats Ridge and District, and Somersby branches. The CWA is so much more than cakes, scones and knitting. During a recent CWA morning tea at Parliament, we heard of the CWA's advocacy and lobbying for many of the same issues we are working on in the New South Wales Parliament, including rural and regional health and safety, domestic and family violence, and women's safety in regional New South Wales. It was fabulous to hear about their collaboration with the New South Wales Government to deliver regional co-working spaces provided by the CWA in Canowindra, Dorrig, Trangie and Walgett, opening the CWA to community members who now use that great office space and make connections. I thank all our fabulous CWA members on the Central Coast and across broader New South Wales for all that they do in each of their communities.

TRIBUTE TO KEN GOODING

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (18:11): Today I acknowledge the decade of work by a local community member, Mr Ken Gooding, to restore a once neglected nature reserve in our community. Ken transformed Hannan Reserve in Rozelle into a peaceful green space, working tirelessly and consistently to remove invasive weeds and rubbish, trim overhanging branches and restore the native grasses. Ken's work was guided by his knowledge of ecology and his philosophy that, with a little help, nature will take care of itself. Thanks to Ken working with local council to install handrails for safety and accessibility and a picnic table for visitors, Hannan Reserve is now a space for all to enjoy. Sadly, Ken passed away recently. His funeral took place yesterday. I acknowledge the grief of his partner, Iliana, and his family and friends who have joined me in Parliament today. Together, we will honour Ken's legacy and ensure that Hannan Reserve remains a peaceful place for all to enjoy for generations.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I acknowledge guests of the member for Balmain in the gallery—Iliana and other friends of Ken Gooding. On behalf of all members, I extend my sincere condolences for their loss and hope that they find solace in Mr Gooding's legacy.

NICK TSACCONIS

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (18:13): I congratulate Nick Tsaccounis from Heathcote High School, who recently received a Minister's award for teaching excellence at the 2024 Public Education Awards. The award recognises excellence in teaching practice and broader school initiatives. Mr Tsaccounis has made a significant and measurable contribution to improved student outcomes in learning for students. Nick is a dedicated teacher who makes a concerted effort to know his students and their needs, practices good pedagogy and engages with his colleagues and community. Nick's mantra for his outstanding teaching and students' results is to "start with high expectations and hold the students to it" and to "collaborate with other staff". His outstanding teaching, knowledge and passion for graphics was highlighted in the 2023 HSC, when 84 per cent of his students received a band 6. When the Deputy Premier and I recently met Nick, we witnessed his passion and dedication to students and public education. Congratulations, Nick, on this incredibly well-deserved award. We are all so proud of you.

FOOTBALL4ALL GALA DAY

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (18:14): It was fantastic to join Football NSW at Valentine Sports Park in Glenwood over the weekend for their football4all Gala Day in partnership with Nova Employment. The event was established in 2008 and supports the furthered development of special needs and disability football programs in New South Wales. The day combines inclusive Football NSW initiatives like AWD Futsal League, powerchair football and the Pararoos Development Centre. Those initiatives actively support the inclusion of all individuals to participate in sport and recreation. Community days like the football4all Gala Day demonstrate the power of sport in bringing together communities and individuals from all walks of life. I thank the team at Football

NSW, including CEO John Tsatsimas, Daniel Ristic and Steph Brantz, for their continued support of this important community day. It is great to see inclusive sporting opportunities and organisations thrive in the electorate of Winston Hills and across Western Sydney.

TRIBUTE TO CANDY FU

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (18:15): I recognise and honour the memory of Candy Fu, a beloved community member and volunteer with Asian Women at Work, who sadly passed away suddenly this month. A resident of Condell Park, Candy ran a Chinese restaurant in Revesby for many years and was enthusiastic about helping Chinese people who had recently moved to Australia to settle into their new lives. Candy joined Asian Women at Work in 2022 and immediately embraced a leadership role, organising weekly dance and exercise sessions. Candy also encouraged local Chinese residents to join social activities, enriching the lives of many. Under her leadership, the Revesby group flourished—from New Year's Eve barbecues to making mooncakes for the Mid-Autumn Festival and dumplings for Lunar New Year. Candy was a dedicated volunteer, awarded Banks Volunteer just last year. Only a couple of days before her passing, she helped at an event that I hosted, providing support and translation for attendees. I give my sincere condolences to Candy's family and friends, and the Revesby community. She will be sadly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DAVIS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (18:16): On Friday 13 September I attended a moving memorial service for a much-loved and respected member of our community, Michael Davis. Michael was a long-term member and president of the Warradale Men's Shed. He contributed greatly to the achievements of the group and worked hard to secure the site for a new shed in Silverdale. The shed sadly has not been completed but, as we move towards the opening, I am sure that Michael is looking down on us and his fellow Warradale Men's Shed members. Michael's daughter, Kathy, spoke lovingly of Michael's life—from studying law to meeting his beloved wife, Ann, and their amazing life together. Michael was known within his family as Mr Fix It. No job was too small or too big—he loved working with his hands. He also loved travelling. Michael and Ann travelled all over the world in recent years, always looking for new adventures. Michael's service was attended by many friends from his law days, family members and many of his Warradale Men's Shed members, showing the great and lasting impact Michael had on those around him. I send my condolences to his family. Michael will be missed.

THE PONDS HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE AWARDS

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (18:17): I recognise the incredible achievement of Diya Vdayakumar, Sarah Venayagam, Thehara Kurrupu and Ransher Singh from The Ponds High School as recipients of the Victor Chang School Science Awards. Those grade 11 students were nominated by their outstanding teachers, who recognised their commitment to the studies of biology, physics and chemistry at a level which exceeds expectations. Much like the namesake of the award, I have no doubt that they will realise successful and pioneering careers in the STEM field, leading the research and development of solutions to improve lives and make the world a better place. That achievement is also a credit to the incredible science teachers at The Ponds, who encourage all of their students to reach their potential. I speak for all Riverstone residents in saying that we are incredibly proud of those students and our community is richer because of them. Keep up the hard work. I wish them all the best as they enter year 12 and I look forward to hearing of their future successes.

MICHAELA LOUKAS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (18:18): Today I recognise an incredibly talented young person in my community, Michaela Loukas. Currently a year 11 student, Michaela was recently awarded the distinguished Victor Chang award at her school, Marist Catholic College Penshurst. The award recognises her fantastic achievements and service to her fellow Australians. Most notably, at only 15 years old, Michaela worked on a robotic prototype that helps detect melanoma in Australia. Michaela was also selected to attend the National Computer Science School, where she participated in a research program at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and was a top finalist in the SBS National Languages Competition. She has also won countless awards over many years. I must say, Michaela's efforts are truly commendable. It is fantastic to see young women in our community not only getting involved in STEM but making a real and tangible difference. I cannot wait to see what Michaela achieves into the future. Judging by her fantastic achievements thus far, I am sure it will be equally, if not more, impressive.

NIKKI AYERS

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (18:19): Today I congratulate Nikki Ayers on her gold medal at the recent 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. Nikki and her para-rowing partner, Jed Altschwager, are the PR3 mixed double sculls world champions and world record holders. They won Australia's first ever para-rowing gold medal at Vaires-sur-Marne. Nikki was raised in Dalmeny in the Eurobodalla shire of the Bega electorate. She made her

Australian rowing debut in 2018. Nikki had been an active rugby union player until she dislocated her knee and permanently damaged her peroneal nerve and popliteal artery. As a result, she developed a foot drop, endured 16 surgeries to remove the dead tissue and underwent a knee reconstruction to repair three ligaments. Professionally, Nikki has a postgraduate diploma in critical care and is an intensive care nurse, a job she combines alongside rowing. She said that she wanted the historic medal to be a symbol of hope for people back home.

SOPHIA SQUIRES

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (18:20): I am pleased to acknowledge Sophia Squires, a seriously impressive young person from my electorate. Sophia has recently received the NSW Government State Representative Award for track and field championships. I will soon be presenting the signed and framed award to Sophia, who will be accompanied by her very proud mother, Sarah. Sophia was only 13 years old at the time of the nomination. At age 11, she ran in the Australian junior championships 1500 metres, in which she placed fifth, and the New South Wales cross country relays, in which the team placed second. At the age of 12, she competed in the Mini-Mos five-kilometre run, in which she placed first out of all females and fourth overall, male and female, in the unlimited age groups. Sophia has also recently competed in her school's cross-country, where she came first in her age group. I congratulate Sophia on such outstanding achievements. I have no doubt we will hear about her and her continued amazing successes in the years to come.

WESTS LEAGUES CLUB

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:21): Wests Leagues Club is a staple in our community, under the leadership of Daniel Perkiss and chairperson Alan Buxton. The club has grown over 50 years and recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. My colleague the member for Macquarie Fields, who is in the Chamber, attended the dinner. One of the most important things about the Wests Leagues Club is its philanthropy and its support of our community and our local sporting communities. Whether it be the South West Sydney Academy of Sport, South West Community Transport, the mighty East Campbelltown Eagles, netball or rugby league, the club supports each and every organisation within Campbelltown. I was delighted to be at a recent event where the club hosted nearly every disability support organisation around the south-west—and did that for nothing. I believe that that is a representative of the good nature of Wests Leagues Club. I thank the club for 50 years of service and wish it well for another 50 years and more.

RYDE ELECTORATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:22): Few things make me prouder than the success of the Ryde Liberal team in the recent local government elections. Diverse, professional and future focused, the team is a reflection of modern Ryde. I particularly acknowledge the success of West Ward councillor-elect Kathy Tracey, who is set to be elected with an historic margin. Councillor-elect Tracey, a lifelong resident of Ryde, sports club president, active in her school P&C and one of the hardest workers that I have ever met, has already done so much to advance the cause of Ryde. Her election represents a new era of Liberal representation, as part of a team that breaks the Liberal Party's own record for diversity, set last term. Councillor-elect Tracey, like so much of the Ryde Liberal team, is thoroughly community based. The team's ability to know their neighbours, engage with new audiences, share good ideas and be responsive to community needs is the ultimate recipe for political success. I look forward to working closely with Kathy this term to make the place I truly love, Ryde, an even better place. Congratulations!

SERBIAN FESTIVAL GALA NIGHT

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (18:23): On 9 August 2024 I had the pleasure of attending the thirty-sixth Serbian festival gala night at the Bonnyrigg Sports Club. The evening was a splendid celebration of Serbian culture and tradition, officially opened by His Eminence Archbishop Siluan. The event showcased the rich heritage and vibrant community spirit of the Serbian people. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr John Pavasovic and Mr Michael Andjelkovic for their kind invitations. Their efforts in organising such a memorable gala are greatly appreciated. The festival provided a wonderful opportunity to experience Serbian music, dance and cuisine, creating an atmosphere of joy and cultural pride. The gala night was a testament to the strength and unity of the Serbian community. It was an honour to be part of such a special occasion. I look forward to attending many more events in the future, celebrating the diverse cultural tapestry that enriches our community.

RYDE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove) (18:24): I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, North Ryde RSL, Club Ryde and Gladesville RSL for their remarkable efforts in raising nearly \$1.5 million in donations for local community organisations in 2024. Among the notable beneficiaries, Presbyterian Aged Care North Ryde community received \$84,000 to enhance aged-care services, while the Raise Foundation was awarded \$30,000 to support its vital youth mentoring programs. The DANII Foundation was granted \$20,000 to assist individuals living with diabetes, and the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation

received \$15,000 to continue providing essential transport services. Our community is immensely proud to have these four major clubs standing behind and supporting local organisations that make such a meaningful difference. Congratulations once again on this outstanding achievement, and many thanks to all the board.

MAI-WEL DISABILITY SERVICES

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (18:25): I offer my congratulations to the team at Mai-Wel disability services. Earlier this month, Mai-Wel launched an innovative training program at its Telarah facility to train young workers in retail skills. In collaboration with Woolworths, the service has set up a Mini Woolies grocery store, which features real cash registers, bags, uniforms, baskets and groceries. It is designed to empower Mai-Wel participants as they prepare to enter the workforce. It allows them to engage in all sorts of retail work, including stocking shelves, returning baskets, bagging groceries, using the register, calculating change and communicating with customers. Participants have the opportunity to learn in a supported environment at their own pace and eventually transition into employment with the skills and confidence they need for success. Employment is one of the most powerful ways to enhance the quality of life for people with a disability. It provides financial independence, a sense of purpose and a way to contribute to the community. Beyond that, it is about dignity and inclusion and recognising the potential in every individual. Well done, Mai-Wel.

BRISBANE WATER POLICE DISTRICT RETIRED POLICE DAY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:26): It was truly wonderful to recently attend the Brisbane Water Police District's Retired Police Day at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music in Gosford to celebrate and honour the invaluable contribution these gentlemen have made to the NSW Police Force. We celebrate these retirees and express our deepest gratitude for their service to the Police Force and to our community. Their work has laid a strong foundation for the officers who serve today, and their legacy will endure for generations. Some of the retired officers who attended actually served at the old Gosford Police Station, which now stands as the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music. It was very fitting for this event to be held in such a significant venue, full of memories for those officers. I extend a heartfelt thank you to the Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes police districts and the conservatorium of music for hosting the event and making it such a memorable day for our retired and serving officers. I once again thank our proud retirees. They will forever be part of the NSW Police Force family. Our community is grateful for their dedication and service to the Central Coast and the people of New South Wales.

COUNCILLOR-ELECT PAIGE JOHNSON

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:27): I offer a huge congratulations to Labor Newcastle Ward 2 councillor-elect Paige Johnson on making history as the first openly transgender woman elected to public office in New South Wales. In addition to being a Newcastle Labor member for over a decade, Paige also holds an impressive résumé, including working as a senior engineer for local government, being a member of the Committee of Management of the Local Government Engineers' Association, and also being a Professionals Australia delegate to Newcastle Trades Hall Council. Further, Paige has made significant contributions to the local community through her advocacy work. As the vice-president of the Hunter Gender Alliance, Paige has been steadfast in advocating for the rights of trans and gender-diverse people in the Hunter region. This is an amazing achievement. I know that she will continue to champion Newcastle as an inclusive and progressive city.

REX HALPIN

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:28): I acknowledge the achievements of Mr Rex Halpin of Warrigal care, a nominee for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award. The nomination is a testament to Rex's commendable volunteering efforts. For over 10 years, Rex has given up his free time to be a bus driver for Warrigal. He provides an essential service that allows for Warrigal residents to have the benefit of a variety of bus outings. Rex brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role, only enhancing the level of service that Warrigal residents already receive. Not only has Rex been nominated for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award; Rex was also previously a nominee for Warrigal's Norm Rowland volunteer award, which is an amazing accomplishment. I hope Warrigal residents know just how fortunate they are to have somebody like Rex Halpin. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I congratulate Rex on his amazing work in helping other members of our community.

MARIST COLLEGE EASTWOOD

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:29): I ask the House to join me in recognising the newly elected college leaders of Marist College Eastwood, who will commence their term in 2025. Marist College Eastwood is not only a great local school but also my alma mater. It therefore brings me great pleasure to announce the following students who will lead the college over the next calendar year: college captain, Rocco; college vice captains,

Christian and William; religious life leaders, Michael and Isaiah; academic life leaders, Patrick and Anthony; culture and events leaders, Andrew and Ryan; sport leader, William; mission, social justice and stewardship leader, Nathaneal; student representative council, peer support and wellbeing leader, Patrick; Cusack house leader, William; Elliott house captain, Ethan; Leopold house captain, Costa; and Maloney house—my old house—captain, Matthew. Leadership is not defined by titles, and I know that those positions are not the commencement of a leadership journey but rather a reflection of leadership already exhibited by each of those young men. I wish them every success for the term ahead, knowing that their futures are exceedingly bright.

Bills

TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill with amendments. I order that consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments be set down as an order of the day for a future day.

Private Members' Statements

SHELLHARBOUR ELECTORATE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:30): The Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job of building a better New South Wales. We are building better communities across the State, especially in regions such as the Illawarra, ensuring that we have the roads, schools and hospitals to improve the lives of all residents. We are investing in essential services and infrastructure in the Illawarra region to meet the growing needs of local communities well into the future. I am happy to update the House on the progress of our major commitments for the Shellharbour electorate over the past year. In the past month we have made significant progress on many of our major projects, including the new Shellharbour hospital, the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre and upgrades to Dapto High School.

We recently announced the awarding of the main works contract for the new Shellharbour hospital, which will be built on a large greenfield site in Dunmore. The site offers plenty of opportunity to expand services as the population of the Illawarra increases. The new hospital and integrated services project will cater for the local population well into the future and will also relieve pressure on other parts of the Illawarra Shoalhaven health network, including Wollongong Hospital. The works will also help drive education and job opportunities for the Illawarra region, supporting around 800 direct jobs during construction, with the potential to support thousands of indirect jobs over the life of the project. While we wait for the new hospital to be built, our wonderful Minister for Health has also worked tirelessly on waiting lists. We have cut the elective surgery waiting list from 14,000 to 3,500 in just one year.

As members probably know, I am a fierce advocate for women impacted by family and domestic violence. It was an honour to host our wonderful Minister for Health on 6 September for the official opening of the Women's Trauma Recovery Centre in Shellharbour. The centre is now providing specialised, dedicated and individualised wraparound support services to women recovering and healing from the trauma of domestic and family violence and abuse. I am already receiving requests from people in other parts of New South Wales about how they can get their own trauma recovery centre in their region, and I cannot wait to see more centres open in the future. The Minns Labor Government will continue to prioritise this important issue: Recently it introduced the toughest domestic violence laws in the country, making it harder for perpetrators to get bail.

The wins keep coming for the electorate of Shellharbour. On 10 September I hosted our amazing education Minister at Dapto High School for the official announcement of the brand-new covered outdoor learning area, also known as a COLA. It has now been approved, with construction to begin later this year. The amazing students at Dapto High School will finally have access to an outdoor learning area that they can enjoy for decades to come. It will include a resurfaced basketball court, new fencing, and a lighting and sound system. Such investments in infrastructure are desperately needed for such a fast-growing region, which for far too long has been neglected by those opposite.

These commitments represent just a part of the Minns Labor Government's investment into the Illawarra region. We will continue to make responsible, better choices on how and where we spend the public's money to ensure that we build a better New South Wales for all our residents. Before I conclude, I congratulate the wonderful Tania Brown on becoming the very first woman Lord Mayor of Wollongong. I am looking forward to working closely with Tania on much-needed infrastructure and services in the Dapto and West Dapto areas.

LANE COVE ELECTORATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove) (18:34): Over the weekend our State enjoyed one of the liberties of living in a democracy such as ours—that is, the right to vote. I am, of course, referring to the recent New South Wales local government elections. The Hunters Hill municipality in its entirety falls within my electorate of Lane Cove, and I congratulate the Hunters Hill Liberal team on their amazing success in the re-election of the Liberal mayoral candidate and the election of three, maybe four, councillors, with a swing to the Liberal Party of some 20 per cent.

After a week of pre-poll, our volunteers were motivated daily by the ever-increasing support of locals. Winks, handshakes and congratulations were common throughout their time on the voting booths. With that 20 per cent swing towards the Liberals in the local government area, Zac Miles has become one of just a handful of mayors to retain their positions in New South Wales. We have also achieved a majority Liberal council within Hunters Hill. I congratulate Tatyana Virgara, Julia Prieston, Carol Tannous-Sleiman and Carla Kassab on their success in the campaign and their commitment to building a stronger community in Hunters Hill. I also acknowledge Marianne Doyle for her candidacy in the election as part of the team.

The team was heavy in Joey's mums, I might add, which, if you know anything about our local St Joseph's College and the Hunters Hill community, is no doubt a part of the reason for their electoral success. The local Liberal team had a track record for delivering to the Hunters Hill community, so its electoral success was unsurprising. I pay tribute to what the mayor and his team helped deliver, and which I as local member am proud to have helped secure with New South Wales government funding. Those deliveries included a \$4.75 million nature-themed upgrade to Figtree Park, which greatly increased play areas and equipment for children as well as improving accessibility; a \$3.9 million upgrade to the playing fields at Gladesville Reserve to benefit young sportsmen and sportswomen, with further upgrades slated in the near future; and the construction of the Boronia Park Sports and Community Facility, which has many modern amenities and social areas and which includes, for the first time in the municipality, change rooms specifically for girls and young sportswomen.

Those initiatives, jointly funded and achieved across all levels of government, have delivered more community infrastructure in the past three years than in the past three decades. The local Hunters Hill Liberals had a proud record to stand on and voters clearly recognised that. Hunters Hill is indeed a unique area. Whilst a local government area of important heritage and history, it must also be one that moves with the times, delivering for local families and ratepayers but retaining its unique identity. I am confident that this show of support from the majority and mainstream of the Hunters Hill community will help guarantee both a strong and inclusive council for many years. I am looking forward to working with my Liberal colleagues to deliver more infrastructure to community groups, enhancing our public parks and sporting fields, and ensuring that Hunters Hill can now be enjoyed by the many, not just the few.

PARIS PARALYMPIC GAMES

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:37): A beacon of inspiration, courage, determination and equality, every four years the Paralympic Games display the incredible talent and resilience of our para-athletes. This year Australia had a phenomenal Paralympic Games in Paris. Sending 59 Australian para-athletes to compete across 17 sports, Australia took home 63 medals in total, with 18 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze. That is an amazing achievement and included six dual gold medallists and 17 who won multiple medals, enabling Australia to place ninth in the overall medal tally.

While I congratulate all 59 Australian Paralympians, I would like to acknowledge the three para-athletes with ties to my electorate of Newcastle. Wickham-based athlete Luke Bailey displayed fierce determination in all three of his events, competing in the men's T54 100 metres, 400 metres and 800 metres. Although confessing that nerves got the better of him in the 400- and 800-metre events, Luke had a breakthrough moment in the men's 100 metres. Placing fourth in the heats, Luke qualified for his first Paralympics final in the T54 wheelchair class. Para-athlete Rheed McCracken also had a highly successful Paralympic Games, competing in both the men's T34 100-metre and T34 800-metre events. Placing fourth in the men's 100-metre final, Rheed was disappointed to miss out on a medal in the men's T24 100 metres. However, this was not the end of Rheed's Paris journey. Determined to fight to the end, Rheed gave it his all in his final event and came away with bronze in the men's T34 800-metre final.

Last but definitely not least, I extend my congratulations to Lauren Parker for her outstanding achievements in the Paris Paralympic Games. After narrowly missing first place in the women's PTWC1 triathlon at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Lauren returned to compete in Paris with a vengeance. However, her Paris journey had a rocky start. Two days of rain and storms reignited water quality concerns in the Seine and eventuated in the postponement of the triathlon event. Not to be deterred, Lauren rose to the challenge and took home gold by a comfortable margin. Despite battling with an upset stomach from swallowing river water, Lauren rallied to

compete in the women's H1-3 cycling road event only two days later. Winning silver, Lauren not only displayed true courage and determination but also made history as Australia's first dual-sport Paralympian medallist at the same games in 48 years.

One day after finishing with silver, Lauren rode to victory once more. She won her second gold medal in the women's paralympic H1-4 road race and beat the competition by an incredible margin of four minutes and 11 seconds. Lauren has joined the ranks of fellow Paralympian Eric Russell, who won multiple events in the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games. To commemorate Lauren's historic achievement, she was honoured as an Australian flag-bearer at the closing ceremony, alongside fellow Paralympian James Turner. I am beyond proud of our Paralympians and of what they have achieved at the Paris Paralympic Games while representing Australia on a global stage. Lauren, Rheed and Luke displayed courage, tenacity and resilience. They showcased true Novocastrian spirit, and I cannot wait to see Newcastle represented again at the Los Angeles games in 2028.

NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (18:41): They say that the grass is always greener on the other side, but my visit to Ngambaa Nature Reserve proves otherwise. On the outside is a land invaded by feral predators and weeds. On the inside is a thriving ecosystem that is slowly coming back to life. Sadly, Australia holds the grim record for the highest rate of mammal extinction in the world. In New South Wales alone, 14 bird species and 26 mammals have become extinct in the past 250 years. Who or what is the culprit behind this crisis? If you are a regional landowner and farmer like me, you may already know one answer: Feral cats are decimating our native wildlife. The numbers are shocking. Feral cats kill more than 1.5 billion native animals each year across Australia. There are more than 2.8 million feral cats running wild in Australia, and the destruction is staggering.

We also cannot ignore the 3.8 million pet cats that roam free around our towns and countryside, unmonitored by their owners and killing indiscriminately when they get the chance. The harsh reality facing our native mammals, birds and reptiles is that they are being hunted, killed and driven to extinction at an alarming rate. Entire species are being wiped out before our eyes. The message is clear: We need tighter feral predator control. Initiatives like the Ngambaa Nature Reserve, which is free of feral predators, are a great example of how crucial it is to protect threatened species before it is too late. Ngambaa Nature Reserve, in between the Nambucca Valley and the Macleay Valley, is one of 10 proposed predator-free zones across the State. Managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the site covers 2,023 hectares and is encircled by 22 kilometres of conservation fencing. It is designed to keep pests out so animals inside can thrive.

This is no small project. It is expected to benefit at least 12 threatened animal species and could lead to the re-establishment of up to five native mammal species currently listed as extinct in New South Wales. Imagine that—species that have been missing from our landscapes once again prospering in their natural habitat. This is not just about one reserve; it is about setting a standard for how we address the feral predator crisis across New South Wales. Areas where vegetative cover has been removed, commonly by drought or bushfires, attract high numbers of predators by removing impediments to travel. The bushfires that spread through the Mid North Coast not only burned trees but also created open hunting grounds for feral cats, foxes and other pests. This put even more pressure on our already vulnerable wildlife.

I understand that cats are beloved animals to many Australian pet owners. As pets they are interesting and affectionate companions, but we cannot overlook the fact that in the wild, cats are one of the most efficient hunters of native birds, mammals and reptiles. Feral cats and foxes are both listed as key threatening processes under the New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Act and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. In 2020 a parliamentary inquiry into feral and domestic cats recommended that the Government expand the network of predator-free areas across Australia, but it is not enough to simply build a fence, declare victory and move on. We need better public awareness of the problem, and we need stricter regulations on roaming cats to ensure that they are not contributing to the destruction of our wildlife.

We need support for our veterinarians around cats that are not restricted in their movement being deemed as feral cats. We need a coordinated, nationwide effort to control feral populations in all corners of our country. Nature reserves like Ngambaa are breathing life back into areas devastated by natural disasters and human and predator activity. They are giving our native species a much-needed lifeline. I ask the House to recognise the impact of the feral predators that are destroying our native fauna and flora. We must accept that the fight needs to stretch beyond the boundaries of these protected reserves. It must extend to our farmlands, our regional communities and even our urban areas. We must look to tackle the root of the problem, which is the uncontrolled growth of feral predator populations and, in particular, cats being left out at night.

MAITLAND ELECTORATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (18:46): Yesterday the community of Gillieston Heights had the opportunity to view early concept plans for the long-awaited redevelopment of Gillieston Public School. Parents enthusiastically received brochures outlining the project at the front gate of the school as they were collecting their children at the end of the day. It was great to see mums, dads and kids poring over the outline and images of what their future school will look like. They could see how their dreams for a fit-for-purpose public education facility for their community were becoming a reality. They responded positively to the improved safety aspect of parking, including kiss and ride and designated staff parking. The changes to the pick-up and drop-off areas attracted a lot of comment, and improved traffic movement plans were well received. Ian Thompson, who is the school-parent liaison for the P&C, noted when he saw the impression of the future building and its positioning on the site:

It's really good to see that we were listened to and that changes were made from the original. They have repositioned the building to sit on the natural contour of the land.

He said he was particularly pleased to see the creation of off-street pick-up and drop-off areas, as that has been a safety issue. One parent said, "I'm really excited for a hall." The Government listened to the community about the need for this redevelopment and will continue to listen to the community on its design. It is only the current Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Deputy Premier, having pushed for an inquiry in the other place in the last Parliament that made this school a reality. I am so proud that the Minns Labor Government has released early concept designs of the redevelopment.

We are showing the community the size and features of the upgraded public school, and it is great. In opposition I campaigned hard alongside the community for the school to receive the upgrade. We heard the concerns of parents, carers and community members about the former Government's neglect of the school, even as the community continued to grow tenfold. The full redevelopment will include new classrooms, a new support learning hub, new staff and administration facilities, a new library, a school hall, a new canteen, a new out-of-school-hours-care facility, a new bus stop and kiss-and-drop facilities. It is vital that the planning processes allow the school's design to evolve through consultation with the school community as the project progresses.

I especially thank the Deputy Premier for her genuine engagement with this project and for listening to our community. Excitingly, the public school is also set to receive a new co-located public preschool through the Minns Labor Government's historic \$769 million program to build 100 new public preschools across the State. This is the biggest expansion of public preschools in our State's history. Gillieston public preschool will be a distinct space next door to the primary school, with its own entry and secure outdoor area with play equipment. It is part of the Minns Labor Government's \$8.9 billion investment to deliver a major pipeline of new schools and major upgrades to New South Wales schools, including in regional New South Wales, after communities in the bush were neglected for so long by the Liberals and The Nationals. Our commitment to regional communities is part of our work to ensure that we are building stronger, better communities, with access to high-quality learning facilities no matter what postcode people live in.

This is just the beginning for the Minns Labor Government. We are committed to public education. I have been meeting with School Infrastructure NSW and the NSW Teachers Federation on a number of infrastructure issues, including upgrades to Maitland Grossmann High School required as a result of finding asbestos and the need for more facilities for, in particular, cooking classes and IT classes; the need for an upgrade of Thornton Public School, which is located in one of the fastest growing postcodes in the State outside Sydney; the need to plan now for future growth in the Lochinvar, Anambah and Branxton precincts, where thousands of new homes are being built; and the need for student support classes in Maitland, as Hunter River Community School is at capacity and is the only special school between Newcastle and Muswellbrook. We have long waitlists for special classes across our public schools as well.

It is not just infrastructure, though. We have also given New South Wales teachers the largest pay rise in almost three decades. We have delivered on our commitment to ban mobile phones in public high schools across New South Wales. After record teacher vacancies over the past decade, we have transitioned 16,000 teachers and support staff from temporary contracts to permanent roles and started the school year with teacher vacancies down by 20 per cent. We have worked to reduce teachers' workloads. As the member for Maitland—which is the fastest growing local government area in the State—I will continue to advocate, hand in hand, with our community, with our mums and dads, with our kids and with our teachers for better education infrastructure and resourcing for our growing community.

WARRADALE MEN'S SHED

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (18:51): There is an amazing group of men involved in the Warradale Men's Shed. This group has a rich history. It operates from the old Thirlmere Rural Fire Service shed,

which a previous State Government made council remove from the land near the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere. The shed was picked up, sent to Warragamba, set up and there the group have been meeting for years. Until recently, it was agreed that the shed could be used on the land owned by the Warragamba Workers and Sporting Club. The club now needs to sell the land for financial reasons. For some years, councillors and council staff have been working with the group to look at opportunities to build a new shed. In 2023, when I was elected, there was a sigh of relief when a community grant application for money for the shed was successful. Everyone was overjoyed and the men were told that there may even be a little money left over to add to the shed capacity.

Along the way, the men have asked me to check in on the progress of the shed, as they are concerned that their present site could be sold. They would not only lose their workspace but also need to find somewhere to transfer all of their machinery and tools to. Every time I have checked in with the council the story has been the same: The project is due to start in September 2024 and be completed in early 2025. That is until a week ago. In a regular meeting with the council CEO, I added the men's shed as an agenda item, only to be shocked when told there are now some requirements that may double the price and mean that it takes much longer. On Friday 13 September the message was that a development application would be required and, because of the shed requirements, the moneys allocated would only deliver a shell, with no occupation certificate. Further grants will be required to get the men into their new, long-promised shed.

I have many questions for the council. Why did it take so long to figure this out, given that it was council that submitted the application for the grant? Why did it take me asking council about the shed's progress for these issues to be raised? Why, as soon as the issues were known, was I not informed, given my known interest in the matter? If council staff knew there was a shortfall, why were councillors not given the option to make up the funds in the last budget? This mismanagement has led to delays. There is no winner when bureaucrats sit on information. Sometimes the loss felt can be personal and heartbreaking. On the same Friday, the men attended the funeral of their group's president, Michael Davis, who would have been mortified to know that the shed project was not on track. Will more of these elderly men pass away before they see it come to fruition?

I implore the council to pay more attention when it applies for grants, not to build false expectations and at the very least deliver what it can now before the price increases. I have seen many council projects blow out in cost. The councillors need to be brave and call this out. If the same building can be built by the private sector, at the same specs for less cost, it shows there is a problem with the calculations or the process. The staff need to be open with me, as the State member, and the councillors, so we can either advocate for further funding or change the scope of the project. It is not about seeking wins and who is first to share them on Facebook; it is about delivering for the community who are in need. I look forward to the completion of the project, within the guidelines, funding and scope that the community expects. I know Michael will be looking down on all of this and I hope, for the rest of the men's sakes, that their shed is not delayed any further.

COBBITTY ROAD SPEED LIMITS

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (18:55): After fighting for it alongside my community, I am pleased to announce that Cobbitty Road has undergone a speed limit change. That occurred on Wednesday 28 August. In July 2022 major flood events closed Cobbitty Bridge. The closing of Cobbitty Bridge put an incredible amount of pressure on the township of Cobbitty. There were no through roads accessible by the townspeople and the greater Camden community. Businesses in Cobbitty experienced a great downturn. Since Cobbitty Bridge was reopened in February last year, the area has experienced high levels of traffic, particularly heavy vehicle traffic travelling to the quarries and the mines at Orangeville and beyond. These heavy vehicles are being driven near local schools and family homes.

With the support of the community, who started lobbying me very early on in my tenure as the member for Camden, we have ensured that a section of the current 60 kilometres per hour area from 100 Cobbitty Road to 400 Cobbitty Road will be reduced to 50 kilometres per hour. That comprises the Cobbitty township, including the school. Further, a section from 496 Cobbitty Road to The Northern Road will be reduced to 60 kilometres per hour. Many residents spoke to me about the need for this change in the speed limit. We have unprecedented growth in our area, including new developments around Cobbitty. We have seen large amounts of roadworks happening on Cobbitty Road. The community has been advocating for this speed limit change for a very long time. Unfortunately, we had two fatalities caused by heavy vehicles in 2023 and the change became more imperative.

Speed limit reductions are a first step in working to keep our neighbourhoods safe. I am very proud to be announcing this change, but even more proud of the Cobbitty community for allowing me to listen to their concerns and to represent them. I thank them for their support in helping me to deliver this change for our community. The people of Cobbitty deserve to be safe. It is a small country town right on the edge of Sydney. It is seeing large amounts of development. Speed limit reductions are one way to make sure that the people walking around our small towns and the children who play in them stay safe in the future.

FATHER PAUL CROWLEY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (18:58): I congratulate Fr Paul Crowley on the golden jubilee of his ordination, which was marked on 7 September 2024 and celebrated at a community mass on 8 September 2024, with a service and a supper on 4 September 2024. In that time, Father Paul has dedicated 31 of those years serving our local community as parish priest of St Mary's Catholic Parish at Concord. Father Paul's golden jubilee is a celebration of 50 years since his ordination as a priest. In celebrating his five decades of service, we look back fondly on his distinguished service to the Catholic faith.

Father Paul has been an inner west local all his life. Growing up in Ashbury, he attended Christian Brothers' High School in Lewisham, where he graduated in 1967. After completing his HSC, Father Paul began his studies towards priesthood at St Columba's College, Springwood, before graduating at St Patrick's College in Manly. Father Paul was ordained at St Mary's Cathedral on 7 September 1974 by Cardinal James Freeman. Since his ordination, Father Paul has worked across the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, beginning his service as assistant priest at St Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Stanmore in 1974. He then went on to serve as chaplain to Royal North Shore Hospital from 1977 to 1979, before moving to an assistant priest role at Holy Spirit, North Ryde.

In 1982 he was approached by Cardinal Freeman, shortly before his retirement, to pursue further studies in Rome at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute. After three years of study in the Vatican, Father Paul was credited with a master's degree in sacred liturgy. He then moved back to Sydney, where he served as director of liturgy in the Archdiocese of Sydney from 1985 to 1996. During that time Father Paul was also appointed to the Sydney Liturgical Commission, serving as executive officer from 1985 to 1995 and chairman from 1989 to 1994. He has also served as a representative of the Catholic Church on the Australian Consultation on Liturgy. The ACOL brought together Christian leaders from a range of denominations to worship in a multi-faith service, celebrating the important role that faith plays in the lives of our community members.

When Father Paul was not serving in the parish, he dedicated his time to teaching. He worked as a part-time lecturer in liturgy at St Patrick's College in Manly, where he shared his liturgical knowledge and experience, guiding a new generation of priests and academics. In 1993 Father Paul was appointed parish priest at St Mary's in Concord, where he has continued to serve for the past 31 years. St Mary's is my parish, and I have known Father Paul for my entire life. He has been there for my family and me in good times and in bad, as he has for many in our community. He baptised me and I received all of my sacraments at St Mary's. He was there for us when tragedy struck our family and we lost my grandfather.

Those who know Father Paul know that he is very humble and wise. Rather than make a fuss of this significant achievement, he wanted to celebrate with parishioners. Every week he gives a relevant and thought-provoking homily, calling us all to challenge our beliefs and find meaning in our faith. He is well respected by many for his commitment to social justice, leading the development of the St Mary's Villa aged-care facility, which sits on the church grounds in Concord, right next-door to the church. I congratulate Father Paul on his golden jubilee of ordination. On behalf of the community, I offer our heartfelt congratulations on this monumental occasion and extend our sincerest thanks for his devotion to service in all he does. I thank Father Paul for being a shining example of community service, guiding us as parishioners to live a life dedicated to God and service. May God bless him, and I wish him all the very best, always.

LIVERPOOL HEALTH TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (19:03): I recently spoke in this place about the \$700,000 investment into the Liverpool Health Tech Entrepreneurship Program to foster the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators in south-west Sydney by UNSW Sydney. Following a highly successful pitch night in the south-west that supported local entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and identify how they could progress them through a sometimes extremely competitive entrepreneurship ecosystem, UNSW also ran a panel event featuring female creators and entrepreneurs sharing their journeys, challenges and successes and using those experiences as role models for other young women within the community earlier in that journey.

I was then excited to join a collaboration between Spark Sydney and UNSW founders as the keynote speaker. I give a huge shout-out to the team that brought the night together. It takes a lot of hard work and effort. In the words of Kamala Harris, such events do not just fall out of a coconut tree, especially when you are creating a culture of new infrastructure for entrepreneurship collaboration and innovation pretty much from scratch. When I was asked to speak, I thought about where many of the participants in the festival are now—full of enthusiasm but perhaps uncertain about outcomes, support and pathways. One reason the work is so important is because what is being done in partnership with UNSW, the Liverpool Innovation Precinct and other stakeholders will hopefully help serve the people of Liverpool with pathways to employment and opportunities for work in a range of industry sectors that we can only currently imagine.

All of that relates to what is called the innovation economy. Many have complicated definitions, but the one I like best is that it relates to "new ideas that turn into companies that change the world in ways large and small", as Professor Enrico Moretti said. The speed of technological change and increased global integration and competition has driven innovation, but the disruption of the supply chains during COVID showed the importance of fostering local innovation. New South Wales can make the most of positive opportunities and manage disruption by creating the right conditions for its innovation economy to succeed locally.

I came into politics as an occupational therapist who saw many people in my community with very similar issues. I could help them on an individual basis. I could work with groups of people and communities. But at its heart, people came to me with the same issue time and again. Innovators and entrepreneurs are very similar, but their way of enacting change is to innovate and create. That is important in other ways. In *The New Geography of Jobs*, Professor Enrico Moretti says that the multiplier effect has a huge impact within the innovation sector. For every job created in the innovation economy, there are five jobs created in associated industries. It is not just about high-tech jobs or jobs that require a high level of education. It also has an impact for many others in our community. As the local member of Parliament, I want to see Liverpool booming. I acknowledge the work of the Liverpool Innovation Precinct and Lance Chia for progressing this work.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Hear, hear!

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA: I believe he is a local constituent of the member for Gosford. The role of government is important. In May the Committee for Sydney released a paper called *The Role of Government in Innovation Districts*, and it identified the four pillars of government involvement. The first is having a shared responsibility and working with academia and industry so that all have skin in the game. The second is in leadership. Having a government with vision and governance that can coordinate strategy and be a customer and early-stage risk-taker is hugely significant. The third is in investment, funding and investment attraction. It has a role to play in infrastructure and place-making, as well as developing the talent and workforce required for the areas. Finally, government has a role to play in policy, in areas such as land-use planning and the social agenda. Those areas cannot thrive without paying mind to issues like safety, building a sense of community and looking at where our people are coming to work. All of that is to say that our Government has a long-sighted view in making Liverpool the best place for innovation, and I look forward to being a part of that journey.

UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (19:08): The New South Wales Government needs to open its eyes to the current issues on the ground in the Upper Hunter. Let me remind the Government and members in this place that the Upper Hunter electorate is where the global energy policy is truly hitting the road—and hitting our communities. It comes as we use phrases such as "phase-out of coal" and we see the "transition to renewables". In the Upper Hunter we are currently engaging with both of those harsh realities. Just a few weeks ago we saw the end of coalmining in the Gloucester region. The *Gloucester Advocate*, which unfortunately is itself now closed, reported "Final coal train leaves Stratford mine". That is almost 30 years of mining operations. For now, mining has ended, the high wages that coal generated are gone, royalties are now banked by Treasury and the huge export wealth generation for New South Wales is now a figment of our memories.

That being said, the mine site will be rehabilitated, and the owners, Yancoal, have a good plan for the future with a pumped hydro project. But a dozen local jobs on a renewable energy project will never replace the high-paying jobs of coalmining. The State Government has a role to play, and it must do a lot more. As we lose our coal industry, we must support and build new industries in its place, like tourism, industrial development or manufacturing. The role of the future jobs and investment authority needs to start yesterday. There is so much more to do in Gloucester. There are the Bucketts Way infrastructure upgrades, industrial estate upgrades, the caravan park upgrade, bike trails to bring visitors to the town, youth engagement facilities and many more possibilities.

The one thing that never stops in the Hunter Valley is change. In the 1970s we saw the power stations arrive, in the 1980s agriculture was squeezed by the expanding open-cut coalmines, and today the community is dealing with a new arrival in the form of the renewable energy industry. I inform the House of a terrible example of a renewable energy project that is potentially in the right place but has the wrong attitude. The Maison Dieu Solar Farm is on the western outskirts of Singleton and is being developed by RATCH-Australia Corporation. The locations of the solar panels are adjacent to a residential house—they are within metres of the boundary. Imagine having a development like that on your doorstep. The developer seems to have no intention of making it easier for the residents. This \$130 million project is right on their doorstep, yet the developer cannot find the funds to either buy out or compensate those poor people. We need proper development guidelines for solar factories that clearly designate minimum buffer zones for residential properties.

Another failure of our renewable energy rollout is Elgin Energy's proposed Mitchells Flat Solar Farm, north-east of Singleton, which has popped up out of nowhere. It is not surprising that residents of Mitchells Flat are up in arms about the development: It is an industrial development in the middle of a rural residential estate, which is totally out of character for the area. There is no industrial development nearby, nor any commercial development. It is slap-bang in the middle of a community of families who have enjoyed rural living for generations. The renewables rollout is out of control if solar farms can pop up in the middle of rural residential zones. That would not be acceptable in the suburbs of Sydney, and it is not acceptable in our rural areas.

The planning system is not giving renewable energy developers the guidance they need to know where development is appropriate. Better guidelines could most definitely assist with that. Far from saying that renewable projects are all unwelcome, we are asking for better guidelines and planning changes that allow projects to proceed where appropriate. For example, mining buffer lands could be repurposed. Since my election in mid-2021, I have worked to get government departments to focus on priorities to change planning legislation and mining lease regulations so the Upper Hunter can transition from coalmining to the future. That means allowing new industry to develop on mining buffer lands, and it means changing rehabilitation plans from trees and grass to industrial zones.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HALL

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:13): This evening I speak about an amazing woman who had an incredible influence on my life. Mary Hall was a teacher and lecturer at the University of New South Wales who had a significant influence on how I think. She changed my life and is one of the important reasons I am now a member of the New South Wales Parliament. I was a student of Mary's in my first, second and third years of geography at the University of Newcastle between 1987 and 1989. She taught me critical thinking, integrity and how to ask deep questions. She opened my mind to the challenges of inequality and global development. I was mesmerised by Mary as a young person. I adored the way she challenged us to think outside the box and see things from different angles. She helped me to challenge existing frameworks and analyse bias.

Mary taught with creativity and she encouraged creativity within us. That appealed to my student psyche at the time. I still use a vintage wooden McDonald's tray that I painted back then as part of an assignment about reflecting on the many aspects of thinking, memory and influence. After years of teaching geography, travelling to developing nations in my school holidays and working to improve the lives of people with disabilities in developing nations using sport as a tool for social change, my best friend and I set up an aid organisation called Sport Matters, which is now 12 years old and continues to use sport to change lives across Australia, Asia, the Pacific and Africa. If it was not for Mary, that charity would not be a reality.

Mary worked with Professor Bill Jonas, a Worimi man who went on to become the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Their collaboration inspired me to gain an understanding of our First Nations people and the impacts of colonisation. As a result of that, I went on to become a geography and Aboriginal studies teacher. Mary was truly amazing. As an undergraduate, I did not understand the extent of Mary's research and influence. As a graduate, and having recently broken my back, Mary took me under her wing. She provided me with summer employment, analysing qualitative data provided to the UNHCR by refugees living in camps on the edge of the Laotian border. It was amazing work. Once again, I was exposed to Mary's critical thinking, deep sense of compassion and analytical mind on a new level. She pushed me further into activism for social justice and human rights.

One beautiful memory among many from my Paralympic career was of Mary's visit to the world cup wheelchair basketball championships in Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Mary was living in the United Kingdom at that time. As an older woman, she traipsed across the country to cheer on the Aussies and meet me between games for a catch-up. We spoke about many aspects of our lives. I have very fond memories of traipsing across the United Kingdom on my many sporting trips and spending time catching up with Mary over cups of tea. We spoke about the United Kingdom and Australian health and education systems. I even remember a trip to Penzance, south of London, where she was living at the time. Mary was a hardcore feminist, and she instilled those feminist values in me.

Minister Cotsis is in the Chamber. She will remember when I put up my hand as a candidate for the Labor Party. I remember when Labor women, including the Minister, came doorknocking with me. I thought, "My goodness, these women are my women. I have found my tribe." It was the most amazing experience. Mary's teaching gave birth to those ideas in me. As a member of Parliament, I am part of a group that has established a course called Transforming Parliament for Women, which provides a regular professional development program for the New South Wales Parliament. We are expanding that program across Australia and hopefully into the Pacific to support women in parliament. I am also part of the Pathways to Politics for Women program at the University of New South Wales, which supports more women in parliament. All of that is because of Mary Hall.

The influence that our teachers can have on us when we are young is incredible, especially given the insular world I grew up in. Mary was such an incredible human being. She had a profound influence on the way I think and act, and on my commitment to serve the people of New South Wales. Mary worked in service to her students, to social justice, to making the world a better place and for the rights of disadvantaged people. I thank Mary Hall for the influence she had on my life and on so many others' lives. A number of students who were part of Mary's human geography course still work in various areas of social justice, and we stay in contact. She is not with us any longer. Vale, Mary Hall. She was an absolutely incredible woman.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (19:17): It takes one person and, for the member for Gosford, that person was Mary Hall. The member has made a significant contribution to encouraging women from rural and regional New South Wales to enter politics. We have seen more women coming to Parliament because of her. She has contributed to promoting, endorsing, elevating and mentoring young women, particularly from the Central Coast and regional New South Wales. I did help the member with doorknocking during that time. All of us did. She had a reputation for encouraging young people. It was astounding. The member for Gosford is a great and wonderful leader.

KIAMA ELECTORATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (19:18): Council elections were held across the State at the weekend, and I pay tribute to all the candidates who contested the elections. The people always get it right. I congratulate those who were successful and commiserate with those who did not make it this time. I am particularly pleased by the surge in community Independents being elected, with voters in my electorate walking away from Labor and The Greens. My electorate of Kiama touches four council areas, and I will pay tribute to a number of people who have served our community. Firstly, however, I express my profound disappointment about the Liberals who were unable to stand due to an administrative error in the lead-up to the elections. I acknowledge my friends and, sadly, now former councillors Cameron Walters, John Dorahy, Elisha Aitken, Paul Ell and Serena Copley. All of them served our community with distinction, and I have no doubt that they would have all been re-elected easily.

I know that they are all still feeling a variety of emotions, but they should be proud because our community holds them and their work in incredibly high regard. To run and be judged by your community is one thing, but to not be given the chance to stand is something else entirely. I am deeply disappointed that Liberal voters were not given the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice. I pay tribute to the outgoing Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Gordon Bradbery. Gordon had an enormous task after the Labor-controlled Wollongong council was dismissed for corruption. He had to repair the reputation of Wollongong, which he did day after day. I pay tribute to Gordon for his ferocious advocacy, which yielded benefits not just for Wollongong but for the entire Illawarra region. I acknowledge the service of Councillor Jacqui Graf in Ward D in Shellharbour and thank her for her meticulous dedication to her role as a councillor.

I pay tribute to outgoing mayor Neil Reilly, who has served on Kiama Municipal Council since 2008. I think it is fair to say that Neil had to deal with a lot more than he anticipated when he stepped up to the mayoralty, but he never shied away from making tough but necessary decisions. I thank Neil and his wife, Wendy, for their many years of service to our community. I also acknowledge outgoing councillors Kathy Rice, Jodi Keast, Karen Renkema-Lang, Mark Croxford and Warren Steel. Kathy, Jodi, Karen and I may not have always agreed, but I deeply respect the contribution they have made to our community, and I thank them most sincerely for their service as councillors. They can be proud of the support they have provided to so many people. They gave a brave voice to the issues they care about.

I am sorry that my mate Mark did not get there. He was up against it, but he still stood proud and worked hard. I thank him for all his support over many years. I thank my mate Warren for his 30 years of service as a councillor. First elected in 1983, Warren has been a passionate and dedicated community servant. I thank him for his service in so many community and charitable roles. I am pleased that he finally gets more time for his artwork, his bowls and his grandchildren, whom he loves so much. I thank Warren for being a great mate and a wonderful friend and supporter. In the Shoalhaven, I pay tribute to mentor and friend Councillor John Wells. John has had an incredible career in government, including serving as a director of Shoalhaven City Council and as deputy mayor. As a former Ward 1 councillor myself, I never felt more adequately represented than by John, and his retirement will be an enormous loss. John loves his sport and art but, most of all, he loves his wonderful family. I pay tribute to Dale and his children, who have supported him along the journey.

I acknowledge someone who was a quiet achiever but a much-loved councillor and thank Mark Kitchener for his service. He was so incredibly diligent and trusted by our community. He will be missed. I congratulate Councillor Greg Watson and his wife, Robyn, on 50 years of service. He and I have butted heads over the years, but I acknowledge that his service has made an enormous difference in the Shoalhaven. Projects such as the South Nowra industrial estate, the Albatross Aviation Technology Park, the Shoalhaven campus of the University of Wollongong and Main Road 92 are largely due to his leadership. I acknowledge the service of outgoing mayor

Amanda Findley and councillors Tonia Gray, Evan Christian, Moo D'Ath and John Kotlash. I take this opportunity to congratulate my friend Chris Homer on his stunning victory, winning every single booth, and new Shellharbour councillor Kane Murphy. I give a special shout-out to the deputy mayor, Kellie Marsh, who absolutely smashed it out of the park in Ward A.

I congratulate new Kiama councillors Cameron McDonald, Erica Warren, Melissa Matters, Yasmin Tatrai, Melinda Lawton and Mike Cains. In the Shoalhaven, I congratulate my friend and the new mayor, Patricia White, whom I have known for more than two decades. I congratulate new and newish councillors Peter Wilkins, Jason Cox, Selena Clancy, Jemma Tribe, Bob Proudfoot, Lou Casmiri, Ben Krikstolaitis, Mitch Pakes and Natalee Johnston on their election. I am thrilled with the enormous swing towards community Independents in my electorate, with people in the Kiama electorate, from Shoalhaven to Shellharbour and Kiama, walking away from party politics and saying they do not want divided loyalties on their council; they want people who are committed to community outcomes. I am so pleased with these results. I wish the councillors and the new mayors all the best in standing up and fighting for our community and, most importantly, getting things done.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (19:23): The growing concern over the impact of social media on our young people cannot be overstated. Research consistently highlights that social media can negatively affect mental health, with significant numbers of young Australians feeling anxious when separated from their devices or pressured to be online during class. This is not just an academic concern; it is a pressing reality for many families across our State. The Minns Labor Government is committed to tackling these challenges. Last year we took a bold step by banning mobile phones in public schools, and the early results have been overwhelmingly positive. We have seen significant reductions in phone-related incidents, bullying and suspensions, as well as improvements in students' attendance and engagement. These results show that, when we take action to limit the negative impacts of technology, we create healthier, more focused learning environments for our children.

But our work does not stop there. We recognise that online safety is multifaceted, and that is why our Government, in collaboration with the South Australian Government, will be hosting the Social Media Summit. The summit will bring together key stakeholders to address the broader concerns about social media, including cyberbullying, misinformation and online safety. It is a crucial step towards developing a comprehensive public health response to the unique challenges these platforms pose. As the eSafety Commissioner has rightly highlighted, any effort to address online harm must be based on evidence and balance the benefits of digital engagement with the risks. That is why I strongly support the proposal to introduce age verification for social media use.

Our children are being exposed to harmful content far too early, and introducing a minimum age requirement is a necessary and practical step toward protecting them. Moreover, it is essential that social media companies take more responsibility for the algorithms they use and the content they promote. Too often these platforms amplify harmful material, contributing to mental health issues among users. The Federal Government's Safety by Design initiative is an excellent start, but it is time we move beyond voluntary measures. We must enforce industry standards that require these companies to prioritise users' safety over profit, ensuring that their platforms are designed with the wellbeing of young Australians in mind. I highlight that the Online Safety Act 2021 has provided us with a strong foundation to combat these issues.

The eSafety Commissioner has had remarkable success in removing harmful content and responding to online threats, but we must do more. The rapid advancement of technology, including artificial intelligence, has introduced new risks, such as AI-generated harmful content, and our regulatory framework must evolve accordingly. We are at a critical juncture. The world our children are growing up in is vastly different from the one we once knew. Our responsibility is to ensure that they can navigate the digital landscape safely. This requires a holistic approach, one that includes prevention through education, protection through rapid response to harm and systemic change that holds social media platforms accountable. The introduction of a minimum age for social media use is a significant step towards protecting our young people from the potential harms of digital platforms.

It is essential that we approach this issue with evidence-based strategies and a commitment to balancing benefits with risks. The Minns Labor Government is dedicated to ensuring a safer online environment for our children and upholding the values of responsibility and care that guide our work. I emphasise that this is about not only government regulation; it is also about engaging with the voices of those most affected by these issues, particularly our youth. The upcoming Social Media Summit will provide an important platform for these voices to be heard as we work together to create a safer digital future for all Australians.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:28): I speak tonight on behalf of the residents of Lade Vale and Gunning on a subject I have raised repeatedly in this House: the reality of yet another solar factory proposal. My constituents and I understand the implications of renewable energy projects, but it appears that the concerns about the selection of locations for these industrialised operations are largely ignored and dismissed by planning officials. I have been contacted over 50 times by families in the community, including one whose home sits a mere two kilometres from the boundary of the proposed development, who either have been ignored by the New South Wales planning system or the proponents of this industrial development, or are just hearing of it for the first time. These are people who, for the rest of their lives, will be faced with the permanent impacts of this industrial project transforming the rural landscape, which was never anticipated.

I reiterate that the Goulburn region is not a part of the State's renewable energy zones. Like many others in our area, these residents have been given mixed messages from the moment the project began. The project proponents, who have changed along the way, and Recurrent Energy have claimed thorough engagement in their submissions, but some neighbours have not even been consulted or contacted. Some claim their property has been included in the development, despite not agreeing to any transfer of land. It is astounding. Although the Gunning solar factory has not yet been approved, the community is preparing for what increasingly feels like an inevitable outcome. We look at Wallaroo, which had enough objections to be independently assessed. The independent assessment said those objections meant little. To date, residents' objections have been met with vague and unsatisfactory responses from the project's developer, leaving the community with more questions than answers.

Despite their repeated attempts to engage with the government department, I have heard of constituents waiting months for a reply. One of the most concerning issues with this specific project is the lack of transparency around the community benefit sharing scheme. The developer claims that an agreement has been reached with Upper Lachlan Shire Council, yet the council itself has stated they were still in negotiations. This lack of communication and coordination is troubling, especially when it involves something as critical as ensuring that the community receives its fair share of benefits. We have been told that \$4.5 million will be distributed over the life of the project, with \$3.25 million going towards a community benefits fund and \$1.25 million towards neighbourhood benefit payments.

However, I must stress that this is a long-term commitment. We need to ensure that those funds are actually delivered and managed in a way that benefits all residents, particularly those most affected by this development. It needs to be clearly stated. The Gunning solar factory is classified as a State significant project, which means that final approval rests with the Government, not local councils. Wallaroo has shown that even with residential and council objection, this Government will push on. Yet the responsibility to advocate for our community lies with the residents. I want to ensure that the voices of Lade Vale and Gunning are heard, and that the concerns they have raised about their property devaluation, visual impact and long-term community welfare are taken seriously.

To that end, local residents have conducted a short but well-executed campaign, organising community meetings and emails to both me and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. I congratulate the communities on coming together as one on this issue and presenting a united front for what it needs. It is unfortunate that the responsibility to be informed about this project has fallen to the residents themselves. I join with the community to ask the Government to reopen submissions to allow proper consultation and a just and fair outcome. I reiterate that the planning system is failing our local communities. It is time for the Minister to take action and put the local back into the system.

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:32): Saturday 14 September was a significant day on the Central Coast as locals headed to the polls for the first local government election on the Central Coast since 2017. They voted to elect 15 new councillors, three in each of the five wards across the amalgamated Central Coast Council area. The community had 77 candidates to choose from. I congratulate all 77 candidates. There is a big effort involved for them to put themselves forward and offer themselves up to the community. The community was spoilt for choice. There was a breadth of different opinions amongst the candidates for the community to choose from in their election of the 15 councillors on the council.

Counting will proceed for some weeks to come. In the meantime, I commiserate with the candidates who have not made it through to become a councillor and congratulate those who have won a place on the new Central Coast Council. I acknowledge in particular the efforts of the Labor councillors across the Central Coast. At this stage it appears that Labor has achieved one councillor for each of the five wards. That is five councillors at this stage. I acknowledge Helen Crowley, who was lead candidate and is now a councillor for the Budgewoi ward; Margot Castles, who was lead candidate and will be a councillor for the The Entrance ward; Kyle Macgregor, who was lead candidate and will be a councillor representing the Wyong ward; Belinda Neal, who was lead

candidate and will be a councillor representing the Gosford West ward; and Sharon Walsh, who was lead candidate and will be a councillor representing the Gosford East ward.

The results for Labor on the coast reflect the hard work and dedication of our local government committee on the Central Coast and the rank and file, which has supported the local government committee for a long period since 2017. I single out Vicki Scott, who has been secretary of the local government committee for most of that time. Vicki Scott is a stalwart and a dear friend of mine in the Labor Party on the Central Coast. She is a former Gosford city councillor. Her knowledge of council practice, her dedication to the labour movement and her attention to detail through her work on the local government committee really helped us maintain a connection between the rank and file and those who wanted to be councillors. She enabled the rank and file to spend the last period constructively thinking about how Labor would approach the next opportunity to represent Labor values on the Central Coast Council.

They put together policy and worked out who were going to be the candidates, letting leaders appear amongst the rank and file to put themselves forward. The work of the executive, held together by Vicki Scott, was essential in achieving that. The rank-and-file Labor Party members on the Central Coast can be rightly proud of the effort they put in over that very long period in the face of some doubt about whether Labor would even run candidates for the Central Coast Council. There was some doubt about whether we would ever come out of administration as well. The rank and file kept the faith and have been well rewarded as a result.

As I said, at this stage it looks Labor has five councillors, one in each ward. It looks like the Liberal Party has four councillors so far. It looks like Team Central Coast, led by Lawrie McKinna—who most people on the Central Coast know—has two candidates up at this stage. I congratulate the Animal Justice Party [AJP]. It has not been declared yet, but it looks like it might get a position up in the The Entrance ward. I give the AJP members credit for their dedication to their cause. The Central Coast was also asked to vote on a referendum to reduce the number of councillors across the coast from 15 to nine. That vote has not been finally tallied. At this stage it looks like it is pretty much fifty-fifty. There is no clear outcome there. I look forward to working with all the councillors on the Central Coast. It is great to have democracy back at the local government level on the Central Coast.

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (19:37): Agriculture has had a few good years since the 2018 drought broke. New South Wales crop production is forecast to increase by 50 per cent to 16.9 million tonnes, the third highest production on record, and the gross value of agriculture production is forecast to rise by 4 per cent to \$86.2 billion. Dams are full, pastures are green and our crops are thriving. The high levels of soil moisture, combined with forecast rain, have influenced planting, and many farmers and land managers are reaping the rewards of good conditions. Unfortunately, good conditions often lead to complacency in policy making. Tonight I urge the Parliament to plan for the long term for agriculture and its future in New South Wales. Good seasons for livestock and crops are also good seasons for pest species, and the recent preliminary report by the Natural Resources Commission on New South Wales invasive species management identified many concerns held by our agriculture sector.

There is no long-term strategy or cohesive management system that can adequately manage the situation we are in with pests today. In New South Wales more than 340 pest weeds and more than 40 pest animal species cost us approximately \$1.9 billion per year—and that is being conservative. Not only is the cost to our State massive, but the impacts of pests on the agriculture sector, the environment and our regional communities are also compounding. Agricultural communities have had to endure a lot. Many are still recovering from the financial effects of COVID-19, bushfires and floods. Despite the excellent conditions we are experiencing, the bush knows we need to be prepared for another drought.

Drought and pest species often coexist. During droughts, pest species outcompete our native species and livestock for food and water. They invade crops and diminish farmers' productivity. We may see fewer pests during a drought, but feral species are often very adaptable. Those that survive drought are often the strongest, and when good conditions return, they thrive. We have witnessed this boom and bust repeatedly in New South Wales. Most recently, we have seen the mouse plague and the proliferation of feral pigs and rangeland goats throughout western New South Wales following the 2018 drought. But when drought goes off the radar, so does long-term planning and policymaking. We must also prepare for the bad seasons if we want agriculture to thrive in New South Wales.

Pest management in New South Wales is a shared responsibility across agriculture and biosecurity. The State Weeds Committee, the State Pest Animal Committee and agencies like Local Land Services, Forestry Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and land managers on private properties all have a role to play. However, despite what is in place, the NRC found no clear lines of communication that ensured a consistent and strategic approach across the State, and we still lack a structured approach to drought. I have said many times in

this place that adopting the United Nations definitions of drought, which are meteorological, hydrological and socioeconomic drought, can provide us with clear direction, metrics, data and thresholds for assistance for businesses and agriculture.

Direct financial intervention does not work. It is capitalised into land and transport costs. When pest control costs are included, recovery from a bad season is often fraught. We need to examine the incentives to increase resilience and the point at which resilience is exceeded and cash support is provided. Why are we not talking about it? Like invasive species management, drought assistance has many moving parts. Multiple tools and funding arrangements exist between the Federal and State governments. But without an overarching strategic direction, the tools and funding can be rendered useless, ultimately extending farmers' recovery time and leaving them in debt. Farmers are some of the most resilient members of our community, but to help themselves, they need to be empowered.

When it comes to pest control, not only do we need more funding but we also need to enable our landholders, who are compelled by law to manage pests on their properties, to easily access pathways for authorised campaigns and the right equipment for the job, like category D firearms and noise attenuation devices. We need a multipronged approach that includes baiting, bounties, trapping, fencing and ground and aerial shooting. Empowering communities means developing clear and detailed strategies based on thorough consultation processes. It requires a collaborative whole-of-government approach, with high-level communication to departments and agencies trickling down into grassroots action.

The recent appointment of Dr Marion Healy, PSM, as the Independent Biosecurity Commissioner gives me some hope. The commissioner's work plan includes, among other things, providing advice to the Minister for Agriculture about issues related to pests and weeds. If passed, the introduction of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024 will enable the commissioner to advise about and undertake reviews of matters relating to agricultural productivity, land use conflicts and food security. Drought should be high on the list for the new ag commissioner. We have learned our lessons about drought, and green pastures and full dams should not convince us that it is not going to go dry again.

TRIBUTE TO LUCAS FAMILY MEMBERS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (19:42): I offer my condolences to the Lucas family of the eastern suburbs in Sydney. Very tragically over the past six weeks, they have lost three remarkable men from their family. I would describe the Lucas family as one of the great families of the eastern suburbs. Leo, Ben and Father Nick were three incredibly remarkable men who made their own very unique contributions to our community. Our community deeply misses them and, as a community, we send our condolences to the Lucas family.

As a bit of background, in 1963 Leo Lucas founded Lucas Meats, one of the most famous butchers in the eastern suburbs. He had a couple of great trucks that he would drive around the eastern suburbs with very funny number plates like "PIGS BUM". Lucas Meats was most well known for its ham, and people from across the eastern suburbs would travel to Lucas Meats to get their Christmas ham. It is a phenomenal local business that has supported all of our local sporting clubs. It is just wonderful.

Leo died about six weeks ago. Sadly, he then lost his son Ben who died far too young very quickly. He was a beautiful, beloved teacher at Maroubra Bay Public School. He also happened to be the husband of the wonderful general manager of Waverley Council, Emily Scott. Sadly, as well, in the same week that we lost Ben we also lost Father Nick, who was Leo's brother. Father Nick was a parish priest in Waverley. I do not know what was in the water in the Lucas family but Father Nick was a pretty phenomenal person. He was a Franciscan first, a Christian second and a friend third. Nick left home at 12 in 1950 to enter the Franciscans. It was said at his funeral that Nick was running away from his mother, and that his vow of obedience was probably the hardest one for him to take. Nick always stood up for the poor and the vulnerable.

I saw Nick two weeks before he passed away. He tragically had a stroke in 2022, which stopped him from doing a lot of his social work. He was fundamental in the establishment of the Morning Star Boys' Home, which is a juvenile justice centre operated by the Franciscans. He was also incredibly important in the Come In Youth Resource Centre, which was a service for street kids originally set up by Peter Clifford, who is another remarkable Franciscan from my area. He had been operating and running the Come In Youth Resource Centre as well as the House of Welcome, which was for asylum seekers and refugees. I cannot imagine the pain the Lucas family is going through, but our community is a much better place because of those three men. They have all made their unique touch on our community. They have made our community a better place and may they all rest in peace.

DJIYAGANBAA CORE AND CLUSTER REFUGE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (19:47): I was excited as anyone to attend the recent opening of a new refuge for women and children who have been impacted by domestic violence, alongside

CEO Kelly Lamb and the amazing team from Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services in Port Macquarie. The new Core and Cluster refuge, which was funded by the previous Liberal-Nationals Government, delivers on the commitment to improve domestic and family violence support services on the Mid North Coast. The occasion marked a pivotal point in domestic violence support services for women and children that has seen considerable changes since a devoted and committed group of women joined together 44 years ago to establish a temporary refuge in Port Macquarie.

The new Core and Cluster refuge comprises eight pet-friendly self-contained two-bedroom units in a cluster-like community, with access to a large communal space, barbecue area, children's playground and vegetable gardens. The units are all furnished for independent living, incorporating the special significance of connection to culture as referenced in the Aboriginal name Djiyaganbaa. Cultural colours and imagery are woven throughout the site design, with a yarning circle space encapsulating Djiyaganbaa, meaning "sister place" in local Gathang language. This historic opening was held on 28 August and was celebrated discreetly in the presence of service providers and government officials to mark a long-awaited milestone in local domestic and family violence resources and services. The proceedings commenced with a welcome to country by Auntie Rhonda Radley at the yarning circle.

The group then moved into the communal space, where Kelly Lamb shared the journey to the opening day—from hearing the news of the successful grant application to the completion of Djiyaganbaa. I joined Kelly in thanking all those who partnered with the Liberty team throughout the project and expressed my admiration and gratitude to each of the Liberty team members, who not only provided practical support as Djiyaganbaa became a reality but also continued to support victims of domestic and family violence at Galbaan House crisis accommodation. It is so heartwarming to know that more women and children in our local community can now be surrounded by supportive, dedicated and caring people in a safe, inclusive and friendly environment and have hope for a brighter future, filled with possibilities and opportunities.

I recognise and sincerely thank Uncle Wayne Anderson, Angela Martin, Joanne Shipp and Lois Sallustio for their involvement throughout the project. I also recognise State Manager Megan Davidson and Housing Options and Support Manager Rennay Miller from Community Housing Limited; Mid North Coast Police District Crime Manager Detective Inspector Peter O'Reilly; Liberty chair, Catherine Vallentine; Heather Reid from the Department of Communities and Justice; and Stacey Northam from Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services. The Wati room artworks, titled *Women's Connections*, were designed by Lois. Other artworks include beautiful and meaningful pieces in the core support space. I give credit to Angela Marr for designing *Galbaan Wakulda*, the "Women Together as One" artwork, which is an outstanding and welcoming piece that exudes warmth and caring for all. Shamir Megarrity from Harvey Norman and design consultant Suzanne Jones contributed to the furnishings, room layouts, textures and colours, and managed procurements.

It was obvious that an immeasurable amount of thought and effort was devoted to this space by these wonderful women, and I thank them for their time and talents on behalf of Djiyaganbaa. Much gratitude was extended to Michelle Parker, who worked alongside Kelly Lamb from initial submissions in June 2022 and throughout the management phase to the project finish. Kelly Lamb also singled out Compliance and Operations Manager Melanie Eadie from Liberty for her work over so many elements of the project, from procurement, policy-writing, standard operating procedures to risk assessments, and the list goes on. Melanie's attention to detail played a major part from start to finish.

I acknowledge the amazing team members at Djiyaganbaa: Rebecca "Bec" Farvis, Michelle Jordon and Lisa Evans. Bec is the manager of crisis accommodation and Michelle is a domestic violence support worker. Lisa Evans is the artist behind the "One Wave Design" found in the children's playground. Again, this work reflected the passion and dedication to the project. Lastly, I congratulate the executive leadership team, most of which I have largely covered already, apart from the dedicated Jenna Sinclair. Their unwavering support and determination have ensured more accommodation and resources are offered to women and children in crisis. Since 1994 Liberty has operated a five-bedroom communal living refuge in Port Macquarie. As the community has expanded, sadly so have the incidents of domestic and family violence. Today the team at Liberty is managing 42 beds, all fitted out with furniture and supplies for comfort and security to help the women and children heal from the impacts of domestic and family violence.

We must continue to work together as a Parliament, and indeed a community, to reduce and effectively end the scourge and trauma of domestic and family violence so we no longer have to hear the shocking statistics of the loss of our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends. We should all strive to achieve a nation where women and children are free from violence, have equal rights and have the ability and opportunities to be whatever they want to be. I congratulate Liberty again on reaching this important milestone as it continues to do everything possible to support women and families affected by domestic, family violence and homelessness in our local communities.

JAMAL RIFI

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (19:52): Recently I had the pleasure of presenting Dr Jamal Rifi with a NSW Government Community Service Award. As members know, we have the opportunity to present two of those awards, which are also signed by the Premier. I was happy and excited to provide this award to Dr Rifi. I also visited the newly opened Belmore Urgent Care Service, which the doctor is part of. Dr Rifi has been a practising GP in Belmore for over three decades after emigrating from Lebanon. In addition to serving the local community through health care, Dr Rifi's generous nature and desire to give back to society led him to become involved in community work in the areas of youth, family, multiculturalism and community development. He was a founding member of Muslim Doctors Against Violence and the Christian Muslim Friendship Society. He was also a finalist for the NSW Local Hero in the Australian of the Year Awards in 2010, named Father of the Year in 2015 and received a medal of the Order of Australia in 2017.

As the former president of the Lakemba Sports and Recreation Club, he also used sport as a social tool to build bridges between communities. Dr Rifi's leadership in fostering multiculturalism and social cohesion, and all his contributions, make him an enduring compass for our local community. Tonight I also put on record Dr Rifi's enormous contribution, particularly during the pandemic. During the COVID period, I would have spoken about this in the Parliament. Dr Rifi is highly respected in our community—everybody knows him or is a patient of his, or his practice. He assisted our community during COVID. It was a very difficult time because of the lockdown directive from the Government but also due to the lack of resources. Dr Rifi had the initiative to do driveway vaccination at his own clinic. We were successful in getting the support of the Bulldogs to help us and he was able to get additional resources. We worked together in our respective capacities—his, mine and others—to make sure that we had those resources. We were able to do a lot more because of his strong advocacy and by working together across the community.

I also thank Dr Rifi for his practical and strong advocacy in bringing people together and working through sometimes very difficult issues. He is a voice of reason, has an opinion on many things and wants to bring community together. I acknowledge his contribution to our community. He is very deserving of this community service award. Again, I thank him as well as his family and his staff. I thank him for his mentorship of many young people and also for his wisdom, his solidarity and his constant bringing together of the community.

BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:57): I inform the House about an important issue for many across our State: brain cancer awareness. It is very close to my heart, and I am grateful to have the privilege of speaking about it today. As many members can probably attest to, cancer impacts far too many Australians in one way or another. Young or old, it does not discriminate. Most Australians know of someone who has had to face cancer of some kind, whether it is a friend, colleague or family member, or have themselves had to face it. Many in this Chamber would have their own personal stories to share either about their own cancer journey or diagnosis or that of a loved one or friend. My colleague and good friend Matt Cross, the member for Davidson, is currently undergoing treatment for bowel cancer. I know how tough that is for him and his amazing wife, Gessika. I am inspired by his bravery and strength each day. I wish Matt all the very best as he continues the fight. I want him to know that he is not alone in this battle, with his colleagues, friends and family supporting his recovery every step of the way.

With survival rates increasing for many cancers, I believe that only by working together can we put a stop to the disease once and for all. One of the most important aspects is awareness. The more you know, the better off you may be. That is why it is often frightening to know that brain cancer remains one of the biggest killers in Australia today. In fact, according to the Mark Hughes Foundation, brain cancer kills more Australians under 40 than any other cancer. Approximately 2,000 Australians are diagnosed with the horrific disease each year, and only two in every 10 people will go on to survive five years following their diagnosis.

As many members would be aware, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Sadly, brain cancer kills more children than any other disease. Approximately 120 children in Australia are diagnosed with brain cancer each year. For 45 per cent of those children, the disease will be fatal. In my own electorate, Gerry Tye tragically lost his son Talin in 2012 at just six years old. Through enormous loss, Gerry has become an active campaigner and advocate for brain cancer research, treatment and prevention. He serves as a committee member of the Brain Tumour Alliance Australia. We have discussed numerous times what can be done to better support those going through brain cancer in our community. I personally thank Gerry for his tireless efforts to fight the terrible disease.

Currently, the Brain Tumour Alliance Australia is organising an event at Parliament House in Canberra called "Head to the Hill", where an installation of shoes will be created on the Parliament lawns. I have been

encouraging my Federal colleagues to attend the important event, as it serves as a moving representation of those impacted by brain cancer throughout Australia. It is clear that we need to do everything in our power to support those who are impacted by brain cancer. While we have made significant progress in terms of cancer treatment across the board, brain cancer remains an area where we are falling behind. However, I have hope that throughout New South Wales and Australia, important research into brain cancer is being undertaken every day to cure the disease.

Cancer Council NSW is one organisation that funds and conducts its own research and provides support to thousands of individuals and their families. I have had the privilege of working with the Cancer Council over many years. This year, we hosted the thirteenth annual Biggest Morning Tea in my electorate and raised over \$3,200. That vital funding will go towards providing thousands of kids with SunSmart education, supporting calls to trained cancer professionals and it can even fund 26 days of a PhD student's world-class research. I thank Cancer Council NSW for all the work it has done over the years, and I encourage everyone to get involved, either by attending or hosting a morning tea, or becoming a regular donor to support the ongoing work and research.

It is fantastic to hear that support and lobbying groups like the Brain Tumour Alliance Australia are providing resources and practical support to thousands of Australians and their families going through this struggle. Through their work, they have raised thousands of dollars to directly support brain tumour research, creating better outcomes so that future generations will not face the same struggles. While brain cancer may be one of the deadliest forms of cancer, it does not have to stay that way. With increased awareness, more research and better support networks, I believe that change is possible. I will continue to advocate on behalf of my community and people like Gerry to ensure that brain cancer research receives the attention that it deserves. I hope that one day cancer is no longer something to be feared but, instead, something that is preventable, treatable and survivable.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (20:02): I acknowledge the important speech by the member for Oatley about cancer research. As somebody who has been diagnosed with breast cancer—members know my experiences—I will continue to raise the issues around awareness. We need to get that information out, particularly to non-English-speaking communities, and provide access to screening. Rural and regional communities also need access to screening. My best wishes and prayers go to the member for Davidson. I went through chemo. It is really tough and awful, but there is light at the other side. We need to do a lot more when it comes to brain cancer research, and I put my support on the record.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:04 until
Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

INAUGURATION OF NRNA AUSTRALIA'S OFFICE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 13 June I was delighted to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Non-Resident Nepali Association [NRNA] for opening their first office and community space in Merrylands. Over the past 21 years, NRNA Australia has played a pivotal role in promoting and supporting the Nepalese culture, by establishing a network to support the Nepali Diaspora and new arrivals, and promoting and protecting the rights and interests of the Nepalese residing in Australia. Founded in 2003, NRNA Australia is the largest diaspora organisation for the Nepalese community which has evolved to become a non-governmental global organisation, fostering a network for those of Nepali origin across 86 countries through its National Coordination Councils [NCCs]. The inauguration ceremony of NRNA Australia's first office and community space marks a significant step forward in its institutional presence and financial stability. Their new venue located in Merrylands will provide a wonderful opportunity for the Nepalese community and organisations to engage together. The efforts of the NRNA in fostering harmony and connectivity among Nepali diaspora is truly admirable. It was an honour to be part of this inauguration and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact NRNA Australia has on our community. Well done.

BLAKE MINTO

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Toronto based boxer Blake Minto, who recently claimed the WBC Australasia Welterweight title in a thrilling 10-round bout against Steve Gago. The match took place at HBF Stadium in Perth, and despite Steve Gago enjoying the home crowd advantage, Blake, known as "The Beast from the East", clinched victory to bring home the belt with a unanimous points decision win. The match was nothing short of inspiring. Over the course of 10 electrifying

rounds, Blake exhibited not only his technical prowess but also his strategic acumen. Each round was a testament to his relentless work ethic as he faced a formidable opponent with poise and resilience. Blake has truly made his mark in the boxing world, claiming a swathe of titles throughout his professional career including being a two-division world champion, holding the WBF, WBF International, IBO Asia Pacific and New South Wales Super Lightweight titles. His achievements are not just a reflection of his abilities as a boxer, but also of his unwavering dedication to training and his mental resilience. Congratulations on your well-earned triumph.

STEPHEN CRAVEN

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Lake Macquarie has produced another home-grown world champion, Stephen Craven, from Dora Creek. Braving the Arctic Circle's freezing temperatures, Stephen travelled to Rovaniemi, Finland earlier this month to compete in the 2024 Masters Weightlifting IMWA World Championships. I imagine acclimatising to the harsh environment would challenge most people, but not Stephen, who performed like the champion he is. Stephen took a 25 kg lead in the snatch, then moved onto the clean and jerk where he outlifted his closest competitor by 30kg, with a total of 205kgs to win gold for the class. Stephen is the epitome of a comeback king. He originally started weightlifting in 1986, and over the next decade went on to become NSW Champion. He took out the best weightlifter category in a National Country Competition before retiring from the sport in the mid-90s. But Stephen's desire to lift remained, and after a 20-year break, he returned to training and Olympic weightlifting in 2019, this time competing in the Masters division. He is currently the NSW, Australian, Oceania and Commonwealth Champion. Congratulations Stephen on your recent success and a phenomenal weightlifting career.

LOUISE SULLIVAN

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I acknowledge and thank Louise Sullivan for her work as a councillor on Sutherland Shire Council. Louise represented the community since 2021 as a councillor for B ward, which is largely within the Cronulla electorate. Louise's focus on council reflected her passion for preserving the Shire's local identity and access to beaches, parks and natural reserves, and for promoting more career opportunities for residents to work closer to home. As well as being a councillor, Louise has been a hardworking part of the netball community, as grassroots coach, manager, umpire, fan, and netball mum. Until recently she served the game at a state level as a volunteer director of Netball NSW, including five years as chair that saw her help guide the game through the COVID-19 pandemic when netball at all levels was impacted by lockdowns and border closures. Louise also served for 13 years in both the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police and Australian Army Legal Corps, obtaining the rank of Captain, and she is currently supporting veterans and their families as board member and chair of RSL NSW. I recognise Louise's willingness to serve and her enthusiasm for making the Shire a better place.

DAN MICHEL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Cronulla's Dan Michel on winning a silver medal and creating history at the recent Paralympics in Paris. Dan, who was supported by ramp operator Ash Maddern, had a great tournament in the individual boccia BC3 event to become the first Australian to play in a gold medal match in the sport. In front of a huge Australian cheer squad, Dan put up a fight in the final, losing 5-2 to Republic of Korea's Howon Jeong, whom he considers to be the best in the sport. Dan also made it through to the quarter finals of the mixed pairs with fellow individual silver medallist Jamieson Leeson, losing narrowly to the defending Paralympic champions. Having won an individual bronze medal at the Tokyo games, Dan's relentless pursuit of success has been evident to those around him,[1] and it has seen him go one better with silver in Paris. Dan's Paralympic story is inspiring, and I recognise his dedication to performing at a high level and representing Australia with distinction.

MIA TOOHEY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Burraneer's Mia Toohey on her performance for Australia at the 2024 World Under 20 Athletics Championships in Peru last month. Mia was part of what Athletics Australia described as a 'star studded' Australian team and she wore the green and gold in the 3000 metres steeplechase. Mia successfully made it through the heats and finished 13th in the final in a strong international field. Sutherland District Athletics Club says it was an impressive performance by Mia to finish with a personal best time. Athletics Australia says being part of the world championships team is an opportunity for the athletes to learn how to perform with pressure, deal with travel and time change, and maximise their performance on the day it counts. At 18-years-old it is testament to Mia's mental and physical strength, endurance, speed and agility that she has succeeded in the gruelling event where athletes not only negotiate the 3000 metres distance but also 28 fixed barriers and seven water jumps along the way. Mia should be proud of her efforts in Peru and I wish her success as she continues her athletics career.

AMANDA FERGUSON

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, women's rugby has gone from strength-to-strength in the last 20 years and I'm proud to say Orange is the home of one of its pioneers – Amanda Ferguson. In August 2024 'Ferg' took the field for her 250th game for the Emus Club, an amazing achievement that had its foundation in 1997 when she played her first game at Orange High. While she's been a stalwart at club level, her impact on the game can be felt much higher. As a player, 'Ferg' has cut a distinctive path. Locally she's been a pillar of the women's rugby program since its inception in 2001. She has gone on to represent at Central West, NSW Country and national level. But it's her work behind the scenes that sets her apart. She's been a driving force as a coach and administrator, becoming Emus' first female president before going on to manage Australia's national women's side in 2016. She is still in that role. Women have made enormous progress playing what were previously regarded as men's codes, adding vibrancy to sporting landscape across the globe. Without people like Ferg, this wouldn't happen and I thank her for her enormous contribution.

BARNEY ROBSON

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, Canowindra's Barney Robson will tell you he is no hero but after hearing his story, most of us will disagree. In his words, Barney was at the right place at the right time, to save the life of another motorist by pulling her from a wreck moments before it was engulfed in flames. He is now the recipient of a Commendation for Brave Conduct, announced by Governor-General Sam Mostyn in August. A cloud of dust was still in the air when Barney stopped to find Natika Miller unconscious in her vehicle which had rolled and come to rest next to a tree. Unable to open the door and concerned by an empty child restraint, Barney was able to awaken her, ascertain there was no child in the car, and assist her from the vehicle. Urged by other passersby to move clear of the smoking wreck, Barney dragged Natika away before the vehicle exploded. Barney will tell you anyone in that situation would have done the same thing but it takes a special person to put themselves in harm's way to help another and I thank him for his willingness to do just that.

MURRAY THOMAS AND JASON SMITH - POLOCROSSE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate two of my Forbes constituents, Murray Thomas and Jason Smith, on securing an Australian Masters title as members of the NSW team contesting the National Polocrosse Championships. Played at Chinchilla in Queensland, the tournament brought together some of the nation's top riders and the Forbes duo were well and truly in the mix, helping NSW trounce its rivals, culminating with a 36-14 win over Western Australia in the final. Both riders were making their debut at a national event but have come into the sport through different avenues – Murray taking it up after retiring from rugby while Jason's family became involved when he was a junior. The pair ride and train on their Forbes properties but play with Lake George polocrosse club in the Southern Highlands and gained selection in the NSW side after its State of Origin clash against Queensland. As I have mentioned, horsemanship plays a huge part in polocrosse and training their horses to a level of endurance and speed needed for a five-day competition is another component of their success. I congratulate Murray and Jason on becoming national champions.

KOONAWARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Koonawarra Public School where ceremonies replace assemblies and Dharawal is spoken daily. With more than 35 per cent of students at the school identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, deputy principal Brent Pritchard said staff were passionate about their responsibility to make the environment culturally safe. Dharawal language is used by staff wherever possible, including the classes which are all named after Indigenous animals in Dharawal. The school also runs a program, Deadly Dharawals, working with students in small groups aimed at connecting them to culture. The program is open to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I congratulate Koonawarra Public School for this excellent initiative.

NARELLE CLAY AM

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Ms Narelle Clay AM for her amazing work and for being awarded the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award. Narelle is a well-known pillar of the Shellharbour community, who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of disadvantaged youth. This award was assessed on active service and an outstanding commitment to promoting better outcomes for disadvantaged individuals, families, or communities over an extended period. Narelle has a lengthy history of working for those youth in need and it is outstanding that she has been recognized by the ACWA for her work. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Narelle for her wonderful work and her lifetime achievement award.

GREG CROFTS OAM

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Greg Crofts, from Shell Cove, who was awarded The Medal of Order of Australia in the King's Birthday honours, June 2024, for his contribution to the Scouting community. Mr Crofts filled the role of District Commissioner (2004-06) for Shoalhaven and Assistant District Commissioner for Illawarra South (2006-09), Mr Crofts has contributed significantly to the Scouting movement in Sydney before finding his way to Kiama with his wife, Maryee. Initially the group leader, Mr Crofts now sits comfortably as the group's adviser, having rejuvenated not just the membership but the hall as well. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Greg and wish him well in all his future sporting endeavours.

DURAL MUSICAL SOCIETY, THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTE'S

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I wish to record the recent production by the Dural Musical Society, titled, The Marvelous Wonderette's. Dural Memorial Hall was filled with some of the most popular songs from the 1950's and 1960's. The Marvelous Wonderette's tells the story of our girls with big dreams as they navigate friendship, love, and life. The first act featured four girls living in the 1950's. Betty Jean played by Marzia Zaidi, Suzy Simpson played by Maggie Clifton, Cindy Lou played by Renae Swinkles and Missy played by Lucy North. The second act featured the girls now living in the 1960's. Betty Jean played by Suzanne Prabhedesai, Suzy Simpson played by Tara Fletcher, Cindy Lou played by Emma Rose and Missy played by Erica Williams. The production was fantastic and was filled with terrific classic jukebox hits. I acknowledge Directors, Rodrigo Median Noel and William Pulley for bringing together a wonderful cast and for directing such a fun filled entertaining production. I thank the Dural Musical Society President John Nawotka and the entire committee for your commitment to bringing quality musical productions to The Hills. Thank you for all who contributed to the performance.

HILLS WINTER SLEEPOUT, 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—On 16 August 2024, the eleventh annual Hills Winter Sleep Out was held at Bella Vista Farm. This is the second year I have participated in the Sleepout. The Sleepout aims to raise awareness of homelessness arising from factors including domestic violence, financial hardship, and mental illness. This year total funds raised amounted to \$40,000.00. The funds will be used to support people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Reverend Bill Crews spoke of the importance in recognising the homeless community as part of our humanity. We also heard from Chief Inspector Phil Brookes who spoke about homelessness in our local area. Norwest Sunrise Rotary provided the barbeque and the Daily Grind for provided great coffee. I recognise attendees who spent this night: Dr. Michelle Byrne who was one of the original founders of the event, Mici Beer from Hills Community Aid, David Hand from Castle Hill RSL Group, Deputy Mayor Mitchell Blue, and Councillor Jessica Brazier. I thank our wonderful community members who spent the night for your contribution to raise awareness as to homelessness and for raising much needed funds which will be used to support those who are homeless.

BUPA AGED CARE, BAULKHAM HILLS, MULTICULTURAL FOOD FAIR, 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—On 17 August 2024 I was delighted to be able to visit the BUPA Aged Care facility in Baulkham Hills where I fortunate to be able to join with residents to celebrate and enjoy multiculturalism in our community. Bupa's Baulkham Hills Aged Care hosted a Multicultural Food Fair. Bupa residents from Willoughby, North Rocks and Greenacre joined with the Baulkham Hills aged care residents to enjoy wonderful cultural food delights from the sub-continent, dancing and just to simply enjoy each other's company. Bupa's Baulkham Hills Manager, Shane Booth and his wonderful team hosted a wonderful morning for residents, families and the community to enjoy. I also thank Andrew Kincade, Managing Director, Bupa Aged Care, Susan Yao, Regional Manager Bupa Aged Care and Cathy Turton, Corporate Affairs for your attendance and for your support of the Baulkham Hills community. Thank you to the many members of the community who attended to make the morning a wonderful success.

THE MEETING OF THE HON DAVID HARRIS WITH CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 2 July 2024, I had the honour of hosting the Hon David Harris MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Gaming and Racing in my Electorate of Cabramatta at the Cabra-Vale Diggers Club. There were also representatives from Cabra-Vale Diggers Club, St Johns Park Bowling Club, Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club and Mounties. I also had the privilege of presenting Community Recognition Certificates to representatives of our local clubs to acknowledge their remarkable contributions made to my Electorate. Their generosity and support have been pivotal in empowering local community groups to achieve their goals, resulting in positive impacts on many individuals. Additionally, the Minister participated in a Q & A session where he provided updated and relevant information about a number of recent changes. I extend my

heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable contributions and selfless commitment of our local clubs and their leaders in empowering our local communities. I would like to specially thank the Cabra-Vale Diggers Club for their excellent hospitality and support in organising this important event.

THE KAMPUCHEA KROM CULTURAL CENTRE OF NSW INC

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—The Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre of NSW Inc. [KKKCC], located in Cabramatta, was founded by Mr. Sawathey Ek OAM in 1995. At just 26 years old, Mr. Ek established the Centre to address a significant gap in the recognition of Khmer Krom people within the Cambodian community in Sydney. Mr. Ek wanted to create an inclusive space that embraces all Cambodians and promotes Australian values of multiculturalism. The Centre's constitution, drafted nearly 30 years ago by Mr. Ek, highlights its mission to recognize Khmer Krom from South Vietnam. It serves their welfare needs and promotes Cambodian culture, language, and identity. KKKCC has evolved into a crucial cultural hub, serving as a place of worship for Buddhist followers, a Centre for Khmer language education, and a venue for seminars and media broadcasts. It plays a significant role in fostering intercultural dialogue and understanding. I have been informed that in 1998 the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG accepted the role of being a Patron to the Centre. Mr. Ek's vision and work has greatly benefited the communities.

TREASURER'S BONNYRIGG HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 26 March 2024, I had the privilege of meeting with Bonnyrigg High School Principal Ms. Kim Allford and the school's leadership team, alongside NSW Treasurer the Hon Daniel Mookhey and my Parliamentary colleague Ms. Charisma Kaliyanda MP Member for Liverpool, to discuss challenges facing the school. The primary focus of our discussion revolved around addressing the critical need associated with the increasing student enrolment. We were advised that Bonnyrigg High School, with a permanent room capacity for 850 students currently accommodates 1,650 students. Space is supplemented by demountable classrooms. With the adjacent NewLeaf estate redevelopment project underway, enrolment is projected to increase more in the near future. I extend my gratitude to Principal Ms. Kim Allford and the leadership team for raising their concerns. Their dedication and tireless efforts to ensure our local students receive the learning environment they deserve are commendable. I also extend my appreciation to the Treasurer for taking the time to visit my local area and in particular Bonnyrigg High School and engage in the discussion critical to advancing the school. We are all grateful for his ongoing support.

WOMENS SHELTER ARMIDALE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of the Womens Shelter Armidale, which has been providing crisis accommodation for women and children since 1977. The longevity of the organisation comes at the back of providing specialist wrap-around supports and taking a holistic person-centred approach to case management, whilst providing a safe and respectful environment to those in need. I congratulate the organisation not only on their valuable services, but also on their fortitude to extend their accommodation facilities. Special thanks to the many members underpinning this valuable service both past and present, including the current committee members: CEO Penny Lomaro, President Juliet Kaberry; Treasurer Natasha Ross; Embrace Representative Sara McNeall; Board Members Steven Widders, Penelope Paliadelis, Sarah Hunt, Rachel Horton, Kye Single and Armidale Rotary Representative Felicity Jackes. I commend all those involved in the Womens Shelter Armidale, for their hard work and commitment to better the lives of the vulnerable and often disadvantaged members of our community. Special thanks also to the volunteers who give their personal time, as organisations such as this in regional towns cannot function without the ongoing support and commitment their volunteers give.

WALCHA LIONS CLUB CELEBRATING 66 YEARS

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements the Walcha Lions Club who recently celebrated 66 years of helping their community, with this milestone marked at a changeover dinner held recently. The dinner also recognised those Lion members who have served the local community over many years, as well an opportunity to donate to various local community organisations. I congratulate members of the club on their tireless volunteering, having racked up an astounding 939 hours in the last twelve months working at community events. This has included the Walcha Show, Walcha Races, as well as catering and maintaining the Lions Park and during this time raising \$29,900. I commend the Lions Club for their ongoing commitment, hard work and devotion to giving back to the community and upholding the true traditions of the Lions. Lions Club Secretary presented services badges to John Wark – 34 years, Don Scott – 46 years, Denis Makeham – 30 years, Eric O'Keefe - 48 years and Peter Boyd – 29 years. A remarkable effort from such a dedicated group!

URALLA COMMUNITY CO-OP

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Uralla Community Coop for aspiring to improve the sustainability and resilience of our community through recycling and upcycling and over the past 3 years donating over \$55,000 back to the local community. I congratulate all involved in the community project, including past and present board members, with the current committee including: Chair Peter Ellston; Vice chair Tim Robertson; Treasurer Bill Colles; Secretary and Shop Manager Karin Jackson; Membership Secretary Narelle Solomons and Yard Manager Helen Vastenhou. I commend all those involved in this community driven organisation, especially the many volunteers. Organisations such as this in regional towns cannot function without the ongoing support and commitment their volunteers give.

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE ROBOCUP

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—It was a privilege to attend, for the second year in a row, the NSW RoboCup Australia Robotics Competition at Holy Cross College, Ryde on 27 August 2024. RoboCup represents everything that is good about extra-curricular learning. It fosters innovation and creativity, forges new friendships, and importantly, creates opportunities for further learning, development and even potential career opportunities. Watching rival teams play soccer - not with their feet, but with their robots - was extraordinary! In the space of just one year, I have seen the technology advance, and capacity among the young people grow exponentially. I want to acknowledge the leadership of the NSW Committee of RoboCup, particularly; Chair: Karen Binns Vice Chair: Jason Flood Treasurer: Wilson Cheng Secretary: Pam Grover Rescue Line Coordinator: Karen Binns Rescue Maze Coordinator: Cristina Koprinski, David Grant On Stage Coordinator: Melissa Hall Soccer Coordinators: Liam Dunphy, Kris Choy I also commend Holy Cross College for being a willing host, and thank Principal Phillip Stewart for his dedication to our future generations. If your school or child is not yet involved in RoboCup, you are missing out. Congratulations to all involved, and thank you for bringing the future to the present!

COUNCILLOR SHWETA DESHPANDE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Speaker, There are few things that make me prouder than the success of the Ryde Liberal team in the recent local government elections. Diverse, professional and future focused, the team is a reflection of modern Ryde. I want to particularly acknowledge the success of Central Ward Councillor Shweta Deshpande, who was re-elected with an historic margin on 14 September 2024. Having served as Ryde's first Deputy Mayor of south-asian descent, Cr Deshpande is a pharmaceuticals professional, multicultural community leader, and a personal friend who has done so much to advance the cause of Ryde. It was her initiative that drove the Ryde Liberals policy to plant over 2,000 new trees, and I know her advocacy will see our Party and our Council become more accessible to cultural communities right across Ryde and beyond. Cr Deshpande, like so much of the Ryde Liberal team, is thoroughly community based. Their ability to know their neighbours, engage with new audiences, share good ideas and be responsive to community needs is the ultimate recipe for political success. I look forward to working closely with Shweta this term, to make the place I truly love, Ryde, an even better place. Congratulations!

COUNCILLOR JUSTIN LI

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Speaker, There are few things that make me prouder than the success of the Ryde Liberal team in the recent local government elections. Diverse, professional and future focused, the team is a reflection of modern Ryde. I want to particularly acknowledge the success of West Ward Councillor Justin Li, who was re-elected with an historic margin on 14 September 2024. More commonly known as the "Human of Eastwood", Cr Li is a lawyer in his professional life, meme connoisseur online, and a personal friend who has done so much to advance the cause of Ryde. It was his initiative that drove the Ryde Liberals policy for a 24/7 library, and I know his advocacy will see our Party and our Council become more accessible to young people right across Ryde and beyond. Cr Li, like so much of the Ryde Liberal team, is thoroughly community based. Their ability to know their neighbours, engage with new audiences, share good ideas and be responsive to community needs is the ultimate recipe for political success. I look forward to working closely with Justin this term, to make the place I truly love, Ryde, an even better place. Congratulations!

MACMASTERS SLSC GOTCHA4LIFE 24 HOUR ROW

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I'd like to extend a huge congratulations to MacMasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club for an incredible achievement during their Gotcha4Life 24-hour row fundraising event. Raising over \$5,000 is no small feat, and the impact of your efforts will be felt far beyond today. Why did we row? Because every stroke counts in raising funds for Gotcha4Life, an organisation dedicated to building mental fitness and preventing suicide. Each pull on the oar brings us closer to a future where no one must face their darkest moments alone. Tragically 9 Australians are lost to suicide every day, and we all strive for a future where mental fitness is

a priority and suicide is no longer a reality. The funds raised will go towards preventive mental health campaigns and programs to help build more mentally fit communities. These important initiatives build emotional resilience, enable social connectedness, and promote healthy help-seeking behaviours. Thank you to everyone who rowed, supported, and donated. Events such as these build stronger, more connected communities and help to create a future where mental fitness is a priority.

QUICKSAND RUN

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—What a fantastic turnout on Father's Day for the Quicksand Run at Terrigal Beach! It's a privilege to congratulate Pat Farmer, ultramarathon legend, and the Rotary Club of Gosford North for hosting such an inspiring community event. Seeing so many families, friends, and locals come together for a great cause was truly heartwarming. With an amazing lineup of runs – from the 2km Father's Day Family Run to the more challenging 5km and 10km runs, as well as the exciting five-person relay. Every participant played a vital role in making this day a success. All proceeds from the event go to two incredible local organisations – SOKS (Save Our Kids) and the Terrigal Surf Lifesaving Club. SOKS, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Gosford North, has been instrumental in suicide prevention and youth enrichment here on the Central Coast. Over the past 12 years, they've saved over 1,000 lives, trained 6,000 people in suicide prevention, and supported more than 260 young people through their programs. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported this event. Such events do make a lasting difference in our community. Congratulations again to Pat Farmer and the Gosford North Rotary Club!

WRITE AROUND THE MURRAY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge Eleanor Pearson of Table Top, a dedicated school teacher at Trinity Anglican College and mother of two, for the recent launch of her children's book, *Books are not Just for Bedtime*, at this year's Write Around the Murray [WAM] festival. The festival, held from September 11-15 at the Albury Library Museum, was the perfect backdrop for such a meaningful occasion. Mrs Pearson's book draws inspiration from her personal experiences reading to her children, and capturing the joy of reading that extends beyond bedtime routines. This year marked the 18th annual WAM festival, which hosted over 40 events, including engaging workshops tailored to different age groups and talks by acclaimed authors like Kate Grenville and Hazel Edwards. Grenville's latest work, *Restless Dolly Maunday*, was recognized as the Book of the Festival, while Edwards celebrated an impressive 50 years as a published author. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the winners of the Barry Young River of Stories writing competition, whose talents contributed to the festival's rich creative atmosphere and engaged in the celebration of storytelling.

CHRISTINE COMER - RETIREMENT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Christine Comer of Culcairn, who after 36 years of dedicated service, has decided to retire from her role at the Culcairn Multipurpose Service [MPS]. Christine finished her final shift on Friday, September 6, marking the end of a career in which she contributed so much to the community. As the Health share site supervisor, responsible for food and cleaning, Christine ensured the smooth operation of the kitchen and facilities for decades. Throughout Christine's 36 years, she has witnessed many changes, including the construction of the new hospital, and several rebuilds, that resulted in a facility with 28 aged care beds and seven acute beds. To Christine, her workplace became her second family, and her dedication was evident in all that she did. Christine, as you enter the next phase of your life, I thank you for your decades of loyal service to the Culcairn Multipurpose Service and the Culcairn community. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

HUME FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE CLUB VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Jamie Armstrong, of Henty, nominated as the Hume Football League Volunteer of the Year! Jamie, your dedication and many years of service to the Henty Football Netball Club have not gone unnoticed your commitment and contributions to support the club and community are truly appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the remarkable individuals who were nominated for the 2024 Hume Football Netball League Volunteer of the Year: Zac Kerr – Billabong Crows; Karen Freeman – Jindera; Steve Koschitzke – Brock-Burum; Liz Miller – Murray Magpies; Katey Clancy – Osborne; Shelley Schilg – Rand-Walbundrie-Walla; Peter Sheridan – CDHBU; Layton Anschaw – Culcairn; Juanita Kurre – Lockhart; Bruce & Trish Shelley – Howlong; William Cottrell – Holbrook. Your recognition highlights the endless hours of dedication and hard work you contribute behind the scenes, and on game days, ensuring that our beloved country footy and netball clubs continue to thrive.

BECAUSE WE CARE BOUTIQUE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the incredible team at Because We Care Boutique for the fantastic success of their recent annual "Bling It Up" Gala Dinner at Ettalong

Diggers. It was a fun and heartwarming evening, and I am proud to share that over \$13,000 was raised to support the Boutique's amazing work here on the Central Coast. A special acknowledgement goes to Because We Care Central Coast Co-ordinator Sharyn Becker and fundraiser volunteer Vicki de Carle, who worked tirelessly over the past six months to make this event a success. The dedication of the entire team along with the support of the event sponsors and contributors, is truly commendable. Because We Care Boutique does much more than provide clothing. They offer hope, dignity, and confidence to women rebuilding their lives after trauma. Their one-on-one styling sessions for women preparing for job interviews, and their workshops for young ladies, provide not just outfits, but the confidence to take on the next chapter of life with their heads held high. Because We Care Boutique is making a lasting impact on our community. Congratulations again on a wonderful gala and for the tremendous work you do.

SIENNA EDWARDS

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Miss Sienna Edwards, who is a student at St Agnes Catholic High School, located within my electorate, for her recent award for student excellence. Sienna is one of the School Captains at St Agnes Catholic High School, she is a compassionate and humble school leader and has been an active member of the school community. Sienna has shown a great enthusiasm for learning and participating in school activities, she is a founding member of the school's Crochet Club, has contributed to Vinnies Van, Faith in Action and leading assemblies. I would like to congratulate Sienna on this well-deserved award.

BANKSTOWN PHYSIOTHERAPY AND SPORTS INJURY CENTRE – LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of the Bankstown Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Centre, receiving the Outstanding Physiotherapy award at the Local Business Awards 2024. This award represents dedication, excellence and an unwavering commitment to health and wellness in our community. The Bankstown Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Centre provides the best and most up-to-date assessment techniques to develop the best treatment and management plan for each patient. I would like to acknowledge the centre owner, Jim Liakos, for creating an incredible workplace environment where his team has dedicated itself to ensuring all patients from our community are looked after in the best way possible. The centre has become a hub for many individuals in our community who seek rehabilitation from sports injuries or chronic pain and have played an essential role in enhancing the quality of life for countless individuals in Canterbury Bankstown. We acknowledge not only the achievements of Bankstown Physiotherapy but also share in the celebration of the dedicated team and loyal customers. They have created an environment where healing thrives. Congratulations once again on this incredible achievement!

BANKSTOWN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—This winter, Bankstown Community Corrections has generously donated hand-knitted scarves, beanies and blankets to clients of Creating Links, a disability and foster care and family services provider. This act of kindness showcases the ability to support vulnerable individuals in our community and the importance of collaboration in fostering a caring environment. Bankstown Community Corrections' generous donation has significantly benefited the children and families in our community, providing warmth, comfort and a sense of security during challenging times. This donation from Bankstown Community Corrections also highlights the strength of community unity in offering mutual assistance. Their contribution encourages a sense of belonging and care within our community, particularly for vulnerable people such as those with disabilities and children and families in the foster care system. This not only helps the immediate physical needs of these individuals but also promotes social inclusion and emotional well-being. During challenging times, it is uplifting to witness our community come together to lend a helping hand, demonstrating our genuine care for one another. I would once again like to give my heartfelt acknowledgment and thanks to Bankstown Community Corrections for their incredible generosity in times of need.

MANAIA ASSIST

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Kamilla Dave, Director of Manaia Assist, for being honoured as Business Person of the Year by the 2024 Local Business Awards. This prestigious recognition reflects Kamilla's remarkable leadership and dedication to excellence in business and community service. Manaia Assist is an established organisation providing personalised support to individuals with disabilities and their families. They actively work within the community to empower clients to lead fulfilling lives. As the driving force behind Manaia Assist, Kamilla has demonstrated a passion for helping others and setting high standards for service and care. Her work is having a lasting impact,

not only on the clients and families but also on the broader community. This award is a testament to Kamilla's hard work, leadership, and her ability to inspire those around her. It highlights her role as a true leader who continuously strives to make a difference in the lives of others. We are incredibly proud of Kamilla's achievements and grateful for the dedication she brings to Manaia Assist. Congratulations again, Kamilla, on this well-deserved recognition, and here's to continued success.

PCYC ST GEORGE

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 congratulate PCYC St George for their dedication and contributions to our community. St George PCYC run a 'Fit for Life' program that is an intervention program focusing primarily on youth aged 14-19 who are at risk of delinquency and antisocial behaviour. This program is led by local Youth Engagement Officers [YEOs] and PCYC staff, with visits by sporting partners such as the St George Dragons. The program engages youths in various sporting activities, such as basketball, soccer, and football, followed by a nutritious breakfast. The Fit for Life program places a strong emphasis on building resilience and emotional intelligence. Participants in the Fit for Life program are referred through partnerships with local organizations, including NSW Police, schools, PCYC staff, and other community agencies. This collaborative approach ensures the program reaches those who primarily benefit from its offerings, and it strengthens the overall support network available to at-risk youth in the community. The goal of the Fit for Life program is to improve participants' overall well-being, promote healthy lifestyles, and reduce the likelihood of offending behaviours among at-risk youth. PCYC St George hosts a Fit for Life session every Wednesday from 7am-8:20am.

2CONNECT YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

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 congratulate 2Connect Youth & Community on their community dedication and achievements as one of the leading non-profit organisations that empowers young people, families, and communities throughout the Bayside and Sydney, area delivering a holistic approach to address essential community needs. 2Connect is dedicated to building resilient communities and improving the quality of support young people and families in our local community receive. Their service addresses key areas such as mental health, well-being, housing, relationships & family breakdown, alcohol & drugs, educational disengagement, and unemployment. In 2023, 2Connect's youth and employment services engaged & supported over 11,000 community members alone. Thousands of young people and their family members are supported each year through counselling, case management, mobile outreach, mentoring, education support & training, clinical services, in-school well-being programs, workshops, and other community initiatives. At their core, 2connect seeks to create lasting, positive change. Their strategic goals emphasise community collaboration and leadership. They continue to adapt to emerging challenges as they continue growing and responding to the evolving needs of their clients, whilst working closely with local partners and their amazing youth leaders to ensure that more people can achieve positive futures.

MR KEN AINSWORTH

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Mr Ken Ainsworth. Mr Ainsworth has undertaken an amazing voluntary role at the Goulburn Historic Waterworks Museum for the past twenty-five years. His specialist skills and qualifications have given him the ability to oversight the operations of the two steam engines and boiler at the museum. Mr Ainsworth undertook this work at the museum as a community service through his company Ainsworth Engineering, working alongside other volunteers driven by their passion, interest and knowledge of old engines and boilers. It is regrettable that Mr Ainsworth has now had to call time on his work with the museum, where he has provided an incredible legacy of knowledge around the heritage and significant historical importance of the Waterworks Museum. It is with admiration for his skills and leadership that I wish Mr Ainsworth well and thank him for his extraordinary commitment over many years to the continuing operation of the Goulburn Historic Waterworks Museum.

MR RICHARD JAMES KENNEDY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Mr. Richard James Kennedy. From the age of fifteen, Mr. Kennedy demonstrated a deep commitment to community service by joining the St Mary's Catholic Church Youth Council. Throughout his life, Mr. Kennedy has held numerous roles within St Mary's Catholic Church and the Lions Club of Crookwell, where he has served as Public Officer, Secretary, Treasurer, and President. He has also made significant contributions as a Councillor for Crookwell Shire, eventually becoming Deputy President and then President. Additionally, Mr. Kennedy has been an active member and President of the Crookwell Shire Council Tourism Association and served on the Board of Directors of the

Crookwell Frail Aged Association Inc., including a term as Vice Chairman. His unwavering commitment to the Crookwell community has earned several accolades, including a Rotary Service Award, Lion of the Year, and the Australia Day Citizen Award. This year Mr. Kennedy was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division at the King's Birthday Awards in June. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Kennedy on this prestigious award and commend him for his remarkable service to the community.

THE GOULBURN ART AWARD

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise The Goulburn Art Award. The Goulburn Art Award commenced in 1992 and is held bi-annually to recognise the talents of artists working within a hundred and twenty kilometres of Goulburn. The Goulburn Art Gallery hosted this year's Goulburn Art Award exhibition, from May through to June. This year the awards were judged by the National Portrait Gallery Director Bree Pickering, to select the winners of the Goulburn Art Award, Highly Commended and Young Artist Award - open to those young artists between ten and eighteen years of age, with the People's Choice being selected by those visiting the exhibition and casting their votes. The People's Choice winner was announced as the event ended, with the work of Poppy Perry – titled The Tapestry of the Southern Highlands to the Coast taking out the award. Perry's work captures the differing harsh landscapes of Australia and is part of a series of works. Poppy grew up in Goulburn and has been inspired by her local surroundings to create her inspiring artworks. I congratulate all involved.

EMILY GRIFFITHS

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Congratulations to local athlete Emily Griffiths on receiving the Junior Sportstar Award at this year's Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Sportstar Awards Dinner. Emily began her archery journey in 2020, shooting a Compound Bow for Penrith City Archers. In 2023, Emily was selected to represent Australia at the Trans-Tasman Challenge. She has achieved outstanding results at the 2023 Youth National Target Championships, 2023 Youth National Indoor Championships, 2023 Youth NSW Target Championships, NSW Field Championships, and NSW Indoor Championships. In 2024, Emily has already achieved many goals, winning 5 gold medals at the Archery Australia Youth Championships in March and being the second junior female to shoot a perfect 900 score at the Archery Australia Youth Championships. Over the next twelve months, Emily will be focusing on obtaining the scores needed to be eligible for selection to compete in the 2025 Trans-Tasman Challenge and the 2025 Youth World Championships. Congratulations, Emily, on your tremendous efforts; Penrith will be cheering you on as you leave your mark on the archery world.

ETHAN MCGUINNESS

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Congratulations to local athlete Ethan McGuinness on receiving the Senior Sportstar Award at this year's Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Sportstar Awards Dinner. Having started gymnastics 15 years ago, Ethan has represented Australia on the world stage for the past 13 years. After breaking his leg in 2017, Ethan defied the odds, committing to his chosen sport to become the champion tumbler he is today. Ethan currently holds the World Difficult Record for tumbling, having completed the hardest routine in the sport's history. He has since placed 2nd at the 2023 World Cup, 7th at the 2023 World Championships and 4th in the team event. Ethan's efforts have seen him crowned champion in the 2023 National Clubs Championship and 2024 NSW and Australian Championships. Congratulations, Ethan, on your tremendous efforts; Penrith will be cheering you on as you leave your mark on the tumbling world.

WESTFIELD LOCAL HEROES 2024

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Penrith's Elizabeth (Beth) Spanos, Susan (Sue) Bor and Joshua Montillano have been selected as finalists in this year's Westfield Local Heroes community recognition and grants program. Beth's dedication to Penrith Community Kitchen, Sue's advocacy for children in crisis and volunteer work with Kassie's Cases, and Joshua's devotion to the Ted Noffs Foundation make these three stand out for their self-sacrifice, passion and love they have for the Penrith community. Congratulations to all the 2024 Westfield Local Hero nominees from the Penrith electorate, may your generosity, devotion, and kindness inspire others in our community for years to come. Karen Allan, Kinga Anna Grus, Vik Azzopardi, Vanessa Barnes, Emmie Barret, Barbie Bates, Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre, Lana Borg, Kylie Crambrook, Lidya Cah, Leonie Elvin, Beth Ferlazzo, Kristine Gauci, Kate Geddes, Kathryn Hammond, Lucinda Harvey, Mike Hicks, Jane Holmes, Toni Joseph, Dr Kellie Leigh, Rebecca Liu-Brennan, Samantha McKechnie, Corine Morgan, Saraya O'Connell, Mitch Orr, Jason Roberts, Andrew Paech, Julia Parashko, Francis Anthony Portelli, Danielle Radovic, Jason Roberts, Hatem Saba, Kim Scabkib, Gail Searle, Christopher Smith, Elizabeth Spanos, Christine Strachan, Tristan Summerhayes, Hayley Van Duijn, Mark Wildman, Donna Wilson and Michael Woellner. Congratulations to all.

BEAR PIT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Friday 13 September 2024, I hosted the inaugural Bear Pit Public Speaking Competition for the Davidson electorate in the NSW Parliament. The competition was established to provide an opportunity for our best local public speakers in Year 5 to showcase their skills, using the 2024 topic, "how to be a good friend". I recognise participants Kara Armstrong, Maya Gazi, Kingston Hu, Lydia Hwang, Chloe Jeffs, Chloe Jiang, Daniel Kinkade, Vaani Mangat, Ilaria Muratori, Jishaan Paul, Beau Stewart, Rapha Tindall, Amay Watts and Remi Westland for participating in the 2024 competition. I recognise judges Gisele Kapterian, Paul Ritchie and Clement Tsang for judging the 2024 competition. It was a very hard task! I recognise the parents, carers, and teachers for taking the time to invest in the participants and their passion for public speaking. Finally, I note that each and every single speech was extremely well delivered, researched and practiced. Each and every participant has a bright future ahead of them.

OUR BIG KITCHEN- 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 11 September 2024, I attended the Our Big Kitchen [OBK] to mark 9/11 first responders, and to volunteer in the kitchen. The event reflected upon the sacrifices made by and the dedication of our first responders on 9/11 in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as the ongoing work both in Australia and the United States to keep us safe. I recognise first responder agencies that attended the event, NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance, Rural Fire Service NSW, State Emergency Service [SES], Marine Rescue NSW and Volunteer Rescue Association [VRA]. I recognise Rabbi Dr Dovid Slavin and Laya Slavin for their dedication to community service, their work at OBK, and for hosting this important event. I recognise US Consul-General Christine Elder, Member of the Legislative Council Hon Jacqui Munro MLC; and Waverley councillors led by Mayor Cr Paula Masselos for their attendance. Our Big Kitchen was founded in 2005 to prepare meals for people in need across Sydney. In 2023 they distributed over 120,000 meals – an amazing effort. I look forward to visiting OBK again in the near future and to assisting in the volunteer effort!

NORTHERN BEACHES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 21 August, I attended the 2024 Northern Beaches Volunteer of the Year Awards at Dee Why RSL. I recognise all the awardees. I recognise the Volunteer of the Year, David Lye from One Meal Northern Beaches. David's work with One Meal, together with his creation of a community composting partnership that composts two tonnes of organic waste each month for local community gardens, is praiseworthy. These gardens then help provide over 18,000 meals each week for One Meal to distribute to those in need. David also received the Adult Volunteer of the Year award. I recognise the Volunteer Team of the Year, One Meal Northern Beaches Community Cooks, for their inspiring and impactful work that helps deliver food relief directly to people most in need. I recognise the Senior Volunteer of the Year, Glenn Fisher, who's work greatly improves the lives of people living with a disability. Finally, I recognise and thank Gemma Rygate, the CEO of the Centre for Volunteering for helping bring our Northern Beaches community together.

GRANITE BORDERS LANDCARE COMMITTEE FAREWELLS GARY SMITH

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—GRANITE Borders Landcare Committee [GBLC] in its latest newsletter has farewelled one of its Executive Committee members Gary Smith, paying tribute to his local knowledge and production expertise. Gary hails from one of the original cattle families in the Tenterfield district, including being dairy farmers. He is well known for his good stock horses, quiet cattle and good working dogs, all testimony to his stockmanship and bushcraft. He delighted in the presence of native wildlife and healthy ecosystems. As the GBLC's tribute reads, Gary Smith realised his ambition of being an accomplished cattle farmer, but he was so much more. Gary completed an apprenticeship with BHP, qualifying as a mechanic. He went on to be Tenterfield Shire Council's Plant Manager for many years. Committee members say they will miss Gary's ability, his loyalty, his ideas and his knowledge of governance issues. The NSW Rural Fire Service and the Lions Club will also miss his energy as a volunteer. Granite Borders Landcare Committee have wished Gary and Jenny the best for their move to Toowoomba later this year, for health reasons. I too pay tribute to Gary's dedication to community service over many years.

SAVOUR THE TWEED, A TASTE-LED JOURNEY FROM COAST TO VALLEY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I welcome Tweed Shire Council partnering with The Tweed Tourism Company for Australia's newest food and drink event – Savour The Tweed, a taste-led journey from coast to valley. This inaugural five-day celebration of the Tweed's rich gourmet offerings will be held from 30 October to 3 November. Savour The Tweed will feature a program of 20 curated events highlighting the region's local produce and those who bring it to life – First Nations storytellers, chefs, distillers, brewers and baristas, cheesemakers, farmers and other artisan producers. The program is co-curated by Tweed-based chef and

author Christine Manfield and local food advocate Amy Colli, of Straight To The Source, and will feature farm tours, distillery and brewery masterclasses, long table lunches, storytelling, cooking classes and local degustation's. Christine Manfield says the program aims to unearth the distinctive 'terroir' of the region by showcasing locally sourced seasonal produce and native ingredients. Tweed Shire Mayor Cr Chris Cherry says the event, aimed at boosting regional tourism, will provide the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Tweed's incredible fresh food offering. Council had carefully nurtured its agritourism sector over many years, culminating in Savour The Tweed.

MALLANGANEE MEMORIAL HALL CONCERT CELEBRATES PAINT JOB

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—A FREE concert at the Mallanganee Memorial Hall on Sunday, 18 August, celebrated the progress of a long-awaited project to repaint its interior and exterior. Congratulations to Hall Committee Secretary Judith Lovick-Andrews and her fellow committee members who lobbied step-by-step for funding over seven years. With a \$3,000 Community War Memorial Fund grant, Grafton-based heritage consultant Deborah Wray completed a heritage report before progressing to painting. Deborah's heritage report confirmed that the hall, built in 1901, was indeed heritage listed. A further Community War Memorial Fund grant of \$10,000 allowed a local builder to do any repairs and maintenance before painting. In April 2024, Kyogle Council approved State Government funding of \$92,000 for interior and exterior painting, which local painter Mark Britt started in June 2024. The concert, which celebrated completion of the interior paint job, was a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Duo TenorUS had us singing, swaying, with some dancing. Congratulations to Kyogle Council for providing \$3,900 towards the concert and to Australian Red Cross for its \$500 donation. Mallanganee Memorial Hall has been a recognised evacuation centre within the Kyogle Local Government Area for the past five years.

MR ETHAN MCGUINNESS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Mr Ethan McGuinness, who was recently named as the Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Senior Sports Star winner, in recognition of his extraordinary success in tumbling. Ethan first represented Australia back in 2012 at the Indo Pacific Championships and has now represented Australia on more than a dozen occasions at events throughout the world. His tumbling career was almost cut short following a broken leg back in 2017 however he has made a remarkable comeback and is performing better than ever. In 2022 Ethan not only became World Champion and World Cup Champion, but he also broke the World Difficulty Record by completing the hardest routine in history. Ethan now has his eyes set on the 2025 World Cup and next year's World Championships and World Games. I wish Ethan all the best for his future endeavours.

ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I thank and commend the Year 11 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation students from St Clair High School who recently assisted Clairgate Public School in running their athletics carnival. Students included: Ethan Anderson, Ashlee Burns, Zara Dardmal, Carlos Elmaet, Abbie-Rose Gardiner-Wensley, Hendrix Gundy, Leneas La, Savannah Lealaiauloto, Mandlenkhosi Madolo, Lual Majok, Divjot Mallhi, Joshua McGeorge, Brock Northey, Bella Power, Morgan Savill, Cheryl Simi, Ella Vandermeel, Lachlan Wearne and Callum Xia. It is pleasing to note that these high school students were happy to support these younger students and ensure that their carnival was a success. I extend my thanks and acknowledgement to the PD/H/PE Faculty.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—On 18 August each year, a date that marks the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966, we commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day. It is a day for us to give thanks and remember the sacrifices of those almost 60,000 Australians who served during the 10 years of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. This year I was honoured to attend the Annual Commemoration Service held by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, St Marys Outpost Sub-Branch. I thank and commend the Sub-Branch for providing the community the opportunity to pay our respects to those who served our nation in the Vietnam War. Lest We Forget.

ANNUAL LIVING SUSTAINABLY AWARDS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Clarence Valley Council recently hosted their 13th annual Living Sustainably Awards. Initiated by the Climate Change Advisory Committee, the awards recognise contributions from locals working towards sustainability. There are five featured categories. In the education category, students from South Grafton High School, under guidance from Michael Kennedy and HSIE Head Teacher Donna McArthy, were recognised for transforming a corner of Beresford Park, South Grafton into a First Nations educational space. The business award saw The Mudyala Aboriginal Corporation and Share Create

Innovate as joint recipients. Mudyala Aboriginal Corporation assists those up to 25 years of age to navigate education. Share Create Innovate director Gina Lopez has established a ten-year campaign to eliminate plastic bags and promote resource recovery. For the Community category, the award went to the Clarence Catchment Alliance. Led by Shae Fleming and Elizabeth Parker, the group aims to collaborate with policymakers to safeguard the environment. In the individual category, the award went to Peter Turland for his flora restoration work. The Our Backyard award was presented to Lorraine and Terry Watkins, who have set up their entire backyard for sustainable living. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you for your ongoing efforts.

THE HOPE CHEST - CARMELL SANNE

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to acknowledge Ms Carmell Sanne for her 30 years in business at the Hope Chest in Prince Street, Grafton. Ms Sanne has decided now is the time to retire after spending so many years providing a vital and much-loved service to the Clarence Valley. Ms Sanne, along with her staff, have provided a wonderful service over the last 30 years to the ladies of the Clarence Valley and surrounds. Not only will the loss of the diverse product range be missed, but the personal fitting service and professional advice provided, Ms Sanne and staff always on hand for each and every customer, this loss will be of significant impact to the area. Congratulations on your retirement Ms Sanne, you have left your mark, and I wish you all the best in this next phase, your new adventures await.

THE WHISKEY PROJECT GROUP WINS SYDNEY BUSINESS AWARD

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—My congratulations go to The Whiskey Project Group, owners of Yamba Welding and Engineering, who were recently announced as the winner of the Excellence in International Business and Business of the Year at a Gala dinner hosted by Business NSW at Sydney Town Hall for the Sydney Business Awards. It is also worthy to note that the Whiskey Project Group were named the Australian Marine Exporter of the Year in May and are the employers of the NSW Marine Apprentice of the Year, Max Morfett. Established by Bill Collingburn in 1974, Yamba Welding and Engineering was sold in 2021 to co-founders of The Whiskey Project Group, Ryan Carmichael and Darren Schuback. This year they have celebrated 50 years in business. The company employs 40 invaluable staff in Yamba, building specialised high-performance aluminium rescue vessels, which are used locally and internationally. Congratulations on maintaining and growing such a valuable business in the Clarence Valley.

KAY FRASER

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)—I would like to wish a happy retirement to the former Lake Macquarie City Council Mayor, Kay Fraser, and thank her for her great service to the Lake Macquarie community. After an incredible two-decade career on council, including eight years as mayor, Kay closed her final meeting at the end of August. Kay's leadership has been instrumental in the planning for the North West Catalyst Area and the combined \$330 million Black Rock Motor Resort and Cedar Mills projects. Kay's legacy has seen positive changes throughout the community, creating more than 22,000 jobs and supporting more than \$1.2 billion in development applications. I want to congratulate and thank Kay for her leadership, passion, and dedication to the Lake Macquarie community. Enjoy your retirement.

COCOA NIB

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle)—Earlier this month, Junction-based business, Cocoa Nib Artisan Chocolate, were selected to exhibit in the prestigious Fine Food Australia trade show in Melbourne. Founded in 2012, Cocoa Nib Artisan Chocolate crafts unique, high-quality chocolate products, combining traditional techniques with innovative flavours to create exceptional chocolate experiences. I had the pleasure of dropping into Cocoa Nib Artisan Chocolate earlier this month and was blown-away at the care and craft the staff put into every single chocolate. Fine Food Australia is the largest food industry trade show in the southern hemisphere, with over 26,000 visitors yearly. Cocoa Nib was one out of only twelve New South Wales businesses selected to exhibit this year. Congratulations to the whole team at Cocoa Nib Artisan Chocolate on this well-deserved honour and keep the delicious chocolates coming!

HAY YOUTH TASKFORCE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I want to acknowledge the remarkable work of the Hay Youth Taskforce, a dedicated group of young people from Western NSW who are providing a powerful voice within their community. This group designs and leads various activities aimed at promoting inclusion and strengthening community connections while fostering resilience and leadership. One of their standout initiatives, Career Convos, gives young people in Hay a valuable opportunity to hear firsthand from local professionals and former Hay High School students about their career journeys, offering insight and inspiration for their futures. The Taskforce has also facilitated free professional driving lessons, partnering with Deni Driver Training, to provide a crucial service to local students. Recognizing the need for safe spaces where

young people can gather and socialize, the Taskforce successfully secured funding through the Regional Youth Investment Program to make this vision a reality. I commend the Hay Youth Taskforce for their incredible efforts and the significant impact they are making in the lives of young people in Hay. Their dedication to community and youth empowerment is truly inspiring.

STUART CLARKE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to recognize Stuart Clarke, a prolific poet and historian from Griffith, whose works capture the rich history of the district and the remarkable contributions of its community members. A retired farmer, Stuart began writing poetry in 1968, driven by the desire to preserve local stories with accuracy. Each of his works blends meticulous historical research with heartfelt storytelling, honouring the people who have shaped the western Riverina region. In December 2022, Stuart released his fourth book, *Kidman Way Verse*, which includes 23 poems detailing the lives of key figures in the community. His poetry not only pays tribute to the past but also acknowledges the present by featuring the ancestors of many current Griffith residents, creating a meaningful connection across generations. I again want to congratulate Stuart Clarke on his remarkable achievements and for preserving the history of Griffith through his poetry. I look forward to seeing more of his future work and the continued impact his storytelling will have on the community.

CORRIMAL PUBLIC SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I am pleased to inform the house of Corrimal Public School's success in obtaining a grant with NSW Ports to better their social wellbeing program that has been implemented in 2024. Corrimal Public School has been a part of the Illawarra community for over 100 years and has provided a high-quality educational experience to countless students. The NSW Ports reward funding is to help build strong, inclusive, and thriving neighbourhoods across Sydney and the Illawarra region. This funding will go towards the outstanding social skills program that the staff at Corrimal Public School has designed and implemented. This includes the purchase of two new cubby houses that supports social play, friendship building and provides students with an engaging interaction resource. Since the program has been implemented during this school year, the school has seen a rise with attendance rates and student sense of wellbeing. Gaining this grant will allow for more success in the classroom and beyond. It is amazing to see our teachers and support staff are always so committed to enhancing our schools and the student experience. I look forward to seeing how this social skills program evolves.

PAINT LIVERPOOL READ

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—This year, we marked Indigenous Literacy Day on September 4. It is a day to celebrate First Nations stories, culture and languages and sits within Literacy and Numeracy Week. I'm so proud to share that Liverpool had a special opportunity to grow the resources available to support literacy in the Darug language. I joined Go Go the Gecko and Paint Liverpool REaD at the new Liverpool City Council Library – or Yellamundie, which is fittingly the Darug word for 'storyteller' – to launch a brand-new bilingual story book, "Where is Bayagin's brother?" A beautiful book written and illustrated by Leanne Redpath, with Darug translation by Rhiannon Wright, "Where is Bayagin's Brother" is a perfect story for any child aged 0-5. The launch included a reptile display for kids who wanted to make a scaly friend. This fantastic new book will be available in libraries across Liverpool, and will make an enormous difference to Indigenous young people seeing their language and culture represented in our public spaces. I want to acknowledge Mission Australia for their continuing support of child literacy throughout Liverpool. I look forward to continuing to partner with you for the years to come.

LUCIANA CUTELLI

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—While some of us were learning to make sourdough and watching Netflix during the COVID-19 pandemic, 7-year old Luciana Cutelli of Cecil Hills became a published author! I am often struck by the incredible talent of Liverpool's young people, and Luciana is an example of someone who has channelled her energies to creating something extraordinary. I acknowledge the guidance and support of her parents Anthony and Randa and her siblings in helping Luciana find a way to build her skills and resilience. Luciana's book *Zoe is looking for a friend* was written for her teddy bears and the book explores themes such as friendship, adventure, and the important principle of never giving up. I recently joined Luciana and her family at Casula Pre-School for a special reading of her book to preschoolers – and you could hear a pin-drop, that's how engaged they were! Unsurprisingly, Luciana has many talents. A keen soccer player, Luciana was named player of the year for the 2023 Catherine Cannuli Cup tournament. I congratulate Luciana on her achievements and I'm also delighted to inform the House that Luciana has a sequel to *Zoe is looking for a friend* in the works!

ELLEN CREPAZ

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I am delighted to recognise Mrs Ellen Crepaz, who is an absolute dynamo in the area of event organisation, fundraising and food appreciation! For the second time, in August Ellen pulled out all stops to co-ordinate a fantastic foodie event – the Port Macquarie EaTs Soul Savour Festival. Over \$4,500 was raised for local mental health and youth charities with the proceeds shared between Self Seen, Mid North Coast Lifeline and YP Space. Festival goers enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere with live music, auctions, raffles and an array of colourful market stalls that showcased a range of local specialties including wine, indoor plants, delicious food and tourism information and even an ice skating ring for the kids to enjoy. And for those who wanted to learn some secret tips from our local chefs there were even masterclasses showcasing their foodie talents. It is a huge task to co-ordinate an event such as this and certainly not one for the faint hearted. I congratulate and sincerely thank Ellen for bringing a truly wonderful event to the people of Port Macquarie, for showcasing local flavours and supporting local business. Through this event, Ellen has truly 'nourished minds and united hearts through food.'

DANNI-ELLA SULLIVAN – BURRAYDJAR DHALAYIKURR GAMAMBI

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise accomplished artist Danni-ella Sullivan from Hastings Secondary College Westport Campus, whose artwork is featured in the book titled Burraydjar Dhalayikurr Gamambi. Year 7 student Danni-ella Sullivan was recently honoured as one of 39 artists chosen from 180 First Nations people to appear in the Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Project. The book Burraydjar Dhalayikurr Gamambi showcases Danni-ella's beautifully illustrated work featuring Aboriginal art depicting Birpai country land and sky. Danni-ella's work is among stories and illustrations from Worimi, Dhunghutti and Gumbaynggirr nations. To celebrate the achievement, Danni-ella was invited as an honorary guest to attend the official book launch in Coffs Harbour on 10 August. Danni-ella's artwork was on exhibition for the entire month of August. The Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance represents the uniqueness of the Mid North Coast, from saltwater to freshwater, from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Dividing Range. Cultural identity is at the heart of the Alliance's goal for the 11,000 Aboriginal people that call our region home. I congratulate Danni-ella for following her dreams and wish her well for ongoing success.

ISKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise three local fighters who have been invited to compete in the 2024 ISKA World Championships in Austria. The International Sport Kickboxing Association [ISKA] is one of the major international bodies regulating mixed martial arts, all-styles sport karate and all-styles kickboxing matches. ISKA's Martial Arts World Championships are held annually and this year the competition is to be held in Austria. Apparently, for the size of our area, we have some serious talent in the fighting ring. Matthew Bruce has represented Australia previously in the World Championships and so is bringing prior, hard-earned experience to the ring this year. First time competitors accompanying him are Leandro Urbina and Ross Falckh. Local gym Rogue MMA is Port Macquarie's only martial arts gym, so to have this calibre of competitors being trained and prepared for international competition in our town is a testament to the broad skillset and determined commitment of the instructors who practise there. I congratulate Matthew, Leandro and Ross on their achievements. I am in awe of their strength, speed and fitness and sincerely wish them all the best in the upcoming competition.

DELTA AMIDZOVSKI – WORLD ATHLETICS UNDER 20S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the achievements of Delta Amidzovski from Albion Park, who represented Australia at the 2024 World Athletics Under 20s Championships in Lima, Peru. Delta's participation in international event is a testament to her talent and dedication. Competing at such a high level is no small feat, and she has shown her athletic prowess and resilience of young Australian athletes from our community. Our community is incredibly proud of Delta's performance, bringing home a bronze medal in the 100m Hurdles, with a time of 13.22. Delta has also made history, as the first Australian to bring home an individual gold medal from the World Athletics Under 20s Championships, for her effort in the Long Jump. I also want to congratulate Delta's coaches, trainers, and her supportive family for their unwavering encouragement and dedication. Their support has undoubtedly played a vital role in Delta's success. Congratulations again to Delta for representing Australia with excellence at the World Athletics Under 20s Championships. We look forward to watching her continued success and contributions to athletics.

NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS DAY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the efforts of the 35,000 volunteers across Australia who dedicate their time to Meals on Wheels, delivering not just meals, but care and love to those who need it most. These volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities, and their selfless

contributions make a profound impact on the lives of so many. A special mention goes to Joanne North and her selfless team of volunteers at Kiama Meals on Wheels. Joanne and her team embody the spirit of service, going above and beyond to ensure that every meal is delivered with a warm smile and kind words. Their dedication to our community is truly inspiring, and it is volunteers like them who make our country a better place. We recognise the countless volunteers who support Meals on Wheels every day. From those preparing meals to those coordinating deliveries, the dedicated local volunteers who help locals remain in their own home, giving them the opportunity to maintain their independence. Thank you to all involved in this incredible service. Your generosity, compassion, and hard work are deeply appreciated.

RETIREMENT OF KIAMA MAYOR, NEIL REILLY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the service of Kiama Mayor Neil Reilly, who has announced his decision to retire as a Councillor and Mayor of Kiama Municipal Council. Elected to Kiama Council in 2008, and serving multiple terms, Mayor Reilly's journey has been one of dedication. His tenure has been distinguished by numerous achievements that have left an indelible mark on our community. From celebrating the 150th anniversary of Kiama to fighting against the proposed merger of Kiama and Shoalhaven councils—Mayor Reilly's has always held the community's interest at heart. On behalf of our community, I extend our thanks and congratulations to Mayor Neil Reilly for his service. No doubt our community wishes him all the best in future endeavours and hope that his retirement brings him joy and fulfillment, just as his time in public service brought him. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge his wonderful wife Wendy who has served our community alongside Neil. Wendy is a true champion of our community and public health in particular. Thank you, Mayor Reilly and Wendy, for your dedication to our community.

TREASURED VISITS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Wagga Wagga is blessed with many big-hearted people who volunteer their time to help others and occasionally, those generous folk have a four-legged friend to lend a hand – or a paw. Today, I'd like to congratulate Wagga's Anne O'Connor and her faithful friend Ellie May the shih-tzu dog. Anne and Ellie May are regular visitors to the The Forrest Centre aged care facility, where their smiling faces brighten the lives of residents. Modestly, Ms O'Connor says Ellie May is the star, seeking out favourite residents, jumping into laps for pats and generally bringing joy to all there. But of course, it is a dual act, and I'd like to thank Ms O'Connor for sharing Ellie May, and some happiness, with the residents. Ms O'Connor, who has volunteered in the past for Riding for the Disabled, says it is a delight to 'see faces light up' when she and Ellie May visit – sentiments shared by Forrest Centre CEO Evan Robertson who says the pair's contribution is beyond measure. Ms O'Connor was recently named a finalist in the Aged and Community Care Providers Association awards – well-deserved recognition for a much-loved volunteer and her special assistant. Thank you to both!

WAGGA CWA

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Recently, I had the pleasure of joining members of the Wagga Wagga Country Women's Association to celebrate their centenary – a marvelous way to acknowledge 100 years of making a real difference in the lives of women and children. The Wagga CWA branch is one of the state's oldest and has a long legacy of achievement, including assisting in the establishment of our first maternity hospital, Robinson House. Team winner in the NSW-Riverina Volunteer of the Year award in 2016 and 2023, the Wagga branch has also provided wheelchairs and bassinets to Wagga Base Hospital, delivered baby health centres and 'is humbled' to have helped the homeless. With the youngest current member still at school, the branch is a tight-knit group of 25 caring and supportive women in an organisation with a proud past and an exciting future. Their achievements are many, and I congratulate the current executive, President Cheryl Honey, Secretary Joy-Ellen Hilder, Treasurer Carol Grylls and all members past and present. Thank you for doing so much for our city and I'm sure the next 100 years of service will be just as remarkable.

GOLDEN CROWS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Congratulations to this year's winners of the annual Golden Crow awards for excellence in business, with the 2024 Golden Crow Award going to Thomas Bros. The Outstanding Employee award has gone to Michael Peacock of Alan Harris McDonald and Chelsea Cleary of Recess Hospitality Group is 2024's Outstanding Young Business Leader. Annemaree Binger of Centacare Southwest NSW and Brent Castle of the Gardens Wagga are this year's Outstanding Business Leaders. Congratulations also to Centacare and Protech Personnel for their Employer of Choice titles, Zetifi for Excellence in Innovation, The Art Factory for Excellence in Sustainability, PCYC Wagga as Outstanding Community Organisation, Olivette as Outstanding New Business, Thomas Bros for Diversity and Inclusion, Mint Agency for Excellence in Micro Business), Orman Solicitors for Excellence in Small Business, Thomas Bros for Excellence in Large Business, and Protech

Personnel for Excellence in Business Ethics. Last but not least is the People's Choice winner, New Directions Disability Services. Thanks to the Wagga Wagga Business Chamber for its support of the awards and doing so much to help our businesses boom. Congratulations to all - worthy winners and great ambassadors for Wagga's thriving business community.

ST GEORGE DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to recognise the St George District Branch of the Australian Red Cross in its charitable work within my community. As I have often said, I am very grateful to represent a community that has so many incredible organisations that work toward ensuring no one is left behind. It's with great pleasure that I acknowledge and congratulate the St George District Branch of the Australian Red Cross for 110 years of humanitarian support within the community. Founded after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Australian Red Cross has since played a pivotal role in supporting the community and raising funds for life-changing programs. I'd like to thank the president of the St George District Branch, Meg Lawther, for her continued dedication and leadership, as well as all members and volunteers who have generously contributed their time and efforts to encourage a lively community spirit of service in the St George area. I look forward to working alongside the St George District Branch well into the future and hope to accomplish lots more together.

VALE JACK PASSARIS OAM

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to Jack Passaris OAM, who recently passed away at the age of 88. Having known Jack for 15 years, I can confidently say that he was not only an incredible advocate for Multiculturalism, but also a great friend. As a revered leader within the Greek community, his passion was service to the community. This was clear in the way that he conducted himself, both professionally and personally. Jack was a kind-hearted man who made time for everyone. During his professional career, he served as a Councillor on Marrickville Council and also worked with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. He was also Chair of Multicultural Care for 17 years and former president for the Justice for Cyprus organisation. His legacy is truly commendable. During my time as the Minister for Multiculturalism, I had the privilege of working closely with Jack. He was a founding member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales and he continued to serve right up until his passing. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to his wife, Irene, as well as his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

VISIT TO AIR SYDNEY ST GEORGE BRANCH

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to visit the Sydney St George Branch of the Australian Independent Retirees. I would like to acknowledge all the fantastic work they do in our community for local retirees. It was such a privilege to visit their branch meeting and provide an update on important local matters, such as the upgrades to St George Hospital and King Georges Road. I also enjoyed listening to the suggestions of branch members, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience. AIR does some fantastic work in our local community, continuing to lobby for improvements to the quality of aged care, as well as changes to power of attorney and other local, state and national issues that impact retirees. I would also like to thank the executive, including Phill Scott, Pat Hinson, Roger Heather, Hugh McMaster, Rod Lynch, Christine Gash, Neil Birdsall, Robert Curley and Graham Knight. I am so thrilled that individuals such as yourselves devote your time to serve our community. I truly look forward to continuing to work side by side, to deliver the best possible outcomes for retirees in the St George area.

MARYLAND FLETCHER FC 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Established in 1974, Maryland Fletcher Football Club, celebrated its 50th anniversary at a Celebration Ball on Saturday July 27, 2024. The family-oriented club plays at Kurraka Reserve, Fletcher, fielding teams from Under-6s to First Grade and is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of junior football and footballers in nurturing young talent in teamwork, fair play, respect, and sportsmanship, aiming to inspire players to become skilled athletes and compassionate individuals, contributing positively to society. The Club began as Plattsburg Maryland Junior Football Club, starting out at the Col Curran fields in Hope Street, Wallsend and moving in 2015 to their current home, becoming Maryland Fletcher FC. Congratulations to Kelly Case (President), Chris Place (VP), Angela Place (Secretary), Nicole Atkinson (Treasurer), Troy Standen (Registrar), Cherie Reid (Gear Steward), Joan Taylor (Assistant Treasurer), Christy Standen (Assistant Secretary and Social Media Officer), Ben Hughes (Assistant Gear Steward), Committee Members Dimity Bates, James Armstrong, Joel Newton, Raymond Hanna, Robert Banks, Sam Matthews, Paul Dart (CPO), and Scott (MPO). Maryland Fletcher FC remains at the heart of our local community. Happy 50th, Bulldogs!

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – LAMBTON PARK VOLUNTEERS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Clean up Australia Day attracts over 750,000 volunteers across 17,139 sites involving 10,686 community clean-ups in an incredible show of community support and action, and taking some surprising forms like abseiling, kayaking and underwater rubbish collection. For every piece of litter collected, it is one less in our natural surroundings. Soft plastic pieces, cigarette butts, vapes and single-use plastic beverage bottles are amongst the commonly reported items collected by volunteers including the following who were encouraged at the site to report their findings: Merewether HS Leo Club members Julieanne Alquiza, Aninditha Ashok, Milliana Bourke, Arabella Bourke, Shreya Choudhury, Ethan Cromarty, Anjali Dewamitta, Joseph Donn, Farzin Fahmida, Raquel Gorton, Leila Harris, Aliesha Jackson, Hannah Jinumon, Alexander Kim, Charlie Kim, Josephine Ku, Olivia Lukaszewicz, Ishani Mallesara, Rory McMahon, Timothy Meleka, Hien Nguyen, Masoom Patel, Callan Peterson, Eleanor Peterson, Jack Scarborough, Clare Shearman, Sally Stephen, Amira Suanori, Lasya Tatineni, Nazeefah Tahseen, Chloe Tucker, Vanessa Wang. Also, Mark Brooker (organiser), Luis Orlandi, Dianne Orlandi, Jim Shearman, Angela Smith, Richard Smith, Julie Harding, John Harding, Greg Conroy, Odette Tonkin, Luke Tonkin, Paul Warwick and Suzanne Nagy-Warwick. Thankyou!

LAMBTON MECHANICS INSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—On May 21, 2024, at a special National Volunteer Week ceremony, three volunteer managers who have served on the board of Lambton Mechanics Institute for over thirty years were presented with Crown Lands Service Recognition Award certificates for their outstanding contributions – to Kevin Goodwin, Pam Ellen and Ron Robinson (Chair), all long-term local residents with a great love for Lambton. Alison Eaton, who is in her tenth year, also received a presentation for her service on the Board. The Lambton Mechanics Institute, an adult learning centre, was established in 1870 as a place of learning for miners. The existing building was constructed and opened in 1894, and ceased its original function in 1958, remaining under a trust until 1991. In 1992, a new trust was established with Dr Robinson, Ms Ellen and Mr Goodwin among its founding members. These volunteers help preserve Lambton Mechanics Institute's wonderful heritage, to keep it open and functioning as a beautiful meeting space for the community. Remarkably, between them they have contributed 99 years of volunteer service to the board! Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do.

PORT HACKING HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of Port Hacking High School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge the student leadership team for 2025, namely School Captains Samuel Turner and Sophia Rose, Vice Captains Jessop Hartley and Izzy Hayward and Prefects Zara Hawthorn, Nathaniel Timor, Christian Vasilevski and Samuel Walsh. With the guidance of their incredible Principal Rick Turansky, I have every confidence that these dedicated young adults will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify Port Hacking High School's motto that 'to strive is to achieve'.

SYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the incoming student leadership team of Sylvania High School on their appointment. Being democratically elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud. I encourage them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to contribute to their school community and to develop the skills that shape the community and professional leaders of the future. I use this occasion in NSW Parliament to acknowledge the student leadership team for 2025, namely School Captains Luka Pill and Tayla Buttarro Curtis, Vice Captains Maddeline Davis and Kyra Mihailou and the Leadership Team of Dylan Pecotic, Amelie Akkari, Larissa Don, Hamish Morgan, James Karabelas and Karla Sebastiani. With the guidance of their Principal Renée Holz, I have every confidence that these dedicated young adults will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far and be role models to their entire school community. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders as they continue to exemplify Sylvania High School's motto of 'Scholarship, Honour, Service'.

SYLVANIA HEIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Sylvania Heights Football Club on hosting an incredible Under 8s Gala Day on 18 August 2024 at Box Road for our community. Whilst it was a little wild and windy, the Under 8s Gala Day saw talented young football players from 45 teams across 19 clubs competing in 105 games. In order for this impressive schedule to be executed, 29 dedicated referees were on hand. Whilst this

tournament has been going for over 30 years, two new awards were introduced this year, the Robins Cup for boys and the Harris Cup for girls, honouring former presidents Tony Robins and Jeanette Harris, both of whom have dedicated many years of service to the Club. It is the hardworking volunteers from Sylvania Heights Football Club that make this annual event possible for our community. I recognise Committee members Steve Stavropoulos, David Crisp, Matt Hughes, Brenton Kemp, Helen Plakias, Angie Gallo, Michael Barker, Taghrid Kandil, Chris Plakias, George Mihailou, Troy Davis, Kim Crisp, Rachel Jordan, Clint Watling, Jason McGregor, and Rachel Bliss for their efforts. I thank the volunteers at Sylvania Heights Football Club for encouraging a love of football in our local community.

JILLIAN MCTAGGERT

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Sport plays a vital role in bringing communities together, and few embody this spirit better than Jillian McTaggart at South Cardiff Community Football Club. As the Member Protection Information Officer, Jillian's impact goes far beyond her official duties. She goes above and beyond to coordinate team kits, referees, and game leaders, all while bringing joy and enthusiasm to every task. Her tireless efforts ensure that players feel supported and cared for, fostering a positive environment both on and off the field. Jillian's mentorship, combined with her coordination of end-of-season gifts and presentation ceremonies, has made her an irreplaceable part of the club. Parents of the club often express their gratitude, saying they would be lost without everything she does for the club. Jillian's unwavering commitment to South Cardiff Community Football Club exemplifies the dedication and selflessness that strengthens our local communities. On behalf everyone at the South Cardiff Community Football Club, I thank Jillian for her outstanding service and leadership.

NEW LAMBTON JUNIOR ARNETTS FC

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Arnetts FC is an all-abilities team associated with New Lambton FC Juniors, and in July was recognised by Northern NSW Football as Team of the Month. Encompassing players with a diverse range of abilities, Arnetts FC is led by Emma Martyn, who has been running the All-Abilities Program at Lambton FC for three years. The program gives children from different abilities a supportive environment to be involved in football. Disabilities-specific, the program is a place for school-aged students to have a go and achieve their personal best on the football pitch. Skill development is a key feature of the program, and it comes in its own time. Excellent teamwork, great skills and genuine joy are seen whenever Arnetts FC plays, with the team known to be encouraging and supportive of one another. This comes down to positive culture curated by the volunteer parents and coaches, and New Lambton FC's commitment to inclusivity and diverse. I am so please that this ensures each player's contribution is greatly valued. Congratulations to all those involved in Arnetts FC for this fantastic and well-deserved recognition.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I'm thrilled to recognise the outstanding recipients of the 2024 Indigenous scholarships announced by the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle during their annual breakfast. These scholarships, made possible by the generosity of community donors, provide vital support for Indigenous students pursuing higher education and are a powerful investment in their future success. This year, 48 students were honoured, and I'd like to highlight a few: Tahlie Grace Park, awarded the MacRae Neales Shaping Futures Scholarship for Indigenous Medical Students; Tahlia Louise West, recipient of the Port of Newcastle Indigenous STEM Scholarship; Noah Bondi Smith, recognised with the Squadron Energy Indigenous Shaping Futures Scholarship in STEM and Finance; and Grace Beddow, who received the We Care NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Psychology Scholarship. These scholarships are more than financial aid—they're a symbol of community support, enabling students to thrive in their fields and make a lasting impact. Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you to the donors who continue to empower our future leaders.

KEMPSEY MACLEAY RSL CLUB SPORTSPERSON OF THE MONTH

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Rising surfing star, Chelsea Darling, has been named the Kempsey Macleay RSL Club Sportsperson of the month for August. It's a great testament to the exceptional talent emerging in our area. At just 15 years old, the young athlete has made waves in the surfing world, recently finishing 4th in the Under-16 girl's division at the State Surfing Championships. Her remarkable performance has earned her a well-deserved spot on Team NSW, where she will continue to train and refine her abilities in preparation for the National Junior Championships in November. But Chelsea's achievements don't stop there. She also demonstrated her determination by competing in the Australian Surfing Championships at Port Macquarie, bravely taking on the open women's division. Competing against more experienced athletes, Chelsea's performance was nothing

short of impressive, proving her readiness to challenge herself and rise to the occasion. Congratulations, Chelsea! Your hard work and passion for surfing are evident in everything you achieve. I'm excited to follow your journey as you continue to reach new heights in your surfing career.

28 YEAR DROUGHT BROKEN

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—In a heart-stirring finale that will be remembered for generations, the Nambucca Roosters have ended the longest drought in Group 2 rugby league history. After 28 years the Roosters soared to victory in a thrilling grand final clash against the Woolgoolga Seahorses. For the first time since 1996, the Roosters took to the field on grand final day, driven by the goal of reclaiming the trophy that had eluded them for nearly three decades. The players were not only playing for themselves but also for a community that had eagerly awaited this moment. This was more than just a win, particularly for the 4 sons of three Nambucca legends who last lifted the grand final trophy back in 1996. These young men carried the weight of their fathers' legacy, stepping onto the field with a profound sense of history and responsibility. Their efforts, alongside those of their teammates, made the victory even more emotional. As the final whistle blew, the sound of triumph echoed through Nambucca Valley. The Roosters had fought to win 31-12, etching their own chapter in history.

AUSCYCLING NSW GRAVITY ENDURO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—It is with great pride and admiration that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bellingen High School's remarkable athletes, Jesse and Mitchel who recently competed in the Auscycling NSW Gravity Enduro State Championships at Mt Borah. In the face of incredibly tough, hot, and dry conditions, these two young mountain bikers demonstrated extraordinary skill and determination. Jesse's achievement of winning all four stages and securing the Under 19s State Champion title is a testament to his exceptional talent and relentless dedication. It's clear that his hard work has paid off in a truly spectacular way. Mitchel, too, showcased his impressive abilities, earning the runner-up spot in the Under 15s category. His performance at such a young age is truly commendable and speaks volumes about his potential and commitment. Both Jesse and Mitchel have made our community immensely proud. Congratulations to these exceptional young athletes! Your accomplishments are a powerful representation of the remarkable talent and potential we have right here in our community. Your success inspires us all and sets a shining example. Continue to chase your dreams and reach new heights!

NURSE PRACTITIONER RECOGNISED WITH DEAN'S AWARD

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Prue Duncan has received the Dean's Award from the Queensland University of Technology for outstanding results in her first Semester as she studies for a Masters of Nurse Practitioner. She is a Rural Generalist Transitional Nurse Practitioner whose nursing career started at Gundagai's Multi-Purpose Service Centre as a Graduate Nurse in 2015. It was there she fell in love with rural nursing and, with her can do attitude, the support of her peers and assistance from her GP Mentor she is confident that she can achieve the goals she has set. In 2022 Prue took maternity leave for the birth of her daughter and with a desire to return to her hometown of Junee she was successful with her application for the role of Traditional Nurse Practitioner which has guided her decision to obtain her Masters. Our rural communities are fortunate to have such skilled workers within our community and I commend Prue's determination and commitment to personally achieve and by doing so benefit our rural community.

ACT OF BRAVERY RECOGNISED

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—On May 30th 2021 at around 10.30am Canowindra's Barney Robson, was travelling to Cowra when he witnessed a terrible vehicle accident, a young driver hit a culvert, rolled several times before coming to rest facing backward on the road. Mr Robson initially administered first Aid, but when he became aware that the vehicles engine was smoking and burst into flames, with no concern for his own safety he dragged the young driver from the car, moments before it was engulfed in flames. The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise acts of bravery where people selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others. Mr Robson was among the 41 recipients of the Australian Bravery Decoration, announced by Her Excellency Ms Sam Mostyn AC. These awards are a tribute to those who, without hesitation, place themselves in danger to save others or protect their community. Each story shared was a powerful reminder of the human spirit's capacity for selflessness and courage. This story and those like it serve as a poignant reminder that bravery comes in many forms and that those who exhibit it deserve recognition and gratitude.

TEMORA'S VOLUNTEER TREASURER RECOGNISED

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—At a remarkable 80 years of age, Garry Cocks of Temora is a shining example of dedication and commitment. As the Voluntary Treasurer of the Temora Showground Trust, he not only manages the financial aspects but also chairs all bi-monthly Board meetings, proving that age is just a number when it comes to serving the community. I have often driven past the Temora Showground and seen

Garry hard at work on the tractor or ride on mower, ensuring the grounds are maintained and kept in top condition for users to enjoy. Temora Showground, like many showgrounds across regional NSW, provides a place for visitors to set up for the night as they visit the town or travel through. Garry's hard work as the Voluntary Groundsman is always recognised by travellers, with around 15 caravans each night setting up. It is wonderful to see Garry nominated for the Riverina Senior Volunteer of the Year Award for his ongoing commitment to volunteering. Garry, your selfless dedication, and countless hours of hard work do not go unnoticed. We are truly grateful for everything you do, making the Temora Showground a better place for everyone.

BEAR PIT 2024

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, the suggestion that students are loose in a bear pit could raise serious concerns, but when the 'Bear Pit' is this very Chamber and the students are competing in my annual Bear Pit Speaking Competition, alarm can readily turn to admiration. On Monday, students from thirteen primary Schools from my electorate of Manly delivered speeches on 'Life Through a Dog's Eyes', 'The One Thing I Know About Eating Healthy Foods' and 'Interesting Reasons Why We Laugh'. This year's 'Bear Pit' was the 15th overall, after it was initially hosted by former Member for Manly and Premier, Mike Baird. The event provides students with a wonderful opportunity to promote their public speaking skills. Judges this year included the President of the 'Other Place', the Hon Ben Franklin and I thank him, and the other judges, for their generosity of time. I would also like to acknowledge the parents from each school, along with the Parliament of NSW for making the event possible and for giving the participating students a taste of public speaking in Australia's oldest Parliament. Lastly, a big congratulations to all the students involved, and especially to this year's winners, Georgia and Eli.

18 YEARS OF AIDE DE MD

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate the team at Aide de MD on celebrating eighteen years of partnering with and mentoring business leaders across various industries to achieve their goals. Based in Manly and helmed by local powerhouse Charlotte Rimmer, Aide de MD has been delivering targeted executive coaching and guidance for over fifteen years locally, regionally and internationally. Aide de MD has a proven track record of working with businesses to implement tailored and effective management programs and frameworks on accountability, leadership and management to enhance productivity and drive professional and cultural growth. Offering one-on-one coaching sessions, team workshops and a range of mentoring programs, Aide de MD has built itself into a results-driven, reputable business boasting a team of passionate and experienced professionals. I congratulate Charlotte and the entire team at Aide de MD on this wonderful milestone and wish them every success for the years ahead!

FRIENDS OF IVANHOE PARK BOTANIC GARDEN AGM 2024

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Speaker, I would like to ask that this House recognise and congratulate a wonderful community group in my electorate, the Friends of Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden, who hosted their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 11th September. Comprising passionate and active members of the Manly community, since 2018 this group has continually dedicated its time and efforts to enhance the protection, sustainability, and natural beauty of one of Manly's oldest parks and best kept secrets. This year's AGM was a fantastic opportunity to engage in important and constructive discussions about the strategic objectives of the group to ensure that Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden remains both a thriving ecosystem and public space to be enjoyed by all. I am proud to be the Patron of the Friends of Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden, and I pass on my sincere thanks to all involved for their continued stewardship of this historic site.

DAVID GOLDNEY AM

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—The wider Bathurst community would be saddened to learn of the passing of one of its favourite sons, David Goldney AM. Best known as being an outspoken and influential figure when it came to the local environment and education sector, Mr Goldney always stood up for issues that he believed and was rewarded for his contribution to the region, receiving an Order of Australia (AM) in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours. He received that accolade for: "significant service to tertiary education in the field of environmental science" which included decades as a lecturer at Charles Sturt University, work with Cenwest Environmental Services and involvement with the Save the Bush Toolkit in the late 1990s and the Cox's Road Dreaming Guide Book. Mr Goldney was regarded as a progressive thinker and played a key role in the preservation of wildlife which would have otherwise been destroyed, earning a reputation as one of Australia's most notable ecologists. The community of Bathurst extends its heartfelt thanks for the legacy David Goldney has left behind and our community is a far better place thanks to his work since moving her from Adelaide in 1972.

COLIN HUMPHRIES

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Colin Humphries, described as a legendary figure of Bathurst, Perthville and Georges Plains, recently died after a long 29-year fight against a rare form of cancer, leaving behind wife

Louise and daughter Amy. Mr Humphries was a leading light in the Scouting movement, going from being a member of the First West Bathurst Scout Troupe in 1970 before going on to receive his Queen's Scout Award. Eventually, he became a Scout leader, then a district Scout leader, a regional Commissioner and regional leader. His love of community also led him to 20 years as a member of the NSW State Emergency Service, where his knowledge of the village in which he lived, Perthville, proved to be a great asset. Mr Humphries also joined the Perthville Development Group, where he was instrumental in the development and construction of the Community Hall. But it was for the Perthville/Georges Plains Rural Fire Service that his passion for community really shone. He joined in the Brigade in 1985 where he remained a member for 39 years, holding positions including training officer, president, deputy captain, and finally the role of Captain, which he held for 25 years. Vale Colin Humphries.

JUSTIN SUTTON

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement is to acknowledge Justin Sutton and his family's effort to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation. Justin has canvased local businesses and community groups in the Bathurst area to don a jersey on 30th August for a great cause. Jersey Day is an annual event where schools and workplaces are encouraged to wear their favourite sporting jersey and begin the conversation with their family and friends about the importance of becoming an organ and tissue donor. Justin and his family are acutely aware of the impact an organ donor can have when their own daughter passed away at just five years old on Jersey Day in 2023. She became an organ donor herself and helped saved multiple lives. It is inspirational to see this family channel their grief into something good that will benefit the wider community. Organ and tissue donors bring hope and new life to some of our sickest friends and family, and you never know who will need a transplant in their lifetime. Congratulations to Justin and his family for passionately raising awareness of such a meaningful and important cause.

NAREMBURN VILLAGE STREETSCAPE UPGRADE OPENING

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was delighted to be a guest at the official opening of the Naremburn Village Streetscape upgrade on Saturday 10 August. It was very gratifying to see this project finally finished, opened and so well utilised by our community. This is a much-loved local village and is now even more inviting with greater seating, safety and public amenities. I would like to thank the many local small businesses including Flat Rock Brew Café, Forsyth Coffee, Cornucopia Bakery as well as the Naremburn Progress Association, who all worked together during the upgrade to support local business. The opening festivities featured live music, facepainting and popular offerings of beer thanks to Karl from the Flat Rock Brew Café. Together with Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor, it was terrific to see many local councillors and residents all coming together. The upgrade to Naremburn Village was made possible by funding secured by Willoughby City Council and the former Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, whom I thank for their support. This upgraded streetscape is an adornment to Naremburn of which our community can be very proud.

LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS, NORTH SYDNEY LEAGUES CLUB

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was honoured to be a guest at the Local Business Awards Night at North Sydney Leagues Club on Tuesday 13 August to celebrate the contributions of local businesses in the North Shore. It was an occasion to acknowledge and give thanks to our local businesses for their hard work and contribution to our local community. It was also an opportunity for these businesses to celebrate their success and achievements. As with previous years, the award-winning businesses included an eclectic mix of cafes, restaurants, real estate agents, beauty salons, bakeries, gyms, jewellers, pharmacies and many more. The presentation of the awards was accompanied by a three-course banquet dinner and top-class entertainment. I warmly congratulate all finalists and commend them for their contributions to the community – they are all winners! As Shadow Minister for Small Business, I will continue to be a voice for the interests of the many small businesses that are the lifeblood of our community.

ARTARMON MAESTROS PRESENTATION NIGHT

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—It was a joy for me to return to the Artarmon Maestros Cricket Club to help out with their presentation night on Friday 16 August at the Great Northern Hotel in Chatswood. I was delighted to see the players recognised with awards for their cricketing ability, sportsmanship and team spirit. I was also honoured to be presented with the blue team cap. Founded in 2021, Artarmon Maestros is a thriving local cricket club that is going from strength to strength thanks to its wonderful culture, dedicated leadership and strong sense of camaraderie. I pay tribute to President Kalyan Gaddiraju for his leadership of the club, as well as the Secretary, Yogesh Gunaji, and the Treasurer, Vikas Chaudhary. Your dedication and service has helped make Artarmon Maestros the remarkable cricket club that it is. I very much look forward to following Artarmon Maestros through their next season of cricket.

EMILY SUTCLIFFE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Emily Sutcliffe on being named a St Johns Dubbo Junior Rugby League Football Club Life Member. On Saturday 3 August 2024 Emily was named the club's twenty third life member. Emily is an extremely passionate and dedicated volunteer of the club, putting her heart and soul into ensuring rugby league experiences are available and accessible for the local youth. Since 2013, Emily has worked tirelessly in various positions including St Johns Club Secretary and Dubbo District Secretary ensuring that the Club, District and Representative programs are administered efficiently. Without people like Emily and her genuine commitment and passion, clubs don't run, and children would miss out on fabulous opportunities. Being awarded Life Membership is an incredible honour, but for Emily this has extra special meaning and significance as her late father, John Cook, was also a life member of the club making them the first father/daughter life members. Thank you for all you do and continue to do Emily, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

JACOB HARDIE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Jacob Hardie of the Narromine Gorillas Rugby Union Club who was awarded the Travia Player of the Year Award following the New Holland Agricultural Cup Grand Final on Saturday 24 August 2024. The Player of the Year Award is determined by the referee's Best & Fairest votes each week. Whilst the Gorilla's were not successful in getting the win on grand final day, they have had an outstanding season led by Jacob. Jacob, who plays in the position of five-eighth for the Gorilla's first grade team, was an outstanding leader within the team and the club during the 2024 season. He was also responsible for one of the sides three tries in the grand final decider. Congratulations on being awarded this honour Jacob. You can be very proud of not only this achievement, but your teams' efforts over the duration of the season and the grand final game. I have no doubt that the Gorillas will be back bigger and better in 2025!

MEG MCCLOUD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Meg McCloud who was recently awarded the AFL NSW/ACT Community Media Award. Meg, who is a member of the Dubbo Demons AFL Club has a reputation for totally transforming the club's social media. The high calibre of content that she has created and shared has been a massive asset to the club, raising their club profile, their goals and commitment to inclusivity with rounds such as indigenous and pride. Her engaging content has been shared by accounts such as AFL Central West and AFL NSW/ACT. Meg's commitment to the club is unwavering. She does all the socials in her own time and prior to games. As a player she is often doing socials in her own pre-game warm up time to help and support the club! Meg's social media talent is not only limited to the Demon's, but she also does the content creation for their sponsor You Galah as well! Congratulations on being recognised for all you do for the club Meg. You certainly are an asset to the Dubbo Demons!

BILL WILKIN

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Coonabarabran resident Bill Wilkin celebrated his 100th Birthday in March this year. What makes this a remarkable milestone, is that, to this very day, Bill plays golf every week at the Coonabarabran Golf Course. With his most recent success of a hole in one. Bill is the oldest active Golfer in Australia today on record, and quite possibly the world. Throughout World War II, Bill enlisted in the Airforce as a mechanic and ended up as a dispatch rider. During this time, he met his future wife, where they moved from South Australia to Coonabarabran to pursue his passion in agriculture, along with their children. I would like to congratulate Bill on reaching the ripe age of 100 and still being able to enjoy a game of golf.

JACOB DEWBERRY

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Jacob Dewberry is employed with Essential Energy, working in Walgett. Recently Jacob was recognised for his outstanding efforts in the 2024 Essential Energy annual Apprentice and Trainee Graduation. Jacob was awarded the Peer Excellence Award. The awards recognise apprentices and trainees who have been outstanding in all aspects of their training and have consistently demonstrated Essential Energy's core values. I want to Congratulate you, Jacob, on receiving this award. Putting in the extra effort goes a long way, and being a role model for your peers has clearly been noticed, earning you a much-deserved award.

BERNADETTE NICHOLSON

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Bernadette Nicholson on her recent election as the new President of the Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast Branch. The six clubs within this branch proudly patrol a vital stretch of coastline within the Myall Lakes, covering nearly 135 kilometres from Crowdy Head to Seal Rocks. Bernadette's extensive involvement with Surf Life Saving started 22 years ago when

her children enrolled in the Nipper program at Black Head. Since then, she has taken on numerous roles at Black Head including Nipper Age Manager, Registrar, social committee, Director of Life Saving and Registrar. At the branch level, she has contributed as the Assistant Director of Education and served as a Senior Official at prominent carnivals such as the Weekend of Surf in Forster. I congratulate Bernadette whose leadership will undoubtedly continue to improve our local life-saving community. I also wish to congratulate all newly elected members of the branch executive. Together, they all play an important role in ensuring the safety and of our coastline.

ELLA MCDONALD

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to congratulate 12-year-old Ella McDonald from Hallidays Point on her impressive sporting achievements. Ella, who earned silver in the high jump at last year's national All Schools Athletics Championship, has now been selected for the NSW Primary School Netball team to compete in the Australian Championships in Melbourne. Ella secured her spot after representing the Hunter team at the state titles, and she will play her preferred position as goalkeeper/goal defence. NSW is expected to be a strong contender in the championships. Though netball is a growing area of success, athletics remains Ella's focus. She hopes to qualify again for the national All Schools in high jump and improve her personal best of 1.54m. I wish Ella every success in Melbourne and in all her future pursuits, both on the netball court and in athletics.

NATHAN DE ROOY AND REECE DODDS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Nathan De Rooy and Reece Dodds, who won the Rescue of the Year Award at the 2023-2024 SLSNSW Awards of Excellence. The successful nomination for this award by the Lower North Coast SLS Branch resulted from a rescue on March 13, when a group of friends were jumping off rocks at the southern headland of One Mile Beach at around 6pm. A 17-year-old boy became unable to get back out of the water and emergency services were called. Following an emergency callout, Nathan and Reece launched an inflatable rescue boat from Cape Hawke SLSC. The crew got to the boy just after 7.30pm, where Reece left the IRB, took two rescue tubes and swam to the boy. Due to worsening surf conditions and increasing darkness, it was not possible to return to the IRB. The two clambered onto a rocky outcrop and a rescue helicopter then assisted. This was not completed until 9pm. I commend Nathan and Reece on their commitment to Surf Life Saving, their combined actions ensured a young life was saved, congratulations on your well-deserved recognition.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY 2024

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker I recently joined with Merchant Navy veterans and community members to commemorate Merchant Navy Day. Merchant Navy Day is held on the 3rd September each year and serves as a day to remember those of the Australian Merchant Navy who gave their lives for their country. The 3rd September is also the anniversary of the first attack on an Allied merchant ship in the Second World War, only hours after Britain declared war on Germany. This year's commemorative service was another beautiful tribute to the lives lost and those veterans who remain from Australia's Merchant Navy. I congratulate Don Kennedy OAM, who received the Congressional Medal of Honour for his Merchant Marine Service in WWII, presented by the US Consul General in Australia, Christine Elder. An outstanding achievement. I want to thank all those who participated on the day; Forestville RSL Sub-Branch President Bob Lunnon, Merchant Navy Chapter Coordinator Merril Barker, John Balfour OAM, JP, Secretary Vincent Williams CSC, Steve Vella, Mayor Cr Corrigan, and the school captains of Mosman High School. They will be remembered for ever more. Let us not forget.

MOSMAN ART PRIZE 2024

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker For more than seventy years, the Mosman Art Prize has been coveted by talented and aspiring artists and this year has been no different. I want to congratulate this year's winner, Gemma Smith, for her inspired abstract piece Pollen Prism, which will now become a valuable addition to the prestigious Mosman Art Collection. The Mosman Art Collection is an impressive archive of Australian painting since 1947, forming a time capsule of our country's artistic culture and talent over the years. I want to congratulate all finalists selected for the exhibition, in particular Khaled Sabsabi, winner of the Margaret Olley Commendation Award, Nick Santoro, winner of the Alan Gamble Award, and Jacque Meng, winner of the Guy Warren Emerging Artist Award. I congratulate Gemma on a well-deserved prize, and I recognise the complexity and emotional sophistication of her piece. I want to acknowledge the time and effort that is poured into this competition each year, from judges, gallery staff and all the finalists, whose works are truly amazing. Congratulations to all involved and I look forward to the incredible art that next year will bring.

KRISTY WALES' BREAST CANCER STORY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer in Australia and the most common cancer among women. 58 Australians are diagnosed with breast cancer every day. 1 in 7 women and 1 in 550 men are diagnosed with breast cancer within their lifetime. In honour of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I want to recognise the success story of North Sydney local, Kristy Wales, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at just 26. Kristy managed to turn the devastation of her diagnosis into something sweet through the art of baking, and now brings so much joy to others. During her chemotherapy treatment amid Covid lockdowns, Kristy discovered a hidden talent as a baker. Now, Kristy spreads the love by fulfilling three to four cake orders each week, juggling baking with her full-time job in digital marketing. Kristy is now an active member of Cancer Chicks, a national charity for young women impacted by Cancer. She also danced at the Cancer Council Stars of the North fundraiser, which raised \$200,000. Kristy is now cancer free and thriving, and I hope her baking continues to be a success.

SLOW FOOD 8TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Slow Food Hunter Valley on the recent celebration of their 8th anniversary. To celebrate the anniversary occasion a 4-tier Chioggia beetroot cake was made by their food rescue kitchen, it was a triumph. Congratulations to Amorelle Dempster and the hardworking committee for organising the celebration. The groups were also recently visited by Her Excellency the Governor of NSW Margaret Beazley AC KC on her four-day visit to the Hunter Valley. A meal was prepared from salvaged food and I, along with Her Excellency, assisted in the kitchen with the amazing volunteers. Slow Food Hunter Valley has initiated programs including Earth Markets twice a month in Maitland, and the Food Rescue Kitchen Project taking potentially waste food and preparing and distributing 250 healthy meals per week to vulnerable residents. The groups donate over 5000 hours to feed the local community each year. They raised over \$5000 for a Bee Recovery and Pollination Support program following the varroa mite infestation. And in collaboration with Maitland Libraries, they have created a seed library and collection service for Maitland gardeners and growers. Congratulations to Slow Food Hunter Valley.

MAITLAND SAINTS JUNIOR AFL CLUB

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to the Maitland Saints Junior AFL Club on their recent success AFL Hunter Central Coast Juniors Competition Grand finals. Five Maitland teams made the grand finals and three came away victorious. Congratulations to the Under 11 Girls, the Under 13 Girls and the Under 13 Boys teams who were crowned premiers on the day. The Under 11 Girls dominated Newcastle City with a commanding 67-point win. The Under 13 Girls claimed both the minor premiership this season and the major premiership by defeating Killarney Vale by over 50 points in a dazzling display. The Under 13 Boys then caused an upset by defeating the top of the table Saratoga by 35 points. Maitland Saints is a nurturing ground for AFL talent in the Hunter. Many of the grand final players have earned their place in the Sydney Swans Academy Program which identify and develop young talent. Congratulations to the Maitland Saints Junior AFL Club, it's players, coaches and families for their hard work and dedication to the club.

REGENT HONEYEATERS RELEASE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to all involved in the recent release of Regent Honeyeaters in the Hunter Valley. The Regent Honeyeater was once a common sight in the Lower Hunter. Habitat destruction has sadly led to the songbird now being listed as one of Australia's most critically endangered birds. To boost numbers, 49 zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters have been released on Wonnarua country recently in the Tomalpin Woodlands. More than 200 zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters have now been released in NSW and the third large-scale release on Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council land. The latest release involved the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, BirdLife Australia and Local Land Services. This release is vital to the bird's survival and members of the public can help by reporting sightings to BirdLife Australia who will then track the survival and movements of the released birds. Two years ago there was estimated to be only 250 to 350 regent honeyeaters left in the wild. Since that time there have been over 500 birds bred in captivity with over 300 released into temperate woodland and open forests. Thank you to all who are working so hard to ensure the Regent Honeyeaters survival.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND THE 2024 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to acknowledge the results of the recent local Council elections, and the importance of local democracy. The Greens ran our biggest ever local council campaign this year and although vote counting will continue for a while yet, we are seeing fantastic results. In my previous Council, the Inner West, we have retained all five Greens seats and we are watching Stanmore and Ashfield very

closely. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who worked on this campaign for running such a strong and principled campaign. At its core, local democracy embodies the principle that the people closest to the issues are best positioned to address them. Every voice matters, and every opinion counts. Council elections bring decision-making to the doorstep of residents, ensuring that policies and actions are responsive to the unique needs of their communities. In acknowledging local democracy, I recognise the importance of nurturing this vital aspect of our political system. I recognize the dedication of those who run for local office, and the tireless contributions of the volunteers who stand beside them. I wish the returning and newly elected Councillors every success in their futures.

GLEBE NAIDOC COMMITTEE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the important work of the Glebe NAIDOC Committee. And in so doing I recognise that the Balmain Electorate is on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation. It always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land. I recently had the pleasure of attending the Glebe Public School NAIDOC Community Day, part of a range of events and celebrations that take place each year in Glebe for NAIDOC Week. This year's NAIDOC theme was 'Keeping the Fire Burning', the fire representing the enduring strength and vitality of Indigenous cultures, and the resilience and pride of passing that knowledge down through generations. There were some fantastic performances from the Jarjums – their pride and passion for their culture and connection to Country came through so strongly. It was beautiful to be a part of the celebrations. I want to recognise the efforts of the school and particularly the Glebe NAIDOC Committee, along with everyone who contributed to such a wonderful event.

ANYI HOBOURN

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to acknowledge Anyi Hobourn, a Year 10 student from Newtown High School of Performing Arts. Anyi recently spent a week completing work experience in my Balmain electorate office. She was an excellent addition to the team, creatively designing social media content, actively listening to parliamentary budget estimates, and curiously learning new topics and skills. Anyi was able to jump into the busy lifestyle of an electorate office first-hand and used her newfound skills to aid her with the many tasks that she was set to complete. Anyi is interested in many community issues, such as transportation and public housing. I hope this experience gave her a glimpse of politics in NSW, and helped her better understand how local members can represent their communities and advocate for issues that are important to them. I appreciated the time I spent with Anyi and valued her input and contribution to the team. I wish her every success in high school and her future career.

WESTERN SYDNEY LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday 16th July, it was great to meet with Irem Altundag and Blayze Wood from the Western Sydney Law Students' Association, at the WSU Spring Fair, Western Sydney University, Parramatta campus. Irem and Blayze are two up-and-coming women in law. They are both a testament to the quality of future practitioners coming out of Western Sydney University. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, it was inspiring to meet with Irem and Blayze and hear about their shared passion for the legal profession. Irem, Association Secretary, is an emerging Criminal Lawyer who hosts a podcast analysing crime and criminal investigations that have impacted our Western Sydney community. Blayze, Association Vice President, is deeply passionate about human rights law, and humanitarian work. As she develops her career, Blayze aspires to use her experience and legal expertise, to explore opportunities to bridge the gap between human rights law and humanitarian need and make a meaningful impact. My congratulations and encouragement go out to Irem, Blayze and all members at the Western Sydney Law Students' Association. I have every confidence that the legal profession is in good hands, with future lawyers like you at the helm.

WENTY LEAGUES BOWLING CLUB

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday 10th September, it was great to meet with players and officials from Wenty Leagues Bowling Club at their bowling green in Wenty Leagues to present them with a Local Sport Grant. Established in 1963, Wenty Leagues Bowling Club has a proud history of providing an opportunity for all to enjoy both social and competitive bowls. Today, they boast more than 250 Club players who play every day of the week, engaging in a range of activities from social bowls and free coaching through to Club Championships for men and women. With six decades of history in the sport, the Club is consistently represented at local, State and National levels. This year, Wenty Leagues Bowling Club successfully applied for a Local Sport Grant of \$8000.00 to purchase new inclusive uniforms, which will foster a sense of unity among all members and promote cohesion among the Club's diverse membership. My heartfelt thanks go out to Louise Frendo, Sports Club Coordinator, Wenty Leagues, as well as Steve Baldwin, President, Cameron Curtis, Secretary, and all players and officials at Wenty Leagues Bowling Club for being such a vibrant home for bowls in our local Prospect Electorate community.

ZEN TEA LOUNGE FOUNDATION – ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I was pleased to attend the Zen Tea Lounge Foundation's Solidarity Against Family Violence Fundraiser on September 26th July 2024 in Canley Vale. A grassroots charity in Western Sydney, The Zen Tea Lounge Foundation empowers women, seniors, people experiencing disability and LGBTIQ+ members of our community, affected by domestic violence, abuse, and isolation. Through diverse community programs, Zen Tea facilitates opportunities to learn financial skills, self-defence, boundary-setting and tools to create healthy relationships, whilst also providing employment pathways and a safe space. The Solidarity Against Family Violence Fundraiser offered a moving tribute to lives lost and raised \$12,395 for the Foundation. Providing an opportunity to stand in unity, our community took the Domestic Violence Pledge, renewing our commitment to safe and harmonious communities. The Foundation tirelessly supports women across Western Sydney to transform their lives, granting survivors autonomy and a fresh start. With a special focus on CALD communities, Zen Tea is providing vital support to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you to Founder Amy Nguyen, Foundation Ambassadors George Bousamra, Paul Rodgers and Thy Ha and the dedicated team for the hope you offer our community.

CHARMHAVEN TENNIS CENTRE

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 Charmhaven Tennis Centre members and players who will enjoy their surroundings with new replacement fencing on site. The Tennis Centre received \$50,000 through the Community Building Partnership program to remove the fencing around court 3 and 4 to be replaced with new fencing. The project benefits over 300 members who set foot on the courts and enhances the safety and security of the tennis courts. The centre offers a range of services from tennis classes, tennis coaching and tennis lessons as well as tennis court hire for adults and children. The high-quality fencing helps safeguard the tennis courts from unauthorised access. The Community Building Partnership program shares \$300,000 in funding across the Wyong electorate to non-for-profit groups to build, refurbish or repair community infrastructure, or to buy freestanding equipment or vehicles.

PAUL CAREY

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 Slalom Skateboarder Paul Carey from Gorokan representing Australia at the fourth edition of World Skate Games 2024 in Italy. The World Skate Games Italy has an estimated participation of over 12,000 people including athletes, coaches, and delegations from 100 countries worldwide. Slalom Team members Coach - Neil Duddy (Central Coast), Team Manager- Jack Meyn (Central Coast), Paul Shaddock (Central Coast), Imogen Mcmillan (Central Coast), Paul Carey (Central Coast), Ayesha Pang (ACT), Jackson Shapiera (Syd) and Nathan Paff (Old Bar Beach). The 3-day race event will be held in the streets of Chieti, Italy taking part on the 11th to 15th September and a prize money of \$10,000. The events are electronically timed, competitors must launch from a ramp and navigate through a course of variously spaced cones while still generating speed, requiring technical strategy and high skill level. The 62-year-old is truly honoured to be representing Australia as part of the Slalom Skateboard Racing Team. Living on the Central Coast for 57 years and have been skateboarding for 49 years. The team have been training endlessly to prepare with their last session held at Warnervale. I wish the team all the best in their upcoming competition in September.

TOUKLEY 50 PLUS LEISURE AND LEARNING CENTRE

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 Toukley 50 Plus Leisure and Learning Centre for receiving the Wyong Seniors Local Achievement Awards 2024. President Carmen Mouat and Members are recognised as a proactive club who donate their time and skills to keep the centre running. The centre was originally known as Toukley Senior Citizens' Club, which was officially opened on March 20, 1978, with Membership soaring in the 80s and is the largest senior's organisations in the Southern Hemisphere with over 1,000 active members. The not-for-profit organisation is run entirely by volunteers providing a wide range of activities from art, cards and games, choir, computer and mobile phone classes, crochet, knitting, wood burning, tai chi, line dancing, indoor bowls, table tennis and yoga. One activity that is popular amongst the members are the day bus tours and the overnight tours, coordinated by Pamela Gallagher. While the volunteers are active, their support for local charities go a long way donating items to Toukley Neighbourhood Centre and We Care Connect. Members coming from far and nearby have created strong bonds and relationships through the centre impacting their physical and mental well-being as an essential aspect of a healthy lifestyle.

ROCK AND WOOL

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport)—I would like to recognise and acknowledge the 'Rock and Wool' group within my electorate, which is celebrating its 8th birthday. Rock and Wool is a voluntary community group, who catch up twice a month at Rockdale Library. This group welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. Majority of the members within this group are local and live within my electorate. Despite some having moved away, they still make the effort to attend these sessions, which speaks a lot about the community spirit and bond created. This wonderful group, meet, sit, and chat over tea and coffee and use their knitting and crochet skills to create fabulous squares. These squares are sewn together to make beautiful warm wraps and are handed to another not for profit organisation "Wrap with Love" who donate them to the needy. So far, Wrap with Love have already wrapped more than 30,000 people with love and warmth, in Australia and around the World. I am so proud to have this community group within my electorate. I take this opportunity to wish Rock and Wool a Happy 8th Birthday and thank all its wonderful volunteers.

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 16 August 2024, these officers were attested to the NSW Police Force at the Goulburn Police Academy as part of Class 363 and began working at Burwood Police Area Command shortly after. I would like to acknowledge Probationary Constable Duy Nguyen, Probationary Constable Zachary Dean and Probationary Constable Aaron John. 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 Probationary Constable Nguyen, Probationary Constable Dean and Probationary Constable John all the very best. I extend my sincerest gratitude to the entire Burwood Police Area Command and congratulate these newly appointed Constables. I wish them many good years in the NSW Police Force and thank them for their dedication to service.

DEDES WATERFRONT GROUP

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate local family business Dedes Waterfront Group on their 28th anniversary at The Sydney Rowing Club in Abbotsford. Con and Kerrie Dedes first opened at the Sydney Rowing Club in 1996 as Dedes Restaurant. The bistro remained for 20 years before shifting to the casual Watergrill dining experience that is so well known to this day. The Dedes family now own and operate eight venues across Sydney including Flying Fish at The Star in Pyrmont and Deckhouse at Woolwich Dock. The success of the Dedes Waterfront Group is a testament to Con and Kerrie's tireless efforts and dedication to excellence in the hospitality industry. I congratulate Con and Kerrie and the Dedes family and staff for over 30 years operating local hospitality venues. It is a milestone to be proud of. I wish the Dedes Waterfront Group all the very best in the future.

AVA CARYOFYLLIS

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate a shining star in our community, young budding actress Ava Caryofyllis on her nomination for Most Popular New Talent at the 64th TV Week Logie Awards in August. Ava was nominated for her role portraying Iris in the ABC original TV series Bay of Fires. Ava's acting career began at just 5 years old, starring in commercials before rising into the spotlight in 2019. At just 13 years old, Ava has already worked alongside some of the biggest names in the acting world, including an appearance in Marvel's Thor: Love and Thunder. I want to sincerely congratulate Ava, it is wonderful to see young local talent representing our community in the arts. I know her family, friends and school community are incredibly proud of her. I wish Ava all the very best in her future endeavours. She has a bright future ahead.

EDNA BERRY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and recognise the incredible life of Mrs Edna Berry, a woman known for her unwavering resilience, selfless generosity and deep love for her local community. Born in Goulburn in 1916, to parents George and Teresa Paull, Edna's early years were shaped by the challenges of the Great Depression. Her marriage to Mr Hugh Berry brought her to Darlinghurst while Hugh served in World War II. Even during these tumultuous times of World War II, Edna's courage and resilience shone through as she moved from suburb to suburb to be with relatives. After the war, Edna and Hugh moved to Chester Hill, where they raised their five biological children. In a display of extraordinary compassion, Edna and Hugh opened their home to two young boys who needed a loving family. They raised these boys as their own, providing them with a sense of belonging and unconditional love. Edna Berry's life is truly a testament to the

power of human kindness, resilience and the enduring bonds of family. We are so grateful for her contributions to our community and for the inspiration she has provided to generations to come.

GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Georges River College Peakhurst, who has been providing a world-class education to our children for over 60 years. To celebrate this incredible achievement, the school hosted a celebration event as a tribute to its rich history. The event brought together former students, teachers and families who have deep connections to the school, fostering a sense of nostalgia and community. The recent celebration showcased the college's enduring legacy and its commitment to providing a quality education to students from all walks of life. The school's transformation from Peakhurst High School to Georges River College has been marked by significant growth and achievements. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the college's staff, past and present, for their dedication and commitment to fostering a nurturing and supportive learning environment. As Georges River College Peakhurst enters its 61st year, I have no doubt that it will continue to give our children the best possible start in life.

ST GEORGE POLICE AREA COMMAND

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the newest additions to the St George Police Area Command. Bronte Wynter, Vincent Mamo, Jayden Brown and Halle Hlasiuk join our local command in the latest round of new starters who have begun their policing career. These dedicated individuals, part of the esteemed 'Class of 363,' are ready to serve and protect our community with unwavering commitment. Having successfully completed a comprehensive 12-month training program, including on-the-job experience and distance education through Charles Sturt University, these new officers have demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing efforts to keep our local community safe. On behalf of the Kogarah electorate, I would like to welcome these new recruits into our community. I want to also extend my sincerest congratulations to these outstanding individuals and their families. Their continuous dedication to public service is a testament to the strength and resilience of our law enforcement.

CENTRAL COAST SPORTS COLLEGE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—It is my absolute pleasure to acknowledge Central Coast Sports College and the amazing efforts the school has put in to support its students and our community in various ways. With a mission to develop a community of confident and healthy young people through sport, innovative education and real-life opportunities, Central Coast Sports College is a perfect definition of a kind educational institution. Catering for students from kindergarten through Year 12, the school consistently honours its values: excellence, respect, integrity, and courage! Due to its fantastic reputation, this college is our region's fastest growing school with a whopping 94 percent increase in enrolments within 5 years from 2018 to 2022. Attending Central Coast Sports College, the students can learn and engage with not-for-profit organizations such as Care4Coast and the Leukaemia Foundation to develop their leadership skills and inspire others to care for the community. This fabulous school creates unlimited opportunities for their students in all different shapes and sizes in the sport world. Thank you, Central Coast Sports College for your wonderful values and vision that allow our children to dream and reach their full potential.

ROSALIND SELBERG

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—This year, Rosalind will be 101 on her birthday and the last time I checked Rosalind has 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. Christmas dinner must be busy for Rosalind! Although she is more than 100 years old, Rosalind still lives independently with some support. At her first job at Coles in Gladesville, she earned nothing more than 2 shillings and 6 pence. Then she joined the army as a corporal and just before she could become a sergeant, the war ended. Rosalind and her first husband, Timothy were blessed with a happy life, after Tim passed away at the age of 50, Rosalind reunited with her high school sweetheart John through an advertisement that John put in local newsletters. Rosalind remarried to John after 6 weeks from that beautiful reunion and they had 12 fabulous years together. Rosalind's love of her family is clear and she shared that her children are her secrets to longevity! What a gorgeous life Rosalind has and I wish Rosalind and her family all the health and happiness.

MICHELLE PATHIRANA

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—It is my honour to recognise Mrs Michelle Pathirana, a dedicated teacher from Woy Woy Public School, who has worked with students with severe physical and intellectual disabilities for over 2 decades. Michelle is passionate about teaching students with disabilities. In that time, Michelle has gone above and beyond to give her students the best start to life possible. Each year she organises a very special concert for International Day of Persons with Disabilities, that is attended by people from within and outside of the WWPS

school community. Students in the Woy Woy P.S. Support Unit are given the opportunity to shine and thoroughly enjoy participating in the concert and performing for their audience. Michelle exemplifies an inclusive approach to education. Every day the students in her classroom are encouraged to do their best and to achieve their max potential. Teachers like Michelle remind me of the magic of being an educator. I thank Michelle for her remarkable contribution to our Central Coast students lives as well as showcasing the beauty of our public education system.

20 YEARS OF BSTREETSMART

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Attending Bstreetsmart 2024 was an eye opener. Held at Qudos Bank Arena, there were thousands of students and teachers in attendance to celebrate 20 years of road safety education for young people in New South Wales. Road safety education is an incredibly important aspect of teaching kids how to drive and preparing them for the responsibilities of driving. This central event brings schools, first responders and teenagers together to learn about the risks and responsibilities of driving. As a first-time attendee I found the program was very confronting and thought provoking. The program was founded in 2004 by local Westmead Hospital trauma nurses Julie Seggie and Stephanie Wilson, using testimonials and simulated crash scenarios to display how important it is to pay attention and follow the road rules when driving. Over 227,000 students have attended the program over the past 20 years, making a lasting impact on each attendee and playing an important role in making the importance of road safety relatable to a younger audience. Thank you to Julie and Stephanie for your continued stewardship of the program and the first responders, community workers and government agencies who made this event possible.

AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECTURE IN PARRAMATTA

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Congratulations Grimshaw and Andrews Burges Architects with McGregor Coxall on receiving the Sulman Medal for their world-leading design work on the new Parramatta Aquatic Centre [PAC]. This medal was awarded by the Australian Institute of Architects in July. PAC was also recognised with the Urban Design Award. The Parramatta Aquatic Centre is a stunning, groundbreaking new building, carved out of the landscape within the World Heritage Parramatta Park, with a design that minimized the impact on the surrounding park. This sustainable building is masterfully designed, incorporating recycled concrete and timber. The PAC also features design elements, created with local Dharug elders. The building seems like a little oasis in the landscape, blending with the heritage of the site. The new centre is a great way for locals to get active, with a state-of-the-art gym, indoor and outdoor pools, and a kid's water play feature. A well-deserving prize for such a practical and stunning building. Parramatta is flourishing, and buildings like these only add to the vibrancy of our city. Congratulations to all involved, especially the City of Parramatta for your vision and commitment to deliver a beautiful facility for the people of Parramatta.

AMAZING DEAF FESTIVAL 2024

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—The Deaf Festival Sydney is always such an inspiring and informative experience. Held at Cathy Freeman Park this vibrant celebration of Deaf culture, values and language attracts people from across NSW and interstate. Talented artists including students from Next Sense came to perform, deliver multicultural cooking demonstrations and educate attendees. One of the stars of the day was Emma Memma, who captivated all of us and has brought a delightful character to deaf children through sign language. This is a great event, where everyone can build connections and confidence, embracing everyone from every part of society. Attendees were immersed in this vibrant showcase of talent from the Deaf community. Performers included talented artists like Fiona Murphy, who is a writer, poet and essayist. Passionate community advocate and Deaf artist Sue Jo Wright also took part to share her talent with the festival. With competitions, workshops, kids yoga, and other activities, this was a great chance for people of all ages in the deaf community to find out about opportunities and aids while getting out and about. A welcoming and genuine community, I would like to congratulate Brent Phillips and Deaf Connect for a spectacular festival.

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT ACADEMY GRADUATION AND SPORTS AWARDS DINNER

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—I was delighted to attend the South West Sydney Academy of Sport celebrated 2024 Annual Anniversary at the Graduation and Sports Awards Dinner on Friday 16th August. We were there to celebrate their 27th annual athlete graduation, where awards were given in recognition of excellence and dedication to our local athletes honouring their remarkable achievements. With distinguished guests including local councillors and members of parliament, we all recognised the inspiring contributions and community achievements of our volunteers, coaches, and athletes, including the Indigenous Person Athlete of the Year, Para Athlete of the Year and Athlete of the Year. It was a great evening at The Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club, featuring keynote speaker, former Australian Cricketer Simon Williams, a world-leading mindset and motivational coach, along with special guests returning from the Olympics in Paris, Josh and Nathan Katz. Josh is an Australian Olympic Judo Athlete, who competes in the 60kg class, representing Australia at Rio, Tokyo and

most recently Paris 2024. Congratulations to all participants, award recipients and supporters. Thanks to everyone at South West Sydney Academy of Sport for such a wonderful event and evening.

WOLLONDILLY LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—The hard work and dedication of Wollondilly businesses were recognised in the Local Business Awards presentation night. I offer my congratulations to all the nominees, and the winners on the night: Ann's Flowers: Outstanding Sole Operator; Caremore Bargo Discount Pharmacy: Outstanding Pharmacy; Cedar Creek Orchard: Outstanding Agricultural Business; Community Links Wellbeing: Outstanding Specialised Business; Five Littles, Bargo: Outstanding Fast Food/Takeaway; Gazmech Mobile Mechanic: Outstanding Automotive Services; Glens Bakery Cafe: Outstanding Bakery/Cake Business; Hair by Montana J: Outstanding Hairdresser; Jayley Homes: Outstanding New Business; JR Travel: Outstanding Tourism & Accommodation; Kirsty's School of Dance: Outstanding Performing Arts; Kylie's K9 Country Retreat: Outstanding Pet Care; Little Zak's Academy: Outstanding Early Childhood Centre; Luxe Skin And Brows: Outstanding Beauty Services; Macarthur Credit Union: Outstanding Professional Services; Marve Photography: Outstanding Photography Business; Miss C & Me Creations: Outstanding Antiques, Art, Crafts and Gifts; Nick's Deli & Grocery Warragamba: Outstanding Specialised Retail Business; Reynolds Bryant: Outstanding Real Estate Agency; Steins Plumbing Solutions: Outstanding Service & Trade; Vabys Restaurant: Outstanding Restaurant; Vale Tudo Training Picton: Outstanding Fitness Services; Wildflower Holistic Services: Outstanding Health Improvement Services and Business of the Year 2024; Wollondilly Quality Meats, Tahmoor: Outstanding Butcher.

DILLY DOG DAY OUT

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Picton Sportsground was bristling with excitement on Sunday 18th August as the annual Dilly Doggy Day Out attracted packs of Wollondilly residents and their beloved four-legged friends. The event was a joyful celebration of the bond between pets and their owners, with a diverse range of activities and attractions catering to every canine companion. Stallholders offered a range of pet products, treats, and accessories, while the agility arena provided an opportunity for dogs to showcase their skills and burn off some energy. Experts in canine care were also on hand, offering valuable advice to ensure the well-being of every pet in attendance. The event was a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Wollondilly Shire Council staff, who organised this much-loved annual community gathering. Their planning ensured that every detail was taken care of, from the layout of the stalls to the placement of oversized water troughs that kept all the dogs well-hydrated under the sunny skies. It was heartwarming to see so many residents enjoying a day dedicated to their furry friends, strengthening the sense of community in the Wollondilly region.
