

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday 20 September 2024

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Bills

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (RURAL AND REMOTE COUNCILS) BILL 2024 STRATA MANAGING AGENTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

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

PORTS AND MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT 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 hour.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST AMENDMENT 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 hour.

Committees

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST

Establishment and Membership

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of the following message from the Legislative Council:

The Legislative Council desires to inform the Legislative Assembly that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

- (1) That this House agrees to the resolution in the Legislative Assembly's message of Wednesday 14 August 2024 relating to the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, with the following amendment, in which the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly is requested:
 - (a) In paragraph (5) (b) omit "three Legislative Council members" and insert instead "five Legislative Council members".
- (2) That the representatives of the Legislative Council on the Joint Select Committee on Greater Sydney Parklands Trust be Mr Borsak, Ms Faehrmann, Ms Munro, Mr Murphy and Mr Primrose.
- (3) That this House requests that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly set the time and place of the first meeting.

I set down consideration of the Legislative Council message for a later hour.

Bills

CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDERS REGISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill with an amendment. I order that consideration of the Legislative Council amendment be set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

*Notices***PRESENTATION**

[During the giving of notices of motions]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. Members will come to order.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (10:18): As Chair: I note the report of the committee, *Report 1 - The implementation of recommendations relating to workforce, workplace culture and funding for remote, rural and regional health*. In May 2023 our select committee was established to examine and report on the implementation of recommendations made by a 2022 report from the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 2, also known as PC 2. That PC 2 report shed a spotlight on the alarming state of the regional health system in New South Wales. It found that the State's rural, regional and remote communities experience worse health outcomes and inferior access to health services when compared to their metropolitan peers. The PC 2 report made 44 crucial recommendations to improve the state of regional health care, which the New South Wales Government has since committed to implementing.

This is the select committee's first report. It looks at what progress has been made in the rollout of the recommendations that address workforce issues, workplace culture and funding. The committee also considered any challenges that have arisen in implementing these reforms and made further recommendations to address these. The select committee received 56 submissions and held an inquiry that heard from various stakeholders at public hearings and site visits, including from local councils, healthcare workers, patients, community health providers, peak bodies, professional colleges, NSW Health and members of the public. From this inquiry it has become clear that, although there has been progress and a real commitment from the Government and NSW Health—and I do acknowledge the work that has been done—there is still much to be done.

The committee heard that the Government is working to recruit and retain more healthcare workers to regional New South Wales. I also note positive developments such as the rollout of initiatives like the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme and the expansion of the single employer model for trainee doctors. However, the committee also heard that regional healthcare workforce shortages persist across the board. Stakeholders repeatedly stressed the urgent need to improve staffing, employment conditions, pay and workplace culture to help address these issues. The committee recommends that NSW Health review the employment conditions and pay of regional healthcare workers so that New South Wales is competitive against what is offered in other parts of the country. The committee also recommends a review and expansion of the Rural Workforce Incentive Scheme to ensure it is working fairly and effectively.

Committee members are particularly concerned about the state of primary care in the regions, which appears to be in its worst condition yet. Primary care must be urgently prioritised, and we recommend that NSW Health allocate additional funding to primary care initiatives and accelerate the implementation of primary care pilots. I note the comments made by the Minister for Regional Health during question time this week in relation to the issues around primary care and their impacts on our health system. We also found that although locum doctors are a crucial part in filling short-term staffing gaps, there is an over dependence on them in regional health facilities. The committee heard concerns that locums can be expensive and have inconsistent skillsets. Recognising these concerns, the committee recommends that NSW Health work to reduce the public regional health system's dependence on locum doctors and establish a credentialing framework to create consistency in locum skillsets.

Stakeholders emphasised the need to strengthen the pathways between studying and working in the regional health system. The committee believes that investment in robust training programs that include regional placements is essential to building a stable workforce in these areas. The report recommends that NSW Health work with key stakeholders to support studying, training and working in the regional health system. The report also explores workplace culture issues. Committee members are alarmed by what some stakeholders have told us. Culture issues have persisted since the PC 2 report. Stakeholders described experiences of staff burnout, bullying, poor complaints-handling mechanisms and a fear of speaking out. The committee urges NSW Health to prioritise

the rollout of its refreshed culture framework, and emphasises that culture reform needs to include leadership training for managers and accountability measures to ensure that meaningful change is made.

The committee commends NSW Health for prioritising investment into regional health care, including funding for air transport, urgent care services and virtual care. However, the committee also heard there are limitations with current regional healthcare funding models, and it is unclear what work has been done to review these models. The committee notes the ongoing work of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding and acknowledges that there are inter-jurisdictional complexities at play when it comes to funding the State's regional health system. However, committee members are of the view that change is needed and recommend that NSW Health collaborate with both the New South Wales Government and the Australian Government to explore alternative and more appropriate funding models, particularly for primary care. We also urge NSW Health to publish its reviews of regional healthcare funding models for greater transparency.

The committee acknowledges the work of those local councils that are addressing service gaps in their communities by providing critical health care and facilities. It recommends that better support, including additional funding, be provided to them. This is the first of several reports that the select committee will table. A second inquiry is underway into the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations that relate to the delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional communities. In future, the committee will also explore the progress being made on the initiatives that require collaboration between the State and Commonwealth governments, particularly as they relate to primary care.

Finally, I thank everyone who participated in this important inquiry by sharing their valuable insights, time and personal experiences with us. It is our expectation that this report and further reports of the committee will help to ensure that the landmark Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations lead to much-needed long-term reform for our remote, rural and regional communities and dedicated health staff. I thank my fellow committee members for their participation. They have been absolutely marvellous and totally committed. I thank the committee staff for their work on this inquiry. I commend the report to the House.

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (10:25): I thank the chair of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health for his comprehensive comments on the work of the committee and its report entitled *Report 1 - The implementation of recommendations relating to workforce, workplace culture and funding for remote, rural and regional health*. I make a contribution relating to workforce issues, culture and funding considerations. As a member who lives in a regional area, it has been an honour to be on the committee. I thank the chair, the member for Wagga Wagga, and all members of the committee for their hard work and collaboration. I thank the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health for his ongoing support. I thank the committee staff for the work they do to support the committee and all participants of this inquiry for sharing their experiences with us.

While NSW Health has undertaken work to strengthen the rural health workforce, there are still shortfalls in a number of key roles, including GPs, nurses, midwives and staff who provide services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. After being subjected to 12 years of a wages cap, many health professionals crossed our State borders where the pay and conditions were far better. While the Minns Government has taken steps to correct that, it will take time to attract and retain the professionals we require. One of the recommendations of the committee is that NSW Health reviews the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme to ensure that it is operating fairly and effectively. It was pleasing to see the announcement by Minister Park this week that midwives who choose to relocate and work in rural, regional and remote New South Wales will be eligible for a \$20,000 sign-on bonus as part of an innovative trial starting later this month.

For me, as pointed out by the member for Wagga Wagga, one of the major concerns was the dependence on locum doctors in regional areas. While locums have an important part to play in meeting short-term needs of public hospitals, the ongoing cost to the health system is overwhelming. It became evident that this desperately needs to be addressed when we heard that some doctors have moved to a regional area with their families and continue to work as a locum two or three days a week. I thank all healthcare professionals in New South Wales for the work they undertake every single day. The work those in regional and remote New South Wales do is remarkable. The committee will continue to work to ensure that the voices of rural communities are listened to. With the collaboration of NSW Health, the New South Wales Government and the Australian Government, I am confident that better health outcomes can be delivered for people in our rural and remote areas.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (10:28): I make a brief contribution to debate on the report of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health entitled *Report 1 - The implementation of recommendations relating to workforce, workplace culture and funding for remote, rural and regional health*. I acknowledge my colleagues the member for Wagga Wagga and the member for South Coast in the Chamber. I was proud to be appointed to this special select committee. It has been an absolute privilege to travel around New South Wales and meet people where they live and work. Whilst my electorate of the Blue

Mountains is often considered part of Greater Sydney, I saw lots of stories and examples, personally and professionally, that reflect the sorts of issues experienced in my electorate as well. It is certainly not a metropolitan area. The report that we had been pulling together and the recommendations we had been looking at around healthcare access and health outcomes for communities in regional, rural and remote areas were stark.

I will cover off on a few things. There is an absolute urgent need, as the Chair pointed out, to improve staffing levels, retention rates of those staffing levels and payment of those staff, and to look at and continue to investigate the work culture to make sure that the recommendations flow through and we see the change that we need. I echo a point that my colleague the member for South Coast made about lifting the wages cap. That was a huge step forward taken by the Minns Labor Government at the beginning of last year, and it has already made a difference. But the committee heard from people on the ground, in those health facilities in their communities, that there is so much more to do. People took the opportunity to speak truth to power. Some of those stories were very positive—there is a collegiality that I love about regional, remote and rural areas—but some of it was harrowing as well.

In finishing up, I thank all the stakeholders and every single person and community that we visited. There is nothing quite like jumping in a bus between Broken Hill and Wilcannia, watching the emus and the flat land, and knowing that you are heading somewhere out into the sticks. That tyranny of distance makes a huge difference to accessing health care. I thank the chair and deputy chair of the committee. We have a great team that brings a lot to the work that must be done in this State to hear the stories and address the needs of people in those communities. Finally, I thank the committee staff. We could not do this work without the huge amount of research, energy and organisation that they put into it. I commend the report to the House.

Report noted.

**COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION
AND THE CRIME COMMISSION**

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (10:32): As Chair: The Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission tabled its report entitled *2023 review of annual and other reports of oversight agencies* on 15 August 2024. It covers the two annual reporting periods between 2021 and 2023. The annual review is one of the committee's core functions and allows it to scrutinise the agencies that it oversees. Those agencies are the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and its inspector, the NSW Ombudsman and the NSW Child Death Review Team, the Information and Privacy Commission, the NSW Crime Commission, the Inspector of Custodial Services and the Public Service Commission. It is the first review to include the Public Service Commissioner. Those agencies have diverse and important functions.

The committee's review covers a range of topics, including issues that were raised by the previous committee. The key recommendation is about the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture [OPCAT]. The committee is disappointed that the New South Wales Government still has not appointed a national preventative mechanism. New South Wales is the only jurisdiction in Australia that has not done that. There was an extended deadline of January 2023. The Australian Government ratified the OPCAT in 2017. It is important that the New South Wales Government makes implementing the OPCAT a priority. I note that the previous committee made the same recommendation in its last report, but there was no response to that report from the former or current governments.

The agencies that the committee oversees perform vital statutory functions. They need adequate, predictable and ongoing funding to do their work. Agency funding has been a longstanding concern of the committee. The committee's previous review supported changes that were made to the funding of the New South Wales integrity agencies. Those changes were introduced by the former Government, and the committee is pleased to see that the current Government has indicated it will continue those arrangements. In this review we heard that the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission [LECC] has had problems accessing NSW Police Force documents and interview transcripts. The committee's previous review also found that the LECC was experiencing delays accessing body-worn footage from New South Wales police.

It is important that the LECC has timely access to relevant police material in order to work effectively, so we will keep an eye on that issue as we commence our next annual review. There are a few other issues or areas we will continue to monitor as well. For example, agencies have told us they are dealing more with artificial intelligence [AI] in their work. We particularly note the work of the Ombudsman and the Information and Privacy Commission in that area. Both agencies have said it is important that the Government is transparent about the use

of AI, and that will become more important as it is likely AI usage will continue to grow across the public sector. It is interesting to note that AI will be mankind's fifth industrial revolution.

The review also discusses the findings of the Child Death Review Team biennial reviews of child deaths in New South Wales. It is concerning to hear that suicide is still the leading cause of death for young people aged 10 to 17 in our State. However, we are encouraged to hear that the team is working with government agencies to address that, and we are hopeful that their work will result in increased support for young people. Our report reflects how the oversighted agencies are doing their important work, including the challenges some of them face. We also know that several of them have taken on new statutory functions. That includes work to set up the Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme or the new Public Interest Disclosures Act. I thank those agencies for the work they do and the benefits they provide the people of this State. I particularly thank them for their engagement with us and their participation in the review process. I also thank my fellow committee members and the committee staff for their work during this review. I commend the report to the House.

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (10:36): As a member of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission committee, I put on record my thoughts in regard to the entitled *2023 review of annual and other reports of oversight agencies*. I thank the chair, the member for Orange, and all committee members for their active participation. It is a very challenging area; a number of agencies that we oversight deal with some difficult situations. I also thank the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Ombudsman for the warm welcome they gave the committee when we went on a site visit just last week, where we were able to see firsthand exactly what they are dealing with and their challenges in regard to the ever-evolving technology being used to try to circumvent the law. I thank them for their warm welcome, I thank the chair for his leadership, and I thank the other committee members.

Report noted.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report entitled *Draft Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 2024*.

Debate called on and adjourned.

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (10:38): As deputy chair, I make a brief contribution to the discussion on the *Review of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC*. I first acknowledge and thank the chair of the committee, the member for Strathfield, and all of the committee members for their diligence and hard work on this challenging committee. I also thank the chair for the report that he has provided. The report fulfils one of the committee's obligations under section 64 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 and follows a self-referral by the joint committee to fulfil those obligations. I refer to three particular areas of the report. The first area I comment on is ICAC's educational role in relation to local government. The ICAC's report noted that the largest proportion of complaints received pursuant to section 10 of the Act related to local government.

It was pleasing to note that the ICAC is proactively engaging with local councils to provide education. I note ICAC's involvement with councils regarding education. Mr Lewis Rangott, who is executive director of the crime prevention division, was asked a question in one of the committee's hearings about ICAC's role with the OLG. He responded:

... the OLG take the lead on administering those requirements—

that is, the educational requirements. He went on:

I think they do a good job with that. It has been a big improvement compared with previous years. So we share information. I think our relationship with OLG could be a little closer on that particular front.

I hope that the Minister for Local Government ensures that the OLG has a close working relationship with the ICAC. The second area I comment on is in the welfare of witnesses. The ICAC looked at the issue of the welfare of all witnesses who give evidence. The ICAC committee inquired as to what action was being taken by the ICAC to protect the welfare of witnesses. The report provides details of the areas which were examined by the committee. I reaffirm the importance of the ICAC continuing to improve its procedures to protect the welfare of

all witnesses. I note that the chair of the committee, the member for Strathfield, has entered the Chamber. When I refer to "witnesses", I am referring to all persons who are called to give evidence. Being called as a witness to a corruption hearing can cause mental distress. I ask that ICAC continues its efforts to look after witnesses who give evidence.

The last area I comment on is the timeliness of reports. The committee also asked questions of the ICAC chief commissioner about the timeliness of providing reports, particularly as a result of the delay in the report for Operation Keppel. The chief commissioner informed the committee that the operations procedure manual for investigations was amended. He also stated that the ICAC now aims to be able to furnish at least 80 per cent of ICAC reports, where the public inquiry has been five days or less, within 80 days of the receipt of the final submissions; and, for a public inquiry of more than five days, within 180 days of the receipt of final submissions. The House and the committee will continue to look into the delay in issuing reports. It is important that the ICAC completes its reports in a timely manner. Lastly, in closing, I thank the chair of the committee and all committee members for their hard work. The committee dealt with all matters collaboratively, which was pleasing to see. I commend the report to the House.

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (10:42): As Chair: I note the committee's report on the *Review of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC*. The report is the committee's first in the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, and it covers the two most recent reporting periods for the ICAC and the inspector. The 2022-23 reporting period saw the appointment of a new chief commissioner of the ICAC, the Hon. John Hatzistergos, AM, and the appointment of new commissioners, the Hon. Helen Murrell, SC, and the Hon. Paul Lakatos, SC. Ms Gail Furness, SC, was appointed as the new inspector of the ICAC in 2022. The committee was pleased to observe that the two oversight agencies have a good working relationship, and the committee looks forward to furthering its own productive relationship with them.

The committee examined the profile of complaints and reports received by the ICAC and the inspector during the reporting periods. We heard from the ICAC that the volume of complaints about possible corrupt conduct remained relatively consistent, with the largest proportion relating to local government. The ICAC also advised that it is working with agencies to improve the culture of reporting in some public agencies, as agencies that have a lower rate of self-reporting may present a corruption risk. We commend the ICAC for its expanded outreach and corruption prevention work, including the resumption of the ICAC's Rural and Regional Outreach Program.

The committee also followed up on the progress of recent recommendations arising from reports of the inspector, and areas that the committee explored in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. In particular, we were interested in actions the ICAC is taking to support the welfare of witnesses and other people involved in ICAC investigations. We heard that the ICAC has acknowledged the issues raised in the inspector's special report on witness welfare. The ICAC will incorporate witness welfare measures into its forward planning and has recently taken actions such as establishing a witness liaison officer position and providing mental health awareness training to its staff.

However, the committee also highlighted that more could be done to support people from culturally and linguistically diverse [CALD] backgrounds who are involved in ICAC investigations. We heard that the ICAC was implementing various measures to mitigate risks to vulnerable witnesses, including new educational initiatives for CALD communities. We recommend that the ICAC expedite this work and provide the committee with an update on any new measures that are planned or have been implemented. The reporting periods also saw a number of legislative and regulatory developments that are relevant to the work of the ICAC and the inspector. This includes the commencement of the new Public Interest Disclosures Act, new powers for the ICAC to seek digital evidence access orders under the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002, and access to encrypted communications under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act 1997.

The committee also noted an ongoing issue with the inspector's restricted access to encrypted materials under the Commonwealth Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979, which limits the inspector's ability to fully audit ICAC functions. This subject is currently being reviewed by the Commonwealth's Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, and our committee will continue to monitor this issue. We are also aware of a number of legislative instruments that were introduced or planned for the 2023-24 reporting period, which the committee will explore in its next annual review. In terms of operational issues, the committee heard that there were occasions during the reporting periods when personal information was inadvertently disclosed by the ICAC. The inspector advised the committee that the ICAC has undertaken systems reform to address this issue.

The committee was also interested in the ICAC's cyber risk management and cyber readiness, more broadly. We note the ICAC has recently received funding for technological upgrades and is developing its cybersecurity plans and policies. However, the ICAC's work to explore the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence is in its early stages. We recommend that the ICAC expedite the development of its cybersecurity and

artificial intelligence strategies and provide an update on this work to the committee within six months. Finally, the committee was pleased to hear that the ICAC has recently recruited a number of staff in key positions to assist the ICAC in meeting its legislated obligations and achieving its strategic goals. However, we note the issue of staff burnout that was highlighted by the commission, and we look forward to hearing more of the ICAC's efforts to address staff welfare in our next annual review.

I thank the chief commissioner and commissioners and the inspector for appearing before the committee and for their engagement with the committee in these early stages of our work in the Fifty-Eighth Parliament. I also thank committee members for their support and engagement, and the committee staff for their work. I commend the report to the House.

Report noted.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (10:48): As Chair: It is with great pleasure that I address the House today as chair of the Legislation Review Committee. On Tuesday the committee tabled its eighteenth digest of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 18/58*. In the digest the committee examined six bills that were introduced during the previous sitting week. It also reviewed 38 regulations and statutory instruments, six of which it commented on. The 32 regulations that were examined and found not to reach a reporting threshold under the Legislation Review Act are at part 3 of that digest. As members are aware, the committee has the important role of reviewing all bills introduced and all statutory instruments tabled in Parliament. The committee's scrutiny of legislation informs members of both Houses and the community about the potential impacts of legislation on personal rights and liberties, and any potential inappropriate exercise of government or legislative power. I draw members' attention to some of the key issues in the last digest.

The committee reported on the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. The amendments would reform the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme to avoid, minimise and offset the biodiversity impacts of developments to ensure no net loss of biodiversity in New South Wales. In its report, the committee highlighted the Minister's new power to exempt an application for development consent from the requirement to obtain a biodiversity development assessment report if the Minister considers that there are exceptional circumstances that make it appropriate to exempt the application.

The committee noted that the bill does not specify the matters that the Minister must consider when determining whether circumstances are appropriate. Additionally, it does not further define the term "exceptional". Therefore, it was noted that the Minister would have broad discretionary powers to exempt proposed developments from key requirements of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. However, the committee acknowledged that limited circumstances, such as natural disasters, would warrant flexibility in the application of the scheme, particularly in regional areas. The committee also noted the inclusion of several safeguards that increased transparency around the use of discretionary power. For example, the bill would require exemption orders to be published in the *Government Gazette*, along with the Minister's reasons for making the order, and public registers of exemption orders would also be required to be maintained. For those reasons, the committee made no further comment on the bill in respect of the issues set out in the Legislation Review Act.

Turning now to a private member's bill, the committee reported on the Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2024. The bill seeks to amend the Summary Offences Act 1998 to clarify that all war memorials are included as protected places for the offence of damaging or desecrating protected places and to increase the associated penalty for this offence. The committee did not identify any issues in the bill in respect of matters set out in the Legislation Review Act and, accordingly, made no comment. Finally, the committee reported on the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Engineered Stone) Regulation 2024. This regulation amends the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017, which is made under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The regulation will create a number of absolute liability offences relating to the processing of engineered stone, porcelain products and sintered stone. Failing to comply with the new offences could result in fines ranging from \$4,400, or 40 penalty units, to \$7,700, or 70 penalty units for individuals.

The regulation would also insert an absolute liability offence for failing to comply with the requirements for providing and using personal protective equipment to minimise health and safety risk at the workplace. The associated penalty for this offence is a monetary penalty of \$8,030, or 73 penalty units. The committee acknowledged that the absolute liability offence is not uncommon in regulatory frameworks as a means of encouraging compliance. The committee also noted that the amendments may be intended to protect workers from

the serious risk of exposure to crystalline silica from engineered stone. For those reasons, the committee made no further comment. That concludes my remarks on the *Legislation Review Committee Digest No. 18/58*. I encourage all members to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage. I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for their support. I commend the report to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (10:53): I update the House on the ongoing work of the Legislation Review Committee and its newly tabled *Legislation Review Committee Digest No. 18/58*. I thank the Chair for her leadership. She does a fantastic job, as do the rest of the committee members. I also thank the secretariat. I have been on the committee for a number of years now, and it is always hardworking—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The member for Upper Hunter will be heard in silence.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: I thank the secretariat, who do a wonderful job and who always have smiles on their faces while undertaking their work. Six bills were considered in the current period under review. Four bills were identified as having issues as set out in section 8A or 9 of the Legislative Review Act. The first is the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Bill 2024. The bill was found to have issues regarding the presumption of the mental element of knowledge in respect of the custodial penalty for absolute liability. That issue was referred to Parliament. The second is the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024, which was found to have an issue regarding the licensed service determinations not subject to parliamentary scrutiny. That issue also was referred to Parliament. The third is the Strata Managing Agents Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which the committee had no further comment on.

The fourth was the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024, which was found to have the following issues: ministerial opinion of appropriateness, significant reform matters deferred to regulations, and the incorporation of external publications not subject to disallowance. I take this opportunity to go further into the details of those issues. The bill seeks to amend the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 to grant the Minister broad discretionary power to exempt proposed developments from key requirements of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme when those developments are likely to significantly affect threatened species. An application exempted under new subsection 7.7 (3) would be exempted from other requirements, including those relating to serious and irreversible impacts on biodiversity.

The committee also noted that the bill proposes several safeguards to improve transparency around the exercise of this discretionary power, for example, that the exemption order must be published in the *Government Gazette* and it must set out the Minister's reasons for making the order. Another issue the committee raised is the significant reform matters deferred to regulations. The bill allows the regulations to make provision for a range of matters that are fundamental to the reform of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. The committee prefers substantive matters such as those to be set out in primary legislation, rather than regulations, to ensure an appropriate level of parliamentary oversight. That concludes my report.

Report noted.

Bills

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 17 September 2024

No. 1 GRNS No. 1 [c2024-134B]

Page 3, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 3(a), line 5. Insert "in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development" after "regions".

No. 2 GRNS No. 2 [c2024-134B]

Page 3, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 3(b), line 6. Omit "and communities in regions". Insert instead ", a healthy environment and resilient communities in regions".

No. 3 GRNS No. 3 [c2024-134B]

Page 3, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 3(c), line 9. Insert ", environmental" after "economic".

No. 4 GRNS No. 4 [c2024-134B]

Page 3, Schedule 1[1], proposed section 3. Insert after line 14—

(d1) to support the transition of communities affected by economic, environmental and social change,

No. 5 GRNS No. 5 [c2024-134B]

Page 3. Insert after line 19—

[1A] Section 3(2)

Insert at the end of section 3—

(2) In this section—

principles of ecologically sustainable development means the principles set out in the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*, section 6(2). That

No. 6 **GRNS No. 6 [c2024-134B]**

Page 5, proposed section 11B(1)(a). Insert after line 21—

(ia) actions taken by the Minister in relation to advice received from the Regional Development Advisory Council, including whether the Minister accepted or rejected the advice,

No. 7 **GRNS No. 7 [c2024-134B]**

Page 5. Insert after line 34—

[13A] Section 12(5)

Insert after section 12(4)—

(5) In exercising the Minister's functions under this Act, the Minister must consider any advice provided by the Advisory Council under section 12(4).

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (10:58): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

For the benefit of the House, I will discuss the changes that have been made to the bill. The bill delivers what our regional communities have asked for. It will facilitate meaningful and strategic regional investment and it delivers on the Regional Development Roadmap, announced by the Minister for Agriculture last year, which is this Government's plan for regional New South Wales. The delivery of the bill as the final step of the road map shows again how this Government is standing side by side with regional New South Wales. This is a simple bill about establishing a modern framework for investment that does three key things. It updates the object of the Act to expand the purposes for which financial assistance can be provided. It provides for more flexibility, including broadening the types of financial assistance available under the Act, and it inserts new governance and reporting provisions to support the administration of the Regional Development Trust Fund, which is established by the Act.

The bill is about establishing a framework for investment, not about a quantum of funds. As a government, we are determined to make every dollar we invest in our regions count. That is what the people of New South Wales voted us into government to do, and that is what we are delivering. The bill makes important changes that provide for more flexible financial assistance and more robust governance arrangements to ensure that assistance is delivered and transparent. The bill is straightforward, and the values of transparency, strategy and probity underpinning it are simply something that any responsible public representative should support.

In relation to the Legislative Council amendments, I make the following observations. The amendments reference the environment in the Act's objects and require more information about the advice of the Regional Development Advisory Council. The Government supported the amendments in the other place because they align with the core elements of the bill: firstly, to modernise the objects of the Act in response to community feedback; and, secondly, to cement the role of the Regional Development Advisory Council as a source of independent expert advice. During consultation undertaken on this bill, stakeholders referenced the importance of the environment in regional development. That is why the bill has clear references to things like sustainability, adaptation and resilience.

While the Regional Development Trust Fund is not the Government's primary vehicle for addressing environmental issues, consideration of supporting environmental outcomes in the context of regional development is important. It was always the intent of the bill to provide for updated objects that are intentionally broad and would allow for consideration of a wide range of initiatives. That should include making it clear that economic development should consider environmental, social and economic outcomes. That is why the Government supported the amendments in the other place.

A key part of the proposed framework is mandating the existence of the expert Regional Development Advisory Council and its advice to the Minister on financial assistance. The amendments that the Government agreed to in the other place align with that intent by creating additional requirements around reporting on the advice of the advisory council and the consideration given to its advice. Under the framework established by the bill, the Minister will work closely with the advisory council and leverage its expertise in providing financial

assistance from the trust. As such, the Government has supported the measures for greater transparency about how that advice is used. The bill represents a major step forward in how the Government will support regional New South Wales, one that I hope we can all support to restore confidence in regional investment in this State.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDERS REGISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 19 September 2024

No.1 **LCP No. 1 [c2024 -153C]**

Page 20, Schedule I. Insert after line 23—

[55A] **Section 19J**

Insert before section 20-

19J Registrable persons must not engage in online gaming

A registrable person must not, during the person's reporting period, use a digital platform or web-based service for the purposes of playing games if the platform or service allows for online communication with a child.

Maximum penalty-500 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (11:03): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

As I have previously said in this House, 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 of protecting children from serious harm, ensuring the early detection of offences by recidivist child sex offenders, monitoring persons who are registrable persons and ensuring registrable persons comply with the Act. I acknowledge the amendment proposed by Mr Buckingham and supported by the Opposition in the other place. The amendment inserts new section 19J, which provides:

A registrable person must not, during the person's reporting period, use a digital platform or web-based service for the purposes of playing games if the platform or service allows for online communication with a child.

I thank Mr Buckingham for making that important contribution to the debate, for his collaborative engagement in discussing the content of the proposed amendment and its intended application, and for his engagement with the Government in developing the amendment to ensure that the proposed offence integrates with the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 as amended by the bill.

All parents want their children to be safe and free to live their lives free from harm. As pointed out by Mr Buckingham in the other place, it is a sad and regrettable modern reality that some predators engage with children online. The amendment will contribute to the scheme that is being enhanced by the Government's bill. As a whole, the bill will strengthen the New South Wales child protection offenders registration regime and help it meet its object of protecting children from serious harm. The Government supports the amendment, and I ask the House to support it.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (11:05): The Opposition is happy to accept the amendment. All parents are aware of the attraction of online games for our kids, but it is frightening to know that they can be used as a means of communicating with young children. Anything that we can do to make that space safer is the right thing to do. The Opposition supports the amendment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

*Committees***JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES****Extension of Reporting Date**

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (11:06): I move:

That:

- (1) This House agrees with the Legislative Council's resolution relating to the extension of the reporting date of the Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales to 13 December 2024.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council of this resolution.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak about the inquiry and the extension of time for it to report on its findings. As we said when we first commenced the inquiry back in May, it is our Government's recognition of the importance of music and arts education in New South Wales. It delivers on a key election commitment that we made following extensive consultation with the music and arts sectors across both metropolitan and regional areas. The Government recognises the broad social value that comes from investment in the arts and in music—its power to connect people, its ability to inspire and the skills it offers to children, young people and lifelong learners. In supporting this as a priority, in December 2023 the Government launched Creative Communities, a 10-year policy to direct Government investment in arts, culture and the creative industries.

The policy articulates the Government's commitment to ensuring that everyone in New South Wales, from early childhood to old age, has access to cultural and creative activities, services and goods. The committee is chaired by the member for Granville, with the member for Wagga Wagga as deputy chair, strongly representing regional arts. Its members include the member for Tamworth, Ms Abigail Boyd, the member for South Coast, the Hon. Anthony D'Adam, the member for Wollondilly, the Hon. Jacqui Munro and the Hon. Emily Suvaal. The committee has been working hard since May this year and has read through hundreds of submissions made from across the arts and music sectors over the past few months. Committee hearings took place in Sydney on 30 July and 23 August. They were, from all accounts, well received.

I turn now to our Government's priority of regional arts and music. As part of its terms of reference, the committee must look into equitable access to quality music and arts education in the regions. Engagement with the regions is an important policy commitment in Creative Communities. It is a touchstone of our arts and cultural policy in New South Wales that we deliver a regional arts strategy in consultation with the sector in 2024. The intention of the inquiry was always to champion music and arts education through that process. The hearings were held in Sydney and are scheduled to take place in regional areas to hear from artists, educators and organisations about arts and music education in the regions. Due to the importance to the Government of regional engagement in delivering on arts and music education, it is imperative that we make sure practitioners in the regions are thoroughly heard and engaged with in the inquiry and on its outcomes.

The committee is planning to visit Wollongong as part of its regional engagement to allow voices from the regions, including practitioners, to be heard on important regional arts and music matters. I am sure the member for Shellharbour would welcome that as this is a priority concern of hers. With that priority in mind, the committee has considered other members of the arts and music industry who were raised as key stakeholders in the process. The committee would like to hear from more universities about the process of arts and music education and how it is incorporated into tertiary education and degrees, including through vocational training. That is particularly important for the committee after listening to the evidence and reading the submissions of those engaged in the inquiry. I note there are still questions to be asked about creative and performing arts training and further education in arts and music.

The committee seeks an extension of time on the reporting date to enable regional voices to be heard, to allow for further input from higher education and vocational education educators, and to accommodate additional site visits to schools and educational facilities across the sector. That will be important to achieve quality outcomes for the committee and the inquiry. The terms of reference for the inquiry include a reporting date of 29 November 2024. The committee seeks an extension to 13 December 2024 so that it may deliver the report and other outcomes by the end of the year and include additional submissions from other parts of the music and education sector to ensure the report is fulsome and all relevant voices are heard on the important issues that were raised as part of the inquiry. I thank members for their consideration of that matter. I support an extension of time for the inquiry to 13 December 2024.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (11:12): The Opposition supports the extension of time for the report of the Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales. This is a very important inquiry because, at the heart of it all, music is the soul and it starts that learning process at a very

young age. The committee has travelled to many different areas, as the Leader of the House indicated. We are learning a great deal about the benefit and value of having music in education, and being more rigorous with the curriculum. Some of the witnesses who have given their time to educate the committee about this subject, for which we are grateful, include the music educator and director of Muse Consulting and founder of Bigger Better Brains and LearnGauge, Dr Anita Collins—

Ms Trish Doyle: Sing us a song, member for Tamworth!

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: As it turns out, the music teacher was sick during one school visit and they needed a guitar player, so I played guitar for them during that session. It was very nice to be part of that class. It was a great learning experience for me to see how they deliver that lesson. Other witnesses who have contributed to the inquiry include the national education adviser of Music in Me, Louise Barkl; the national manager of Music in Me, Bernadette Heard; the chair of the National Advocates for Arts Education, Dr John Nicholas Saunders; and the president of Art Education Australia, Dr Kathryn Coleman. This is a very important inquiry. The committee members thank the House for its indulgence in relation to the extension of reporting time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills

PORTS AND MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Speech

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:14): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024. The bill proposes amendments to the Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995 and gives effect to the recommendations from an independent review of the Act. The Act provides the framework for ports and maritime management in New South Wales and is relevant to the freight and international shipping industries, as well as the recreational and domestic commercial vessel sectors. The State's three major ports at Botany, Newcastle and Port Kembla are the primary link between New South Wales producers and consumers and global markets. The Act is also relevant for the ports of Sydney, Eden, Yamba and the State's 16 regional harbours. Examining the regulatory framework that underpins the effective operation of those ports and harbours is important to ensure their efficient operations.

In addition to commercial ports, each year more than two million people go boating using recreational or domestic commercial vessels and rely on marine infrastructure to safely access our more than 2,000 kilometres of coastal and inland waterways. The Act includes marine safety functions, the management of wharves and moorings, government price monitoring of port operator charges and the regulation of parts of the port-related supply chain to promote competition and productivity. It also sets out the functions of the Port Authority of New South Wales, a State owned corporation that performs a range of navigation, security, safety and environmental protection functions in the State's six commercial ports. The Port Authority also owns and operates bulk vessel berths at Glebe Island, White Bay, Eden and Yamba as well as the State's cruise ship terminals and other port-related lands.

A comprehensive independent review of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act was led by Mr Ed Willett, who has over 30 years of experience in competition policy and economic regulation. The recommendations from the review have been informed by stakeholder input, external research and detailed analysis. The review also included the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy [PBLIS], which is detailed in the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation and the relevant mandatory standards. The PBLIS is a regulation that covers the performance of stevedores, rail operators and road carriers at the three Port Botany container terminals. Mr Willett's final report, which I released on 25 January this year, made 37 recommendations as well as eight findings relating to both the Act and the PBLIS. The Government has accepted and implemented all 16 of the recommendations relating to the Act and has noted Mr Willett's five findings relating to the Act that do not require action.

I have also commenced the Freight Policy Reform Program to investigate and review the current policy settings that apply to different parts of our freight supply chain. The reform program is being supported by an expert panel led by Dr Kerry Schott, AO. In addition to the broad review objectives, the panel has been tasked with consulting industry on 20 of the 21 final recommendations from the independent review relating to PBLIS. Implementation of endorsed changes to PBLIS will be undertaken in the subsequent regulation amendment process, in which stakeholders will be consulted on the specific details. The purpose of the bill is to implement amendments to the Ports and Maritime Administration Act recommended by Mr Willett. The review considered

whether the Act's policy objectives remain current and whether any changes were required to ensure it remains suitable, now and in the future.

Two rounds of public consultation were completed, including on a discussion paper and an options paper, and feedback was provided by over 70 businesses, individuals and organisations. The review heard from port operators, container stevedores, domestic commercial and recreational vessel operators, the shipping industry, transport operators, rail operators, peak industry bodies, unions, individuals, community groups and government. I am pleased to say that stakeholders were broadly supportive of the amendments the bill proposes. The review found that the Act's policy objectives remain current and broad changes to the Act are not required. However, the review did find that there are opportunities for improvement to support the safety, efficiency and effective governance of the State's ports and maritime environment.

The bill will implement 12 of the 16 recommendations for the Act. I propose to implement the remaining four recommendations during a subsequent process to amend the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2021, which will include detailed stakeholder consultation on a regulatory impact statement and a draft regulation. In addition, some of the 12 recommendations covered in this bill will have further details developed in the subsequent regulation amendment process, ensuring that stakeholders are appropriately engaged and the potential regulatory impact is considered in line with the appropriate government process.

I now turn to the substance of the bill. The bill will make five changes to support port safety. Section 104A in the bill will provide for continuing offences. Where a person commits a relevant offence under the Act or regulation, a continuing offence can be applied for each day until the requirement is complied with. This will facilitate changes to the penalty structure of the time limit for dangerous goods in ports, to ensure there is an appropriate incentive for cargo owners to comply with the time limits for holding dangerous goods at our ports. Currently the maximum penalty is reached on day four of overstaying the set time limit, and therefore it provides no incentive for goods that have overstayed to be collected after this time. The safe operation of our ports is essential, and the 187 fines issued in the 2022-23 financial year for dangerous goods overstaying their required time limits highlight the need for improvement to the penalty structure.

Secondly, the essential port-related services of towage, bunkering and lines handling will have a statutory licensing regime applied under new part 4B. The current licensing regime for towage, which involves the use of tugboats to help move or position larger vessels, will be formalised as part of this bill. A new licensing regime for lines handling and bunkering will be introduced. Bunkering, which is the process of refuelling vessels, and lines handling, which involves the mooring and unmooring of vessels at ports, can pose significant risks to port operations, infrastructure and waterways. A licensing regime for these services will support safer port operations by setting standards and performance indicators for service providers.

To provide transparency, section 46ZC will set up a monitoring role so that the Port Authority will be required to report to me annually on the operation of the new provisions, including the number and types of licences granted or refused and any relevant penalty infringement notices issued. To ensure that the licensing regime is fit for purpose, specific requirements will be developed during the regulation amendment process, with detailed industry consultation undertaken. A suitable transition process will move existing towage operators licensed under the current, non-statutory licensing regime to the new arrangements when the amendments to the regulation are completed.

The Act's current requirements do not adequately address situations where the driver of a vehicle cannot be found, such as when a driver abandons a vehicle or leaves it unattended at or near ports or wharves. To address this, the bill will insert section 104B into the Act to strengthen compliance with parking rules inside all ports and also on Transport for NSW or Port Authority land near a port or wharf, by extending liability to the owner of the vehicle.

The bill also introduces an amendment to the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2017 to allow Transport for NSW to provide registration information to private port operators to facilitate the issuing of a penalty infringement notice. This is restricted to providing necessary pieces of registration information only in relation to parking offences, such as the name and address of the vehicle's owner. Finally, to allow more timely responses to non-emergency safety or security issues at ports, section 38 will be amended to reduce the notice period from two weeks to one week for port operator directions to be provided to the Harbour Master or to the Minister where it relates to the management of dangerous goods.

The independent review recommended a number of improvements to the Act to support improved information and environmental sustainability. Currently the Act allows port operators to require information from vessels for specific purposes, including monitoring compliance with port operator directions and to calculate port charges. Section 110 (1B) will allow for these requirements to be expanded by the regulations so that ships will be required to provide vessel environmental performance information—for example, fuel types and noise emission

levels—to support ongoing monitoring of the environmental performance of vessels. The specific environmental performance information to be provided will be progressed as part of a subsequent regulation amendment process, with further stakeholder consultation.

The Government's price-monitoring scheme covers port operator charges that apply to ships. The government administration of this scheme will be improved by doubling the minimum notice period for port operators to notify the Minister and industry of any proposed changes to their service charges applied at section 80 (2). This change will support industry to better prepare and respond to any changes in port charges and allows appropriate monitoring of port charges by ensuring the Minister is suitably advised. Importantly, this change aligns with the current practice of most port operators. Through the inclusion of section 110 (1B) in the Act, and the amendment of sections 11 and 12 of the regulation, there will be improvements to ship manifest information and data sharing. This provision will provide a more accurate and reliable overview of import and export container movements to government and port operators to inform planning for future freight supply chain investment.

The bill also contains changes to modernise and streamline the legislation. Some of the Minister for Transport's functions under sections 24 and 25 of the Act, currently administered by Transport for NSW, will be clarified to reflect changes in responsibilities for managing waterways infrastructure and the provision of maritime services within government. The Port Authority of New South Wales objectives at section 10AA will be updated to allow, with the transport Minister's approval, activities that are complementary to its principal objectives and functions.

The Port Authority manages a range of lands and there is the potential for complementary activities to be accommodated without impacting port functions, which could support the broader objectives of the Port Authority, as a State-owned corporation, to be a successful business and exhibit a sense of social responsibility. In these instances, the transport Minister will be able to approve suitable activities that do not interfere with the Port Authority focus on port safety and on facilitating productive and competitive port activity. To avoid any doubt, the bill is clear that this approval is in addition to any other approvals required and does not replace other legislative requirements.

As mentioned, further details for some of the Act changes, such as towage, line handling and bunkering licensing requirements, will be progressed as part of the subsequent regulation process. This bill is necessary to ensure that New South Wales has effective legislative arrangements in place to meet the current and expected future ports and maritime requirements. Through the bill, this Government can ensure that the ongoing safety, sustainability and productivity of our key trade gateways is secure. It will ensure that waterways infrastructure and maritime services in New South Wales meet the needs of the more than two million people that go boating using recreational or small commercial vessels each year. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:27): The Opposition in the upper House originally indicated that it would not oppose the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024, but then some hostile amendments were added to the bill which have caused a change to that position. The Opposition will deal with the bill as it did in the upper House last night, by opposing clause 34 (2) that has crept into the bill from a Labor and Greens amendment. This clause mandates that two members of the CFMEU will sit on the Maritime Advisory Council. The CFMEU has been an unlawful trade union organisation for some time. From 2016 to 2022, the CFMEU incurred \$16.1 million in court-imposed fines as a consequence of its widespread illegal activities. The court findings included penalties for the union physically and verbally assaulting workers, for intimidating people and for making homophobic and sexist slurs.

More recently in New South Wales, the union's secretary, Darren Greenfield, and his son, Michael Greenfield, have been charged with bribery offences. They have used \$3.15 million of union members' funds to pay their lawyers. Just two weeks ago, investigations by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *60 Minutes* and *The Australian Financial Review* have uncovered deep underworld links between the CFMEU and organised criminal activity. It is completely unacceptable for unions like the CFMEU and their affiliates to have links with unlawful motorcycle gangs and the criminal underworld. Labor cannot have it both ways. It cannot pretend on the one hand to be against the CFMEU criminal activities and appoint an administrator, then on the other hand mandate that its union officials be appointed to two positions on the Maritime Advisory Council.

The Maritime Union of Australia [MUA] and the CFMEU merged in 2018 into a large, mega union. Then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that both the CFMEU and the MUA had shown a long-term disregard for the law and that it was against the national interest to have a larger unlawful union come together in 2018, as it did. It is just not right to pretend that the maritime union division of the CFMEU is somehow a group of well-behaved people that should be on the Maritime Advisory Council. In 2018 they joined the CFMEU knowing

that it had links to organised crime and had committed thousands of criminal offences for which it had been found guilty.

Our ports are the lifeblood of the New South Wales economy. One in four jobs in New South Wales is directly or indirectly related to the imports and exports that come into and go out of our State. Our ports are a big part of that massive element of our State economy. Chris Minns said that his Government "must take the necessary action to protect honest and hardworking workers and union members" when he announced that an administrator was to be appointed to the construction division of the CFMEU, but he was clearly not genuine because the Labor Party has now agreed to an amendment to the bill in the upper House that will require two of the maritime advisory board members to be from the CFMEU. There is no secret about that.

In the upper House Ms Abigail Boyd made it clear that the amendment was made after she had had discussions with the maritime division of the CFMEU. This really shows how complicit the Australian Labor Party [ALP] has been in the organised criminal activities that the CFMEU is engaged in. Many members opposite, like the police Minister, have strong links to the old Maritime Union of Australia, which is now part of a division of the CFMEU, and the construction division of the CFMEU is part of the membership—

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Oh, the Minister rises!

Ms Yasmin Catley: If the member for Wahroonga wants to make accusations about me and my links, he can do so by way of substantive motion.

Mr Tim Crakanthorp: Or outside.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Or he can take it outside. It has nothing to do with this legislation. I find it offensive that he comes in here to muckrake.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): Order! The Minister will be heard in silence.

Ms Yasmin Catley: My husband is a member of the MUA. There is no secret about that. He is currently in the Antarctic doing scientific investigations for the CSIRO. I do not find anything about that profession disreputable—in fact, it is quite the opposite—but the member for Wahroonga has come in here and suggested that is the case. He needs to withdraw his comment or just sit down and stop being irrelevant.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga has been asked to withdraw the comment.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: No, I am not going to withdraw anything.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will return to the content of the bill.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Gee, the peanut gallery over here has certainly woken up, hasn't it? It is not acceptable to entrench in the maritime advisory board two positions that are linked to a trade union that has organised criminal links. Our ports are critical to our State economy, so their integrity must be absolutely squeaky clean. We know that organised crime seeks to bring in drugs and other contraband through our ports from time to time.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: Consistent with Standing Order 76, the member for Wahroonga is not being relevant to the debate. I suggest that he is using his contribution, under privilege, to make assertions in a defamatory manner about people who are not here to defend themselves. I believe that behaviour is grossly unparliamentary for any member in this place. Opposition members may have axes to grind with the union movement; I am okay with that. But clearly contribution of the member for Wahroonga is irrelevant and designed to defame other people unfairly and unjustly.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will return to the content of the bill.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I was not talking about an individual. I do not know whether the member for Campbelltown is just a little bit slow or what's going on.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I was talking about the integrity of our ports and not referring to any individuals at the time the member for Campbelltown took his point of order.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will resume his seat. The member for Campbelltown rises on a point of order.

Mr Greg Warren: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 76. My learned friend is very clearly making an insinuation. Blind Freddy can see it; all members can see it. We know what the insinuation is, and we know what the reference is. We know exactly what he is trying to do. His suggestions are grossly unfair and unjust, and he is using privilege in the cowards castle.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will return to the content of the bill.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: That is what I am doing, Mr Assistant Speaker. I am talking about lines one to six on page 23 of the bill and the mandating of appointments to the Maritime Advisory Council. I am completely on point and being relevant. I am surprised by this degree of sensitivity.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: This a government that appointed an administrator to the CFMEU because of its criminal activities.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will resume his seat. The Leader of the House rises on a point of order.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Mr Assistant Speaker, you have just ruled on a point of order under Standing Order 76. It is not for the member for Wahroonga to cavil with your ruling. He should comply with your ruling. He is arguing about your ruling.

Business interrupted.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (11:36): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow for community recognition statements (for up to 20 minutes) to commence after the conclusion of Government business, followed by private members' statements.

Members can utilise their own free time for their arguments. Effectively, the motion means that after Government business, the House will move to community recognition statements and then private members' statements. We will not break for lunch; we will just keep going. Everybody gets to leave early, but it will depend on the Opposition as to how long we will be here.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

PORTS AND MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Business resumed.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:37): Returning to my contribution to debate on the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024, I was saying nothing about anyone in particular. I was merely making a fairly uncontroversial proposition that our ports are critical to the economy of our State. The integrity of movements and matters that go through our ports is important, as it is an area where illegal activity is attempted, whether it be drugs or other contraband trying to come into our State. It is absolutely important that the administration of our ports not only be beyond reproach but also appears to be beyond reproach.

The Minns Government either stands for integrity and the protection of our State economy or it does not. Putting members of a trade union that has had an administrator appointed because of its unlawful activities onto the Maritime Advisory Council is completely and utterly inappropriate. Labor, both Federal and State, has delivered the worst economic conditions to the State since the recession of the 1990s. About three or four weeks ago the Governor of the Reserve Bank made the point that State government expenditure is one of the major influences on the rise of prices in our State. This is a time of particular economic vulnerability. In this cost-of-living crisis, to take actions like putting inappropriate people on the Maritime Advisory Council, having regard to our current economic insecurity—

Ms Anna Watson: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 76. If the member for Wahroonga has any evidence of wrongdoing by the MUA, I call on him to lay it on the table so we can all look at it, or step outside and repeat what he has said in the House. You are a coward. Show us your evidence, Alister.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: I ask that you direct the member for Shellharbour to withdraw that unparliamentary comment. The Speaker made a statement yesterday about unparliamentary behaviour. The member for Shellharbour has obviously breached the standing orders. Also, under Standing Order 52 the member for Wahroonga should be heard in silence. The Minister was heard in silence. The same courtesy is not being shown to the member for Wahroonga.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): Members will debate the content and substance of the bill rather than overly politicising the debate. We are here to debate and pass legislation. The member for Terrigal has requested that the member for Shellharbour withdraw her comment. Is she willing to withdraw it?

Ms Anna Watson: No.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I turn to the point of order taken by the member for Shellharbour. The member for Wahroonga will focus on the content of the bill.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 52. The Minister was heard in absolute silence. The same courtesy is not being shown to the member for Wahroonga.

Mr Tri Vo: You are the one making the noise.

Mr Adam Crouch: Again! Standing Order 52—perfect example.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I have heard the point of order. All members will focus on the content of the bill. We have been diverted from the debate for the past 10 minutes or so. Members will focus on the bill before the House. The member for Wahroonga has the call.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: A number of propositions are uncontroversial. The bill is about our ports. I have argued that our ports are incredibly important to the economy of this State, that the integrity of our ports is absolutely essential to their economic contribution to our State and that anything that could arguably change the integrity of our ports is a matter of significance. It is directly relevant to page 23 of the bill, lines 1 to 6, to which I will move an amendment. What I have been talking about is entirely relevant to the bill, despite the suggestions by members opposite. There seems to be a degree of amnesia. The Minns Government appointed an administrator to the CFMEU. That seems to have been forgotten by members opposite. He appointed an administrator because of the illegal activities of the CFMEU.

Ms Anna Watson: What has that got to do with the MUA?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Can I please be heard in silence, Mr Assistant Speaker? This is a second reading debate.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The member for Wahroonga will be heard in silence.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Having regard to all the matters I have raised in my contribution, the Opposition will move an amendment to the bill to delete the legal requirement inserted by the Government and The Greens in the upper House to have two CFMEU union officials on the Maritime Advisory Board. I ask crossbench members to support my amendment. I remind them, including the member for Sydney, of the judicial findings in prosecutions against the union that it engaged in homophobic and sexist slurs. Other crossbench members who frequently talk about the importance of integrity will also be mindful that the Maritime Advisory Board must not only be above reproach but also appear to be above reproach, and that it is inappropriate for two officials of a union to which this Government has appointed an administrator, because of its unlawful activities, to sit on that board.

I ask members to put aside the fact that the Labor Party had a drubbing in the local council elections last weekend and that the unions were nowhere near any of the polling booths in Western Sydney to support it. Members should not be influenced by the fact that the union movement is now abandoning this Government. Instead, they should put the State's economic interests first and foremost, recognise the importance of our ports to the State economy, recognise the importance of ensuring the integrity of our ports, and recognise that this Government has brought industrial chaos to our State. Sporting fans will not even be able to get to the football finals this weekend because of the industrial chaos that is going on. I ask members to take a responsible position in the best interest of the State's economy and support the amendment that I will be moving to lines 1 to 6 on page 23.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (11:45): I speak in debate on the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024. Unlike the member for Wahroonga, who is confused about the role of the Maritime Union of Australia and its representation, I will get back to the substance and content of the bill. The independent review of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995 found opportunities to improve parts of the Act and its application. I detail four of the recommended changes that will improve port safety. The first change makes provision for continuing offences, which, following the regulation amendment process, will introduce a daily penalty for dangerous goods that remain at ports beyond their allowed time limit. Dangerous goods can pose significant risks to port facilities, and their management is regulated to ensure that they are handled and stored safely. Port time limits apply to different categories of dangerous goods, from the time the goods enter the port facility for import or export to when they are transported out of the port.

Cargo owners and stevedores are responsible for ensuring that dangerous goods are not kept at the port beyond the time limits, with penalties enforced by the Port Authority of New South Wales if those times are exceeded. The current penalty structure is in three tiers, with dangerous goods that overstay their time limit beyond four days attracting the maximum penalty. That means that an overstay of five days is penalised at the same amount as an overstay of 10 days. In the 2022-23 financial year, there were 68 dangerous goods fines issued for overstaying port time limits beyond four days. Most dangerous goods are collected within the required time frames; however, in instances where that does not occur, an ongoing penalty will create an incentive to comply with the port safety requirements. The details of the penalty structure and the relevant amounts will be developed in consultation with stakeholders in a subsequent process to amend the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2021.

The bill will strengthen the ability of private port operators to enforce port operator directions. NSW Ports and the Port of Newcastle are the private port operators responsible for managing Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle. To ensure that they can appropriately manage port safety, the port operators can issue directions to port users, including for the driving, stopping and parking of vehicles; the movement, handling or storage of goods; and any activity that may pose a risk to the safety or security at the port. Not complying with a port operator direction can result in serious safety and security issues, depending on the nature of the direction and its breach. For example, vehicles stopped, parked and queued on port roads, causing traffic congestion, can create safety issues for port staff and other drivers and vehicles. Port operator directions can currently be enforced by removing persons not complying with a direction and by moving or removing goods or vehicles from ports. However, effective enforcement of those directions poses challenges. To ensure appropriate port management, a change is required.

The bill introduces a criminal offence and penalty infringement notice for not complying with a private port operator direction, to strengthen enforcement and support the safe and efficient operation of private ports, including effective management of traffic in ports. That provides the private port operators the same ability as the Port Authority to ensure all ports can be managed safely and effectively. It provides a hybrid government and private port operator scheme where the penalty infringement notices would be issued by appropriately trained private port operator staff who have been appointed as authorised officers for this purpose by Transport for NSW. As an offence under this Act, any criminal proceedings could be commenced by the New South Wales Government for serious breaches. That approach is in line with other examples of traffic control by private entities such as major airports, including Sydney airport, and toll roads in New South Wales, as well as pay for parking schemes at hospitals and universities.

Transport for NSW will facilitate the penalty process, with any revenue raised paid to the New South Wales Government, not the private port operator. While the maximum penalty for this offence is 30 penalty units, which is \$3,300, the penalty infringement notice will be set at around \$500. Penalty infringement notices would only be issued on the spot once authorised officers are appointed and appropriately trained. The Minister is already provided with regular reports on the issuing of private port operator directions, including actions to enforce compliance, and that oversight will extend to the issuing of penalty infringement notices. The bill also extends liability for noncompliance with parking rules at or near ports and wharves to vehicle owners. Parking requirements are in place at ports and wharves and are applied via directions, signs and traffic-control devices.

However, current Act requirements do not adequately address situations where the driver of a vehicle cannot be found if a vehicle is just left unattended. To address that, compliance with parking rules inside all ports and also on Transport for NSW or Port Authority land near a port or wharf will be strengthened by extending liability to the owner of the vehicle. That aligns with other New South Wales legislation and will provide a defence for owners if they supply details of the driver at the time of the offence or if the vehicle was stolen. It will also ensure a consistent approach across all ports and wharves, including relevant land nearby.

A further change reduces the notice period for port operator directions. Private port operators issue directions to port users to maintain safety and security at the port. Advanced notice of two weeks is currently

provided to the relevant harbourmaster and to the Minister if the direction relates to dangerous goods. That notification period will be reduced to one week to support effective port management by allowing more timely responses to general safety or security issues. I note that advanced notification is not required if the direction is given in an emergency, and that is unchanged. Two further notices to improve the New South Wales mooring licence scheme and update ship bunkering permit requirements to improve safety will be addressed in a subsequent regulation amendment process. In summary, the changes I have detailed today relating to dangerous goods, private port operator directions and traffic management will ensure a safe operating environment, which is critical to the responsible functioning of our ports. I commend this bill to the House.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (11:53): I speak on behalf of The Greens in debate on the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024 and, in particular, the amendments moved by my colleagues in the other place, which the Opposition has foreshadowed it will seek to reverse. Those sensible amendments are reasonably supported by the Government. The description by the Manager of Opposition Business of those amendments as "hostile" is frankly ludicrous. Attempting to link those amendments to current issues around the CFMEU is a stretch at best and anti-worker at worst. Nobody is questioning the importance or integrity of our ports. The Maritime Advisory Council should of course have workers represented on it. The Maritime Advisory Council has been described as a council that provides diverse representation across the recreational boating, commercial vessel and maritime property sectors. Members are appointed for their expertise as individuals.

The point is that it is incredibly important to have workers put on this advisory board. The Maritime Advisory Council should have workers on it. Any move to paint the workers being represented on an advisory board such as this as nefarious is disgraceful. The two representatives include one for the crew of vessels and one for the port workers. It is clear that, when we are talking about the operations of the ports and the maritime areas, it is important to understand the workers' experiences. I am shocked that the Opposition would be so blatantly anti-worker and try to link this with the CFMEU just to make itself sound like it has a legitimate point of view. The Greens stand by our workers and our unions. I am grateful to the Government for supporting these very sensible amendments.

The second amendment removes the part of the bill that would put into regulations that a private port operator could directly issue infringement notices that could then result in a criminal offence. That would have given private companies powers that would normally only rest with government and agencies. It is another very sensible amendment to ensure that there are no concerns about the impact on human and civil rights. Again, I thank the Government for supporting these sensible amendments in the other place. I do not need to speak about this at length, as the Opposition has sought to do. But it is quite clear that the Opposition is anti-worker. It is trying to paint as nefarious a sensible amendment to make sure that the ports administration is done with the workers and their expertise in mind. The Opposition is anti-worker and is trying to make sure that workers have no say.

Workers have incredible levels of expertise, and it is shocking that the Opposition would try to suggest that this has something to do with concerns about the CFMEU or other activities. The amendment is clearly sensible. It makes sure that workers are represented on maritime advisory boards, which have an important impact on the integrity of our ports. It is shocking that any member would be so anti-worker that they would try to link these activities to something that is completely unrelated, instead of supporting the amendments. I thank my colleague in the other place for moving the amendments and I thank the Government for supporting them. They are sensible and they are right.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (11:56): I contribute to debate on the Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024. I acknowledge the member for Balmain for her sensible, well thought out and appropriate contribution. Her contribution is so far from that of the member for Wahroonga it is not funny. It is great to have a member in this place like the member for Balmain who actually understands the amendments and supports the Labor Party on this matter. I support the bill—

Mr Alister Henskens: They are coming after your electorates.

Ms ANNA WATSON: Temporary Speaker, I ask that I be heard in silence. I extended that courtesy to the member for Wahroonga.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The standing orders provide that members with the call will be heard in silence.

Ms ANNA WATSON: The independent review of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995 found that there are opportunities to improve parts of the Act and its application. Access by port operators to government relevant information about the movement of goods, including their environmental impact, supports the safe and efficient operation of ports across New South Wales and infrastructure planning now and into the future. I detail

three provisions in the bill to support the information and environmental sustainability. The first relates to the provision of vessel environmental performance and information by ships.

Port operators can currently require information from ships for specific purposes such as monitoring compliance with directions and calculating and applying port charges. Port operators will now also be able to require ships to provide vessel performance information such as fuel types, exhaust gas cleaning systems and noise emission levels. That will facilitate environmental performance monitoring to support the effective management of the environmental performance and risk mitigation strategies in ports—for example, in relation to air quality and noise control. It will also help to identify opportunities for improvement and inform port environmental plans and future port investments. That aligns with global shifts to address environmental impacts from shipping.

The specific vessel environmental performance information sought will be addressed in a subsequent process to amend the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2021. I understand that during this consultation on the independent review of the Act some stakeholders requested information to be provided on an aggregate or one-off basis, where possible, to reduce the administrative effort. This change is not expected to have adverse impacts on ships. Any administrative requirements of this change will be reduced, where possible, by utilising information and formats that are readily available. The impact of this change on ships is considered proportionate and appropriate to support environmental impact mitigation initiatives in New South Wales.

The second change will improve the New South Wales Government price-monitoring scheme for port charges by providing increased notice of upcoming changes. The Minister for Transport is responsible for monitoring the charges that port operators apply, in line with the Act, to promote a competitive commercial environment in port operations. The Minister does not regulate or approve port charges. Port operators are required to notify the Minister of new charges and changes to existing charges at least 20 business days before the change commences. They are also required to notify industry at least 10 business days before the change. Government administration of the scheme will be improved by doubling these time frames so that 40 business days notice is provided to the Minister and, within that period, 20 business days notice is provided to industry. This will support industry to better prepare and respond to changes in port charges and allows for appropriate monitoring of port charges by ensuring the Minister is suitably advised. Importantly, this aligns with the current practice of most port operators.

The third change will improve vessel manifest information and information sharing—something the Minister has spoken about today in this place. A manifest is a document listing cargo information about the goods being shipped. Shipowners must provide certain information in a manifest relating to the loading or discharge of goods, including the address of the goods and the berths at which the goods are loaded or discharged, as well as other information about the goods that the relevant port operator reasonably requests. Port operators use this information to calculate port charges under the Act. This change will expand the information that shipowners must give a port operator, to improve the quality of information provided.

The vessel manifests will be required to include goods classification information and, where relevant, the postcodes of the origin and the destination of containerised goods. This information is already provided for Australian Border Force requirements. It is existing information that will benefit port operators and the New South Wales Government. These manifest requirements will provide a more accurate and reliable source of data on the movement of goods and, in particular, container distribution within New South Wales, to inform future freight supply chain investment. It is a sensible change.

Currently, the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2021 makes it a criminal offence for vessel owners to not provide a manifest to the relevant port operator, with a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units. However, there is no penalty for not providing all the information required under the regulation, or for not providing a manifest within the specified time frame, which differs based on the port and whether the goods are imports or exports. As port operators rely on the completeness of vessel manifest information to appropriately calculate their charges, the offence is being expanded to include failing to provide all required information in a manifest and failing to provide a manifest within the required time frame. This will strengthen enforcement of these requirements.

Stakeholders highlighted the benefits of improved information sharing during consultation on the independent review of the Act. System-to-system electronic exchange of information is important for the effective operation of the port supply chain. The benefits include data standardisation; improved quality of data and minimisation of errors, such as those associated with manual data entry; and streamlining of processes and reduced administration. It is intended that shipowners will have to provide cargo delivery orders and vessel manifests in an appropriate electronic format to port operators and empty container parks, unless otherwise agreed. The details of these information sharing arrangements will be considered in the subsequent regulation amendment process, where detailed consultation will occur with industry.

These changes will modernise and streamline information sharing methods to support efficient and effective information transfers and reduce administration. Alignment with recognised information sharing standards and the ability to accommodate different system-to-system information exchange formats would minimise administrative effort while ensuring requirements remain fit for purpose. Those aspects will be taken into consideration. In summary, the changes that I have detailed will improve information availability and governance arrangements in NSW Ports, leading to greater efficiency and visibility of the port-related supply chain. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (12:04): On behalf of Ms Jo Haylen: In reply: I thank the following members for their contributions to this debate: the member for Campbelltown, the member for Balmain, the member for Newcastle, the member for Shellharbour, the member for Wahrenonga and the member for Swansea. In accordance with Standing Order 188A, I now briefly address some issues raised by the Legislation Review Committee in its digest of 17 June 2024. The Ports and Maritime Administration Amendment Bill 2024 proposes to insert part 4B, division 2 into the Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995, which would empower the Port Authority of New South Wales to make determinations on requirements and standards that apply to the provision of licensed services at pilotage ports.

Under new division 3, a licence holder must comply with any relevant licensed service determinations when providing licensed services at pilotage ports. Licensed service determinations are intended to outline the technical requirements and standards for the operation of towage, bunkering and lines-handling services at specific ports. In new section 46C (5), the bill provides for the making of regulations on the following substantive matters relating to licensed service determinations:

- (a) the form and content of licensed service determinations,
- (b) processes the Port Authority of New South Wales must comply with before making a licensed service determination,
- (c) matters about which licensed service determinations must not be made.

Such regulations will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny. Towage service providers in pilotage ports in New South Wales currently operate under a non-statutory licensing regime administered by the Port Authority of New South Wales. These towage service providers are well informed about the current regime and a number of them were actively engaged in the independent review of the Act, which informed the bill's proposed statutory licensing regime. Only a small number of towage, bunkering and lines-handling service providers are operating in New South Wales, which allowed for direct and comprehensive communication to occur. Two rounds of detailed stakeholder consultation covering the proposed statutory licensing regime were carried out to inform the independent review. Further stakeholder consultation will be undertaken during the regulation amendment process.

The bill also proposes to insert new section 104B, which would make vehicle owners automatically liable for certain parking offences. The section also proposes exceptions to those offences, which would require the vehicle owner to satisfy the court or an authorised officer that the vehicle was stolen or illegally used. The extension of liability for failure to comply with a traffic direction to the owner of the vehicle will strengthen the enforcement of parking offences. Appropriate safeguards from liability for the owner of the vehicle are included in the bill. These safeguards include exceptions to these offences, which require the vehicle owner to satisfy the court or an authorised officer that the vehicle was stolen or illegally used.

Before concluding, I will address some particular issues that have been raised in debate by members. Union representation on the Maritime Advisory Council is the first issue. The Maritime Advisory Council provides advice to the Minister for Transport on matters relevant for domestic commercial vessels and recreational vessels, including on the operation of marine legislation, maritime safety and expenditure priorities for Transport for NSW relating to maritime infrastructure and research. The amendment that the Minister may appoint union representation along with the recreational boating sector, the commercial vessel sector and the maritime property sector to the Maritime Advisory Council will further enhance the work of the council, which is why the Government has welcomed it.

The second amendment removes schedule 3 [11], penalty notice offences, from the bill, which relates to the issuing of penalty notices for breach of private port operator directions. Private port operators manage our primary commercial ports in New South Wales—Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle. That includes responsibility for ensuring the ports are safe and secure. The independent review of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act examined the approach to private port operator directions in the Ports and Maritime Administration Act and recommended that compliance and enforcement be strengthened by introducing a criminal offence and the ability to issue a penalty infringement notice for persons who breach private port operator directions.

The framework for private port operator directions has been in the Ports and Maritime Administration Act since November 2012, covering Port Kembla, Port Botany and the Port of Newcastle. The Government adopted the recommendation in the bill so that all ports in New South Wales are consistent, as the power currently exists at Government-operated ports, including Sydney Harbour, Eden and Yamba, which are operated by the Port Authority. There are a number of checks and balances in the original bill, including that authorised officers working at private ports must be appointed and trained by Transport for NSW and that the issuing of directions and their enforcement will continue to be monitored by the Minister under the statutory monitoring scheme in section 40D of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act.

Similar schemes, related to traffic control, operate for private entities that run our major airports and toll roads. However, we acknowledge union feedback that the authorisation of private port operators to issue penalty infringement notices needs careful consideration, and we will consult on that further during the regulation process. The bill will help to ensure New South Wales has effective legislative arrangements for our critical ports and maritime environment. The amendments in the bill will improve the safety and efficiency of our ports and maritime environment, strengthen enforcement powers, and modernise and streamline the Act. I commend the bill to the House.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Alister Henskens.

Consideration in Detail

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): By leave: I will deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 and 2 and schedules 1 to 5 be agreed to.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:12): I move Opposition amendment No. 1 on sheet c2024-159B:

No. 1 **Maritime Advisory Council**

Page 23, Schedule 2[38], lines 1–6. Omit all words on the lines.

I do not need to repeat all that I have already said, but the amendment goes to the deletion from the bill of the legal requirement that two members of the Maritime Advisory Council must be union representatives, which, in the context of ports, means two CFMEU officials being appointed to the Maritime Advisory Council. There is no doubt that is the intention of the Legislative Council amendment. It was said in the other place that they be Maritime Union officials, which is a division of the CFMEU.

The interesting matter is that at no time in the upper House was there an explanation as to, firstly, why such a provision was not included in the bill as it was originally drafted if it was such a good idea; secondly, why it is essential to have two union officials on the Maritime Advisory Council; thirdly, how much those union officials will be paid for their participation on the council; and, fourthly, whether it is entirely inconsistent to appoint an administrator to the CFMEU on the one hand and then, on the other hand, to give two of the union appointees paid positions on a government advisory council relating to the administration of our ports, which is incredibly important to the economic wellbeing of our State. As I said previously, one in four jobs in New South Wales is directly or indirectly related to international trade. Why would we put two officials from a union that has had an administrator appointed to it due to its illegal activities in such important positions on the Maritime Advisory Council? With the greatest respect to the member for Balmain, this stance is not being anti-worker at all.

Ms Kobi Shetty: Yes, it is.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Well, that means that the appointment of an administrator was anti-worker.

Ms Kobi Shetty: Yes, it was.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The member for Balmain has just said that the appointment of an administrator to the CFMEU was anti-worker, which means that this is just all about The Greens trying to get votes away from Labor. For reasons that are completely unexplained or incomprehensible, the Labor Party has agreed to the amendments in the upper House. That is entirely inconsistent with the appointment of an administrator to the CFMEU. There are legitimate concerns. As I said in my speech in the second reading debate, between 2016 to 2022 the CFMEU has been fined a total of \$16.1 million in multiple criminal offences taken against it for thousands of breaches of the criminal law.

That organisation has no respect for the rule of law in our State. Why would the Government then give it two paid positions on the Maritime Advisory Council? It makes absolutely no sense from a government that says that it was necessary to appoint an administrator to the same union because of its unlawful activities. It is a no-brainer. The clause on lines 1 to 6 at page 23 on the print of the bill was not included in the original piece of legislation. I assume that the bill was a considered piece of legislation by the Minns Government. It has only reluctantly agreed to a Greens amendment because it does not want to be embarrassed and cede away the many votes that would go to The Greens if it were to oppose it. To oppose it would have been the right thing to do. We are in an absolute cost-of-living crisis. We are in the worst economic conditions that this State has been in since the 1990s.

Mr Mark Coure: It is a Labor-Greens government.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The member for Oatley is entirely correct. It is a Greens-Labor coalition government. On an absolutely critical matter to the economy of New South Wales, which is the operation of our ports, Labor is putting political expediency ahead of the economic wellbeing of our State. It is worried about the way that The Greens are taking votes away from it, the way that the union movement did not support it at the council elections on the weekend, and the way that its vote is collapsing in Western Sydney. It has reluctantly agreed and it will now try to justify the unjustifiable by opposing my amendment. This amendment should be supported by all members of this House who care about integrity, the rule of law, and the economy and the economic wellbeing of our State. I encourage members to support the amendment.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (12:19): The Government opposes Opposition amendment No. 1 on sheet c2024-159B. The Government makes absolutely no apologies about our support for unions and for the working people of New South Wales. It is a ridiculous proposition from the Opposition that we should not include a relevant union in a consultative body because it is somehow associated with the CFMEU, which has been put under administration. The idea that a properly registered union with specialised domain knowledge should be unable to participate in government advisory bodies because a related union has been put into administration is absolutely ludicrous.

Receiving advice from union representatives alongside other sector experts is nothing new. We greatly value the members of the Freight Transport Advisory Council, who provide advice around freight industry and supply chain matters. The council includes union representation from the Maritime Union of Australia, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union and the Transport Workers' Union. The truth is that members opposite hate unions and working people. They hate unions because the Labor Party and the unions are affiliated to secure outcomes for working people every day, and they do not want to do that. I understand why the amendment would aggravate those opposite, but it is just another example of transparent union bashing from a directionless Opposition. The Government will not support the amendment.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (12:21): I make a couple of points on the amendment proposed by the member for Wahroonga. He and I both grew up in Newcastle. The member for Wahroonga carries a strong resentment of trade unionism that goes back to his life experience of being asked to join a union as a young man. He has carried that dark little seed in his soul all the way to this House, and it has been exposed here yet again today for the world to see. I address one of the key points. It is not controversial to have worker representatives on industry advisory councils. It is always entirely appropriate for a government to include worker representatives when setting up any industry advisory council, so the amended bill is a good one. When the former Government regulated the energy industry, its legislation had worker and union representatives on an industry advisory council. It is not controversial.

What is so despicable about the contribution from the member for Wahroonga is his continued attempt to draw a line between the CFMEU construction division, which was placed under administration by this Government, and the CFMEU maritime division. That division is comprised of the Seamen's Union and the Waterside Workers' Federation, which my uncle was a member of in Newcastle. I grew up around those sorts of people. It is despicable to draw a line between the CFMEU construction division and a completely separate and separately administered part of that union that serves the interests of maritime workers across this country. It has respectable links with the maritime industry and maritime unions worldwide. The amendment proposed by the member for Wahroonga reflects resentment from his youth, and the place he holds as a union hater within his party should be opposed by this House for what it is—a terrible, destructive and despicable attempt to cause disruption in our community.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The question is that Opposition amendment No. 1 on sheet c2024-159B be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes31
 Noes48
 Majority.....17

AYES

Anderson, K
 Ayyad, T
 Clancy, J
 Cooke, S
 Coure, M
 Crouch, A (teller)
 Davies, T
 Di Pasqua, S
 Donato, P
 Griffin, J
 Henskens, A

Hodges, M
 Kemp, M
 Lane, J
 Layzell, D
 Moylan, B
 Petinos, E
 Preston, R
 Provest, G
 Regan, M
 Roberts, A

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

NOES

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

Hagarty, N (teller)
 Hannan, J
 Harrison, J
 Haylen, J
 Hoenig, R
 Holland, M
 Hornery, S
 Kaliyanda, C
 Kamper, S
 Kirby, W
 Leong, J
 McDermott, H
 McGirr, J
 McKeown, K
 Mehan, D
 Minns, C

O'Neill, M
 Park, R
 Piper, G
 Quinnell, S
 Saffin, J (teller)
 Saliba, D
 Scully, P
 Shetty, K
 Stuart, M
 Tesch, L
 Vo, T
 Voltz, L
 Warren, G
 Washington, K
 Watson, A
 Wilkinson, K

PAIRS

Williams, L
 Williams, R

Harris, D
 Whan, S

Amendment negatived.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): The question is that clauses 1 and 2 and schedules 1 to 5 be agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedules 1 to 5 agreed to.

Third Reading

Ms JO HAYLEN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

The House divided.

[In division]

Ms Felicity Wilson: Point of order: The member for Leppington was outside the Chamber. A member cannot return to the Chamber after the doors have been locked. You know that you cannot. You were out of the Chamber.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): Members will calm down.

Ms Eleni Petinos: To the point of order: I am not copping that language from you. Withdraw your remark. I am not copping that unparliamentary language in such an undignified manner from that man.

Mr Nathan Hagarty: I withdraw, but I do not appreciate being told to get out.

Ms Felicity Wilson: I did not say "get out". I said you were outside the Chamber.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I will deal with one thing at a time.

Ms Felicity Wilson: He pushed the attendant. He pushed the barricade to be re-raised. He physically did it. He was outside the Chamber. He missed the division. He should not be in the Chamber now.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I will deal with one matter at a time. The member for Leppington has withdrawn his comment. In respect of the member's presence in the Chamber, I will seek advice from the Clerk. I declare that the member for Leppington was inside the Chamber, therefore his vote will be counted. We will review the video footage to confirm that ruling.

Ayes31
Noes48
Majority.....17

AYES

Anderson, K	Hodges, M	Saunders, D
Ayyad, T	Kemp, M	Singh, G
Clancy, J	Lane, J	Sloane, K
Cooke, S	Layzell, D	Speakman, M
Coure, M	Moylan, B	Taylor, M
Crouch, A (teller)	Petinos, E	Thompson, T
Davies, T	Preston, R	Toole, P
Di Pasqua, S	Provest, G	Tuckerman, W
Donato, P	Regan, M	Williamson, R (teller)
Griffin, J	Roberts, A	Wilson, F
Henskens, A		

NOES

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

PAIRS

Williams, L	Harris, D
Williams, R	Whan, S

Motion agreed to.

*Community Recognition Statements***STEVEN APTHORP**

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (12:43): I take this opportunity to recognise Ulladulla resident Mr Steven Apthorp, who was recently awarded a Group Bravery Citation by the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Hon. Sam Mostyn, AC, on Friday 13 September. Steven received the Group Bravery Citation for his exceptional bravery, courage and heroic actions following a tragic incident at Dreamworld on 25 October 2016 when two rafts collided on the Thunder River Rapids ride. Following the accident, Steven helped his family and others to safety before returning to rescue passengers trapped in the upturned raft. Steven performed CPR on a woman pulled from the water and assisted in efforts to revive others. Despite the tragic loss of four lives, Steven's courage shone through as he worked alongside bystanders to provide aid. Steven's actions serve as a powerful example of selflessness and heroism, and the South Coast is lucky to have him living in our community.

LURNEA HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (12:44): I extend my sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who have taken the time to reach out to me and my office regarding Lurnea High School. Their active involvement and dedication to the wellbeing of our students are to be commended. The concerns and feedback they have shared reflect their deep commitment to ensuring that the young people in our community have access to the best possible educational opportunities. Their ongoing advocacy plays a vital role in fostering a learning environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally and socially. Ensuring that our children receive a quality education in a safe and secure environment is a priority we all share. Rest assured, I will continue to work closely with the wider community and government departments to address any issues raised to ensure that our children receive the education they deserve. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for all students.

LIVERPOOL ELECTORATE CHILEAN COMMUNITY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (12:45): South-west Sydney is lucky to be the home of so many Chilean-Australians. I joined with many in Liverpool's Chilean community last week to mark 51 years since the Chilean military coup d'état. On Wednesday 11 September I joined the community for a screening of *Crossing the Pacific: Chilean Voices in Australia*, a powerful documentary that ensures we preserve the voices of Chilean-Australians who lived through the coup d'état and subsequent persecution of many Chileans by the Pinochet regime. Many of that generation are sadly passing on. Unless we remember the cautionary lessons of history, we will repeat the mistakes of the past. I also attended a moving commemoration of the legacy of former Chilean President Salvador Allende—who was killed in the 1973 coup—at the Allende monument in Fairfield. Many Chilean-Australians still bear deep scars from the coup and the brutal dictatorship that followed. It informs their deep commitment to democracy, truth and justice. I thank those who have maintained the rage over the years. Por ustedes, nos sabe que Allende vive, ahora y siempre.

ASHLEIGH HOTHAM

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (12:46): I acknowledge the outstanding community and business contributions that Ashleigh Hotham has made to the people of Oberon. Ashleigh works for LiveBetter in Oberon and assists elderly residents with their care programs. Her genuine nature and willingness to help our community means she puts her elderly patients at ease and assists them to live in their own home for as long as possible. It can be very important to members of our community that despite their age or care needs they remain in their own homes, where they are comfortable and familiar, for as long as possible. It gives them a sense of normality and freedom. Ashleigh makes this happen with care and kindness. She greets each patient with a smile on each visit she makes. I was pleased to present Ashleigh Hotham with the People's Choice Award for Service with a Smile at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. I congratulate Ashleigh on this well-deserved accolade.

BANKSTOWN AUBURN COMMUNITY RADIO

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (12:47): I congratulate Bankstown Auburn Community Radio on receiving a \$10,000 Community Building Partnership Grant to continue delivering high-quality local radio. These funds will be used to purchase and install a new console engine, ensuring smooth and uninterrupted broadcasting on Connect FM 100.9. During my recent visit, I had the opportunity to learn more about the station's 40-year history. No matter someone's passions or interests, they will no doubt find a program they love, from motor racing to cinema, music history or boxing. Additionally, the station is a cultural hub for our community, with a diverse line-up of programs in multiple languages. I thank president Tony Bennetts, board members John Dearing and Marilyn Brewer, and community engagement officer Julie-Ann Munns for hosting me at their studio. The grant will ensure that Connect FM continues to thrive as a vital part of our local media, representing the voices and stories of our community for years to come. I look forward to visiting again in future and seeing the new equipment in action.

ANDREW ZBIK

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove) (12:48): I take this opportunity to thank retiring Lane Cove Councillor Andrew Zbik. A member of the Labor Party, Councillor Zbik and I might not see eye to eye on every issue, but his dedication to the Lane Cove community and commitment to co-operation and bipartisanship is truly commendable, meaning his decision to retire at these latest local government elections was met with disappointment across the political spectrum. His wife, Bronnie, and his three young children will be grateful to have to opportunity to spend more time with Andrew, and we thank them for sharing him with us for the past couple of years. It was a pleasure to work with him during his time as both a councillor and as mayor, and I wish him all the best for the future.

FAIRFIELD SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (12:49): The Fairfield Seventh Day Adventist Church celebrated 100 years on 2 August this year. With evangelical endeavours commencing in 1919, it was in 1924 that Pastor J.M. Cole officially established the Fairfield Company as a church. Since its establishment, the church has actively engaged in community outreach, including via The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, which is its official humanitarian arm. I commend the work of Edison Akrawi, the current pastor of the Fairfield church, who also serves as the coordinator of Middle Eastern relationships in the Greater Sydney Conference. I also commend Usaia Baravi, Pastor of the Cabramatta Fijian church, and Cheonneth Strickland, General Secretary of Greater Sydney Conference. I thank them for all the selfless work in helping local families.

TRANGIE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (12:50): I acknowledge year 11 and 12 students from Trangie Central School who recently completed a very special English project. The students involved were Zachary Everett, Rielle Smyth, Sienna Magill, Rihanna Blackhall, Elloise Riesterer, Emma-Jean Edwards-Barry, Chloe Dun, Jayden Davis and Mitchell Cooper. Under the guidance of their English teacher, Mrs Rush, they came up with the idea of a memory book. The students had the pleasure of working with two residents of the Trangie Health Service and two residents of Timbrebongie House in Narromine to capture the stories of the residents. All interviews for the books were done remotely, via phone or video, which allowed the students to learn valuable life skills as part of this project, including time management and note taking. The residents enjoyed sharing their stories and photos with the students, who also enjoyed hearing about them and their lives. The experience turned out to be much more than just a school project and was meaningful for both the residents and the students, with the projects remaining as treasures to be cherished forever. Well done to everyone involved in this heartwarming collaboration.

VIETNAMESE ELDERLY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (12:51): On 5 July 2024 I had the privilege of attending the monthly meeting of the Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association. This gathering serves as a forum for elderly members to socialise and stay informed. During these meetings, senior members share their concerns and listen to experts on topics crucial to their physical and overall wellbeing. The meeting also includes musical performances featuring beloved Vietnamese songs and cultural acts, which creates a joyful and connected atmosphere for everyone involved. It is delightful to see how these gatherings foster a sense of community and bonding among the elderly residents. I also had the pleasure of presenting a number of my community recognition statement certificates to their dedicated and valuable members. On behalf of our local community, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association executive members and their volunteers for their selfless dedication to their members and our local area.

BEVERLEY SPEARPOINT

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (12:52): Bev Spearpoint is a long-time advocate for the Warragamba community, and throughout her tenure as councillor for North Ward on Wollondilly Shire Council she fought fearlessly for the residents of the village, along with being a voice for women's rights and accessibility. Known for her passion, dedication and a streak of pink in her hair, Bev championed local issues with unwavering commitment. From supporting infrastructure projects that would benefit the community to protecting the heritage of Wollondilly, Bev has been a consistent voice for the community. Bev was active on the youth, disability and inclusion committees. She recently campaigned for further inclusivity of women by running for the position of mayor in the elections on the weekend, the only female in the running. Although she was unsuccessful, her legacy will continue to benefit many into the future. Bev has been a role model, demonstrating that hard work and a willingness to learn and work cooperatively with others will make a difference. I wish her the best of luck in the next phase and look forward to seeing her passion, sense of humour and humility benefit the pursuits she sets her mind to next.

MALTESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:53): On 16 September I was delighted to attend the official celebration of the sixtieth Maltese Independence Day. Hosted by the Consulate General of Malta, the occasion was attended by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley; Premier Chris Minns; the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin; proud Maltese-Australian the Hon. Mark Buttigieg, MLC; the member for Granville; the member for East Hills; members of the Consular Corps; and many Maltese community leaders. New South Wales is home to over 78,000 people with Maltese ancestry. Maltese-Australians have played an historic role in our Western Sydney community. This year's celebration marked six decades of independence from the United Kingdom, realised on 21 September 1964. I congratulate Consul General of Malta and Dean of the Consular Corps, Mr Lawrence Buhagiar; his charming wife, Rosieanne; and our local Maltese-Australians on a wonderful celebration of an independent Malta. Happy Jum l-Indipendenza. Viva Malta.

EDGE DANCE CENTRE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (12:54): I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Edge Dance Centre in Ryde for winning the youth award at the 2024 Northern Districts Local Business Awards. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their ongoing contribution to the Ryde community. For many years the Edge Dance Centre has offered a space for young people to express themselves through dance, develop their skills and build lifelong friendships. Through their dedication to fostering talent and discipline in their students, they have enriched the lives of the youth in Ryde and strengthened the sense of community in our local area. The Edge Dance Centre's unwavering commitment to inclusivity and excellence has encouraged participation from a diverse range of young people and set a shining example for our Ryde community. Their success at the awards is a source of pride for all of us, highlighting the important role they play in shaping the future of our community. I acknowledge studio director Nicky Diamond and thank the Edge Dance Centre for its invaluable service. I congratulate them once again on this outstanding recognition.

AUBURN HOSPITAL

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (12:55): I congratulate Auburn Hospital on its outstanding achievement in winning both the Environmental Sustainability and People's Choice awards at the Western Sydney Local Health District 2024 Quality Awards for its project "Recycling for the community, the planet and health". For 17 years the project has made incredible strides in recycling efforts. In 2006 the hospital cleaners started collecting aluminium cans to support the environment and the Save the Children fund. In 2017 the team learnt that NSW Health had introduced bottled water into hospitals. The hospital was ordered to throw away the plastic jugs. Instead, it donated them to animal charities so that they had a second life. The decision to use bottled water meant the hospital would start using at least eight bottles per patient per day. The bottles were not barcoded and therefore could not be recycled. However, the hospital lobbied and got the bottles barcoded—a victory for the environment and the Save the Children fund. The awards celebrate innovation and excellence in health care. Auburn Hospital's project exemplifies those values perfectly.

STREETWORK NORTHERN BEACHES

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (12:56): I acknowledge the outstanding work of StreetWork and its assertive outreach programs, which are transforming the lives of vulnerable young people in my community. Through activities like Street Fadez, where young people, with help from a local barber business, provide haircuts to each other and local service staff, StreetWork is connecting with at-risk youth in seriously meaningful ways. I was lucky enough to hang out with the StreetWork team and participants at Dee Why. I encourage other community leaders and schools to do so as well. The awesome activities serve as a gateway, linking young people to essential services, including counselling, drug and alcohol support, and pathways back to education or employment. Warm introductions between youth and specialist services are crucial to creating the positive futures they deserve to have. I commend Nige Cottingham and the whole StreetWork team for their tireless dedication to our young people, offering them a chance to thrive.

PARRAMATTA EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (12:57): I congratulate Parramatta East Public School on turning 75. A stalwart of public education in Parramatta, the school opened in 1949 during a wave of migration to the area. Since the 1950s, the school has expanded to accommodate a growing population, starting with 91 students and now boasting 485 dedicated pupils. The longstanding sporting houses take the names of famous Australian poets Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson and others. The traditions of old continue today, with endemic Australian animals featuring as the school mascots. Parramatta East is a centre of multiculturalism and is home to 33 nationalities and 46 different languages. To celebrate its multicultural identity, the school hosts Harmony Day celebrations and

features murals throughout the school of books and fairytales from around the world. I pay tribute to Justine Miller and her team of dedicated teachers who work hard to ensure that the students have opportunities and the ability to succeed. The school's motto "Aim ever high" reflects the actions of Ms Miller, her dedicated staff and hardworking students every single day. Happy birthday!

BOOK WEEK

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:58): "Reading is magic" has never been a more fitting theme for Book Week. Every year we see students embracing the power of reading and expressing their creative nature in their Book Week parades. This year I was excited to take part in numerous Book Week parades across my community. I was blown away by the amount of time, effort and skill that students, teachers and parents poured into all of the amazing costumes. Book Week marks the annual celebration of books for young people, and the joy of reading. It was heartening to see so many students in my community embracing the magic of reading. I saw many beloved classic characters brought to life, along with some that were new to me. I myself embraced Book Week and attended as a witch from Hogwarts, although my Ravenclaw robes looked a little green. I also went as the Mad Hatter and Cruella de Vil. I thank Shore School, Blessed Sacrament, St Aloysius' College Junior School, Neutral Bay Public School and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School for letting me join in and witness their Book Week parades. I congratulate all of the children on their beautiful costumes and encourage their love of reading. I also recognise the many parents who, I am sure, were behind the scenes with a hot glue gun and scissors late into the night.

BRODIE PORTER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (12:59): I acknowledge Brodie Porter for his selfless work and volunteerism with Snacktember. In partnership with OzHarvest, Snacktember is a vital initiative that tackles food insecurity by redirecting unwanted snacks and other food items to children in need. The program is crucial because it not only helps alleviate hunger but also educates and inspires communities about the importance of food redistribution and generosity. Brodie's journey with Snacktember began when he was just four years old and he was inspired by the impactful work of the program. Over the years, his dedication has only grown stronger. Through his tireless efforts, Brodie has mobilised his family, friends, schoolmates and even strangers to contribute to this cause. His ambitious goal for 2023 was to collect over 3,000 snacks, and he worked diligently to reach that target. Brodie's enthusiasm and commitment embody the spirit of community service. His actions not only assist those in need but also inspire others. To Brodie, I say well done. I hope others walk in his footsteps.

INTERSCHOOLS SNOWSPORTS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:00): I congratulate all the North Shore schools that recently competed in the Interschools Snowsports Championships held at Perisher this year. I especially congratulate the amazing girls at Wenona School who competed at a national level and absolutely dominated. Wenona School won the coveted Secondary Female Champion School award for the second year in a row. The Wenona School students achieved four gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals, with 15 teams finishing in the top 10, and 10 individual top 10 performances. I give a big congratulations to Mosman Preparatory School on its outstanding results at a State level. The Mosman Preparatory School boys achieved fourth place, putting the school among the top primary schools in the State, with all eight of its athletes having qualified for the national championships. Finally, I congratulate North Sydney Boys High School student Paulson, who came fourth in the finals of the Division 1 Male Slopestyle Ski event at the NSW/ACT/QLD State Interschools Snowsport Championships. I congratulate all of the schools involved and all of the students who competed—what amazing accomplishments all round.

APPIN MINE DISASTER FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:01): As we mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the Appin Mine disaster, the solemn toll of that tragic event resonates through our memories and the history of our community. Lives were lost, families were shattered and a community was forever changed. It has been 45 years since those 14 men lost their lives, and it has had a continuing impact on the Appin community, particularly the families, loved ones and friends of the workers who did not make it home on that day in 1979. Alwyn Brewin, Francis Garrity, Ian Giffard, Geoffrey Johnson, Jurgen Lauterbach, Alexander Lawson, James Oldcorn, Peter Peck, Robert Rawcliffe, Roy Rawlings, Karl Staats, John Stonham, Roy Williams and Gary Woods will be remembered forever in the Appin community and beyond. I thank all those involved in organising the ceremony this year, as they do every year, and I pay my deepest respects to those miners and all of the families affected.

*Private Members' Statements***TRIBUTE TO JOHN DODD**

The SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I welcome to the gallery guests of the member for Campbelltown: the family of the late John Dodd, Elizabeth, Ryan and Ben; Lindy Deitz, Amanda King, Kelly Williamson and Rochelle Nicholls from Campbelltown City Council; and Matthew Winley, Abraham Baidengan, Moira Reynolds, Jean Hammond, Phil Potbury, Sandie O'Neill and Ian Shepherd from the NSW SES.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:03): It is with great sadness that I advise the House of the passing of a local hero and true Campbelltonian, Mr John Dodd, after his fight with cancer. I acknowledge his family who are here today. On behalf of the House, I offer my sincerest condolences to Beth, Ryan and Ben, to John's extended family, and to his other extended family through the SES and our great city. He loved our city, and our city loved him. John lived in Ruse. He was a proud husband to his wife, Beth, and a proud father to his two sons. He was born in Sydney in 1949 to his parents, Jack and Jean Dodd. John was a long-term local who devoted decades of his life to helping others, most notably through his almost 50 years of service with the NSW State Emergency Service in roles including unit controller, deputy unit controller, planning officer, media officer and liaison officer during incidents involving multiple agencies.

I met John when I joined the Campbelltown SES as a volunteer some years ago. But there is no way I could ever compare my volunteer time to anything close to John's time or, to be frank, the time of any of the wonderful volunteers at Campbelltown SES, who do so much and work so hard. I acknowledge all those members of the SES in the gallery today and thank them for being in the Chamber. John also spent 35 years working at Campbelltown City Council in various roles, including personnel officer, before being promoted to manager of human resources, where he spent most of his career, and then finally to manager of emergency management. After his retirement John continued to contribute to a range of significant emergency management projects, providing expert advice and guidance.

John joined the SES after his home in Macquarie Fields was affected by floods. He decided that he wanted to be able to help out his neighbours and his local community by giving back. His service stretched far beyond our local area. John volunteered during some of the State's most well-known disasters, including the 1977 Granville train disaster, the 1989 Newcastle earthquake, the 1997 Thredbo landslide and the 1999 Sydney hailstorm, as well as the bushfires. There was probably not a natural disaster that occurred in New South Wales over half a century where John was not there to help those communities. Before this speech my good friend Minister Dib and I were talking about John. He said, "I will see you down there, Rabbits, because I want to have a bit to say about that too." I thank the Minister for coming into the Chamber to honour and celebrate John's life.

John's efforts did not go unnoticed, although he was very humble. He received an SES life membership in 2019 and a Community Service Award in 2013. John continued to volunteer his time both with the SES and the Red Cross, lending his experience primarily in the field of communications. A community man to his core, when John was asked why people should join the SES, he said:

Not only will you feel great satisfaction by working in your community but self-satisfaction as you develop skills you never imagined you would be able to do.

I remembered those inspiring words when I was doing my induction and training as a volunteer of the SES. He inspired everyone. That was personally good for me as I joined because I wanted to contribute, but I also wanted to be around normal people as opposed to the politicians that loiter around this joint. That is the truth.

Mr Jihad Dib: Present company excluded.

Mr GREG WARREN: Present company excluded. In conclusion, I thank John for his years of service and dedication to Campbelltown and, indeed, our great State of New South Wales. On behalf of this Parliament and the City of Campbelltown, I pass my sincere condolences to his family and all those privileged enough to know him. John loved Campbelltown and we loved him. May he rest in peace.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (13:08): I add to the contribution made by the excellent member for Campbelltown, and Parliamentary Secretary. He is right to say that when he mentioned this to me, I could not but be in the Chamber because it is so important. Sometimes we do not get to meet people but we get inspired by them. The work of all my friends in the gallery from the SES inspires me all the time. I continue to share that sentiment with the many of them I have met, but it is especially true of John Dodd. He received a medal post-retirement for his efforts and continued to contribute to the SES. One of the most powerful things I heard the member for Campbelltown just say was that, inspired by John, he joined the SES because he wanted to give back. Volunteering is all about doing something for other people. It is about something bigger than yourself. I think that speaks volumes about every single person who dons a uniform—particularly, in this case, an orange uniform—to

stand with and help their community. I cannot imagine the grief that John's family and his extended SES family are going through. I thank them for honouring John. I thank those who are here today. I thank the member for Campbelltown for honouring John, and I thank this Parliament for recognising the incredible efforts of a man who gave so much of himself to help others. Vale, John Dodd.

The SPEAKER: I also offer my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of John Dodd.

NORTH SHORE BEAR PIT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:10): Public speaking is no easy feat. The courage it takes to stand before an audience, present ideas with conviction, and do it in a way that captivates and connects listeners is remarkable—especially when the speaker is a primary school student. Each year in this place I welcome local primary school students from across my community to participate in the North Shore Bear Pit Public Speaking Competition, where they are able to put their oratory skills to the test in the oldest Parliament in Australia. After they compete in class and year rounds at their local schools, two finalists from each school—one from stage two and one from stage three—are selected to speak in this Chamber. It is nerve-racking for most, but it is clear that all are excited and well-prepared.

A striking aspect of this year's competition was the diversity of topics presented. The students did not shy away from complex issues; they embraced them with open minds and bold visions. Some of the topics from stage two and three included "My secret life as a spy", "Will computers or AI replace teachers in the future?" and, one of my personal favourites, "If I were Premier, I would ...". Students filled in that blank with profound ideas. While the subjects discussed were often serious, it was the humour and charisma of our speakers that really brought the competition to life.

As many in this place know, public speaking can be daunting, but these incredible students navigated it with such ease, often using humour to connect with the audience, whether through a witty remark about their teachers or family—in particular, their siblings—or a lighthearted comment about their challenges at school. Mr Speaker witnessed this. He joined us and welcomed the students to this place. If I might be so bold, there are more than a few members of this place—probably myself included—who could take some pointers from these students for their next speeches. Congratulations to the winner and runner-up from stage two, Archie from Mosman Preparatory School, and Isabella from Mosman Public School; and to the stage three winner and runner-up, Portia from Marist Catholic College North Shore, and Mitchell from Mosman Preparatory School.

I congratulate all of the speakers: Archie and Mitchell from Mosman Preparatory School, Eddie and Kabir from Neutral Bay Public School, Clara and Amelia from Queenwood, Isabella and Ellie from Mosman Public School, Lucas and Portia from Marist Catholic College North Shore, Amelie and Mila from Middle Harbour Public School, Edith and Annabella from Loreto Kirribilli, Vivienne and Lola from Beauty Point Public School, Edward and Josiah from Shore School, Aloysius and Miles from St Aloysius College, and Audrey and Verity from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School.

I acknowledge our judges, who graciously gave up their time to undertake the tough job of choosing our winners and runners-up. I cannot be involved in deciding who wins this competition, because it is too difficult. I thank Anna Gordon, the publisher of *northsider* magazine, and our very own Emma Wood from the House and Procedure Unit. I know that Emma loves judging the competition but finds it very hard to pick a winner. I do not wish to speak for her, but I think Emma would acknowledge that the students' speeches are often better than what we usually hear in this place.

Unfortunately our third judge, Anna Usher, the editor of *Mosman Collective*, was unable to join us due to a family emergency. She was dearly missed. I thank Anna for her support of this competition over many years. I extend special thanks to the Parliament and to its front-desk staff, in particular, Peter Tuziak, who engaged the students in a wonderful mock debate about whether the school week should be reduced to four days, with a three-day weekend—much to the shock of the parents who were in the Chamber. Being a parent of a school-age daughter, I was a bit flabbergasted about what I would do if she was home an extra day each week. I also acknowledge my electorate office staff, Lisa, Chris and Meg, who go above and beyond to ensure that this event runs smoothly. They co-ordinate with the schools and the Parliament many months in advance.

In closing, I congratulate all our finalists and participants in the school competitions. Regardless of whether they made it into the bearpit to speak, they have all achieved something incredible. Just putting themselves forward and speaking their ideas is incredibly inspiring and motivating. They have inspired all of us with their ideas, entertained us with their humour and touched us with their sincerity. It is so important for young people, no matter what age, to know that their voices count and to speak out about the things that they care about. Whether it is something that they think is small or big, it is beholden on all of us to listen to those voices and encourage every

opportunity for young people to speak out at every chance. I love hearing their insights, I love hearing their passion, and I have hope for the future of this country and this world when I hear them.

I also thank the teachers, parents and families who have supported these young students along their journey. Their guidance and encouragement have undoubtedly played a crucial role in the success of the students. I am looking forward to seeing what the next batch of local students deliver will next year in the bearpit. The future is very bright.

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the event referenced by the member for North Shore. I had the opportunity to drop in and see some of the young students participating. It was inspirational, as has been acknowledged. I congratulate everybody involved in running the event, including the member for North Shore and our parliamentary staff, and thank them for a great job.

WOLLONGONG ELECTORATE AND STATE BUDGET

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (13:15): The recent budget contained several initiatives that will help to build a better Wollongong, and I provide some updates to the House on their progress. The Minns Government recognises the importance of the Illawarra region to our State. Unfortunately, the previous Liberal-Nationals Government never did. This Labor Government understands that Wollongong is a city that is growing and evolving, and it is important that our aspirations are backed by supportive initiatives from the New South Wales Government. Today I particularly highlight three initiatives: the transformation of surplus industrial land at Port Kembla; the activation of the Lake Illawarra foreshore; and the creation of four new public preschools co-located with local primary schools.

Local job creation has always been one of my priorities. I noted in my first speech in this place that when I was young about 20,000 people were employed at the Port Kembla Steelworks. As a result of changes through time, it has now reduced to a few thousand direct employees and thousands indirectly employed. The critical importance of our steelworks is covered by this one key statistic: Each tonne of fabricated steel produced in Port Kembla supports 16 full-time equivalent positions. Recently up to 200 hectares of land has been identified as being surplus to steelmaking requirements. For those struggling to understand the size of 200 hectares, it is roughly the size of the Sydney CBD between Circular Quay and Central station. It is the largest industrial land transformation project on the planet today. The parcel of land could be home to 30,000 jobs, a community and open space in the coming years. If done right, we stand to double the current output of the site, adding a potential 1½ per cent to gross State product.

This Government has already seen big projects get underway at Port Kembla by giving planning approvals to berth upgrades, an upgrade to the plate mill, and a new metal coating line in Western Sydney that uses Port Kembla's steel. This Labor Government is also backing the land transformation, with a Cabinet-endorsed working group formed across government to get this industrial land transformation done right, with speed and with certainty. We are backing jobs and Port Kembla's potential to transform itself and modernise both its steelmaking and its employment opportunities to create a new exciting future for the Illawarra. A few kilometres down the road in Warrawong at Kully Bay on the Lake Illawarra foreshore, we are working to transform an area of open space left neglected by the previous Government into the great public space that it should be.

The previous Government looked at the site and saw only dollar signs. It sought to sell the site off to make a quick buck. This Government stopped the sale and will retain the land in public ownership because we see its potential as a great public space both for the residents of Wollongong's southern suburbs and visitors alike. The budget allocated funds to undertake the master planning and activation planning for the 32-hectare site. I am leading that work, alongside my department's skilled staff who manage the great parklands of Sydney, as well as an advisory group including Wollongong City Council. I report to the House that this work is progressing well and everyone involved can see the potential of the site. This is the sort of space that people living and working around Warrawong now and in the future will need and rightly deserve.

I also provide a brief update on the progress of the rollout of public preschools. An independent process determined that Cringila, Lake Heights, Berkeley West and Hayes Park public schools should be among the first 100 public preschools in the State. It is an exciting opportunity for kids who will attend those schools. To roll those preschools out more quickly, we have eliminated a number of planning hurdles, making the new preschools and existing buildings exempt or complying developments. This will mean a fast-tracked rollout. It has been a long while since a New South Wales Government had Wollongong at the front of the queue for anything. We were mostly forgotten under the previous Government but it is exciting that the new public preschools planned for Wollongong will be among the first to be rolled out, with tenders to be advertised later this month.

We are getting on with the job of making sure members of communities with little or no access to early childhood education are being given the best possible start in life. Early education is vital for a child's

development. It supports the improvement of their language, social and emotional skills, and their future transition to kindergarten. Research shows that access to early education for children supports women's access to job opportunities. These initiatives are helping to build an even better Wollongong. As we work towards a stronger and better future for the region, we need to also make sure we have homes in the area so people who are attracted to living in our region have a place to call home. That is why I am pleased that the Government has worked with Wollongong City Council to expand housing supply by securing \$20 million for Cleveland Road to unlock up to 5,000 homes in West Dapto, along with making changes to planning controls around Corrimal and Dapto stations. This is the task for our region: to make sure that we work towards a brighter jobs and economic future.

In tandem, the Labor Government is making sure that there are homes for people to live in, new public spaces for people to socialise and recreate, and opportunities for children to get a great education and maximise their potential. I am very pleased to provide this update to the House on how the Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job of building a better Wollongong.

205 ARMY CADET UNIT

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (13:20): I take this opportunity to recognise the 205 Army Cadet Unit – Mudgee, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The 205 Army Cadet Unit is part of a long and proud history of cadets in Australia. As the oldest continuously operating community-based cadet unit in the nation, its origins date back to 1874. Army cadets in Australia began in the 1860s, with the first Colonial Military Organisations forming to promote gymnastics, military drill, rifle shooting and sword drill. The objective then, as it is now, was to instil a sense of duty, discipline and service in young Australians. Mudgee's unit was formed in 1874 as part of the growing interest in military drill within public schools. At the time, public school teachers were required to be trained in military drill, leading to the establishment of cadet units across New South Wales. Since its formation, the Mudgee unit not only has survived the many changes that have affected cadet movements, but also has thrived, due to its strong connection to the community and the dedication of its leaders.

One of the key figures in the unit's history is Major Errol Grieve. His story is one of remarkable dedication and perseverance. In 1976, when the Federal Government closed the cadet corps, most units were forced to shut their doors. However, thanks to the determination of the then Captain Grieve, the Mudgee unit remained active, making it the only public school cadet unit in New South Wales to do so. Major Grieve used his own personal finances to keep the unit going, showing an extraordinary commitment to the cadet movement. His leadership over the years was instrumental in ensuring the unit continued to achieve its goals and grow, even when resources were scarce. He went on to become the longest-serving officer of cadets in Australia, serving for 39 years. His legacy remains deeply ingrained in the values and the spirit of the 205 Army Cadet Unit.

In 1993, Major Grieve passed the leadership baton to Captain Doug Grigg, who served with distinction for several years. Captain Grigg made significant contributions, including the establishment of a platoon in Coolah, further extending the unit's reach. His leadership, like Major Grieve's before him, demonstrated the power of dedication and community service. It is important to recognise that the 205 Army Cadet Unit has evolved over time. In 1989, the unit transitioned from being a public school cadet unit to a regional community-based unit, welcoming cadets from all walks of life. That change allowed the unit to grow, and today it is proud to have 1 Platoon, based in Mudgee, and 4 Platoon in Mendooran. Although 2 and 3 Platoons are currently inactive, the spirit and commitment of the cadets remains as strong as ever.

Much of the current success and structure of the unit is owed to another leader, Captain John Bullen, who took over as commanding officer during a pivotal time in the unit's history. Captain Bullen brought with him new ideas for training and administration, helping to modernise the unit and align it with the latest Australian Army Cadet Corps policies. His leadership ensured the cadets received the best possible training in areas like drill, field craft, navigation, first aid, radio communication and leadership. There was also a focus on the army's core values of service, courage, respect, integrity and excellence. Those values continue to guide every cadet and staff member in the unit today.

The Australian Army Cadets is not just a youth development program; it is a vehicle for creating future leaders that fosters personal growth and community involvement through structured training and leadership opportunities. Cadets join from the age of 13 and serve until they turn 18. They leave the program with skills that will serve them for life, whether that is in a role within the military or another career path. As the unit celebrates 150 years of continuous service, it can look to the future with excitement and optimism. The history of the 205 Army Cadet Unit is rich with examples of service, dedication and resilience. It reflects the values the unit has embodied since its formation in 1874: service to the community, pride in one's achievements and a commitment to being the best version of oneself. Here's to the next 150 years of the 205 Army Cadet Unit - Mudgee, a proud and enduring symbol of youth development and community service. Well done.

REIDS RESERVE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (13:25): For the past three years the community of Swansea has been unable to access Reids Reserve at Swansea Heads due to severe erosion of the seawall. But the good news is that all of that is about to change. I am very pleased to tell the House that the Minns Labor Government is providing \$3 million to restore the seawall and make the park accessible again. As I said, that wonderful location has not been able to be used for the past three years. It is a picturesque location overlooking the entrance of the Swansea Channel. It is a beautiful spot that attracts families from all across the region and other regions to enjoy its playground and picnicking. They have access to Little Beach as well. It is just superb.

It has been such a shame that we have not been able to use this incredibly beautiful area for three summers. For the past three years it has been inaccessible. Three-quarters of the park is fenced off due to erosion around the seawall. We have also seen rocks washed up into the park itself. It really is quite unsightly. In opposition I wrote to the then transport Minister seeking funding for the project but, despite promises, that funding never came to fruition and was never allocated. But I must pay credit to the current transport Minister Haylen. Her team and the leadership at the Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office [MIDO] have supported the project and delivered the funding to see it to completion. I thank them enormously on behalf of my community.

The community is looking forward to the seawall rehabilitation being completed and the park being reopened. The project is due to be finished in 2025, with design work and the tender process currently underway. The park is a favourite spot for families during the Christmas period, and I know that it will be packed come Christmas 2025. The Labor Government is delivering on our commitment to invest in Swansea. On the very same day I announced \$3 million to rebuild the seawall at Reids Reserve, I stood alongside MIDO to confirm that the latest round of dredging of Swansea Channel was completed. With the election of the Minns Labor Government the Swansea Channel has become a priority for dredging once again. After the former Liberal Government neglected it for years, putting the safety of boaties at risk, placing extra pressure on Marine Rescue and making the channel unnavigable, our channel is safe and navigable again.

Members of this House will be pleased about that because they will not have to hear me banging on about it all the time, so that is a plus as well. The first two dredging campaigns have opened the channel back up for business, allowing larger vessels to pass in and out of the channel safely. Major events on our lake are encouraging greater participation as yachts once again pass through the channel into the lake. In more good news for the community, funding was delivered in the budget for a further round of dredging in February. Work also continues on the long-term dredging strategy, which will provide certainty to the community and ensure that boaters can have the confidence that the channel is navigable at all times.

The community can look to the Government to deliver on its commitment to ensure that the channel is navigable, and it can have confidence that in 2025 Reids Reserve will once again be open to the public for all to come and enjoy. As the member for Swansea, I am so proud to say that the Minns Labor Government is delivering the investment in our community that had long been neglected by the Liberals when they were in government. I am proud to be their member and to deliver for them.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (13:29): In my role, I frequently interact with local essential workers and their leadership—police, principals, teachers, nurses, paramedics, bus drivers, childcare workers, cleaners and many more. Inevitably, the conversation turns to housing unaffordability as a key pressure, making existing staff more stressed and making it harder to fill vacancies. Looking at the data on incomes and property prices, it is not hard to see why. All public school teachers, early childhood educators, bus drivers, cleaners, nurses, paramedics and police officers living alone are in rental stress—rent exceeding 30 per cent of weekly income—when they lease a median one-bedroom apartment on the northern beaches, which is \$623 per week. Families in those key worker categories are all in rental stress when they lease a median three-bedroom apartment, which is \$1,250 per week.

It takes up to 20 years for key workers renting alone in those categories, assuming moderate living expenses, to save the 20 per cent deposit required to purchase the cheapest property sold on the northern beaches this past year. For families in those key worker categories who are looking to purchase the cheapest three-bedroom property sold on the northern beaches, it would take up to 86 years to save the necessary deposit. Targeted intervention is clearly needed to deliver housing for those on lower incomes in the roles that enable society and local economies to function. There are solutions. On the northern beaches, the development of the Frenchs Forest town centre is the single most important opportunity to deliver affordable housing at scale, including for essential workers. That site alone will deliver an additional 1,000 dwellings, plus retail and commercial, right next to a hospital.

I reflect more on the ramifications of squeezing essential workers out of our area. Ultimately, it costs our entire community as public service delivery is strained. It impacts the talent we can attract to our classrooms. The principal of one local primary school recounted to me recently that they offered a position to a very talented young teacher. He was their preferred candidate, but he had to turn down the job because he could not find anywhere to live locally. Nurses and midwives working at Northern Beaches Hospital report that senior nurses are mostly long-term employees, but turnover is high among younger nurses. They work at the hospital to get experience, stay for 18 months or so and then leave. The key factor driving them away is high local housing costs.

High turnover at entry and mid level undermines the pipeline of future experienced and qualified nurses, which is a problem as older nurses retire. The issue most frequently raised with my electorate office is the reliability of local bus services, the only form of public transport in our area. The single biggest factor driving bus service unreliability is the driver shortage, and the biggest hurdle to recruiting bus drivers is housing affordability. One bus driver who moved to the area for the job explained his situation in a letter. He wrote:

I thought I would move to Sydney then look to rent a unit or a room or small apartment but it looks like I will end up staying in a car. It's the only affordable option at the moment. The reason is the cheapest I found around Mona Vale where I work is over \$600 per week, which is more than half of my income. The real estate only accepts applications if rent is less than 1/3 of my income.

The personal toll of housing unaffordability on essential workers is profound. In the short term, it means either living locally in cramped conditions or commuting very long distances. In the medium to long term, it means being unable to save money or build a life and a sense of personal security and opportunity for themselves or their families. Local principals and teachers tell me that many young teachers in the area live with their parents. While every family circumstance is different, it is a problem when adult children feel that is their only option. Those living arrangements can strain relationships and prevent young people taking healthy steps to independence. Local nurses and midwives tell me of colleagues with families living in granny flats or converted garages, and I have heard of one instance of six nurses living together in a two-bedroom unit in Dee Why as they cannot afford to rent on their own.

When essential workers cannot establish themselves in an area for the medium to long term, corporate and institutional knowledge is lost, intergenerational professional skill transfer decreases, our public service institutions are weakened and the social fabric of our communities is less coherent as staff are not as connected or integrated within their local community. I welcome the news that the Select Committee on Essential Worker Housing will be holding a hearing on the northern beaches, and I sincerely hope it provides a meaningful forum to understand the problem and work together to fix it. The Government has a site; it is called the Forest High School. It is one development application away from becoming 1,000 units, plus commercial, plus retail, plus open space. That is a massive, significant step forward towards providing housing affordability. Let us create that solution.

HERE 2 HELP

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (13:34): On 5 September I provided a speech for Here 2 Help during Adult Learners Week in Bega. I will share a story of my experience of the consequence of adult illiteracy. Once upon a time an Aboriginal patient came to my practice needing admission for day surgery for the investigation of cancer. I gave her written information about the procedure and a recommendation for admission, which needed to be filled in and given to the hospital. I did not see her again for several months. When I asked why she had not had a procedure she said, "Dr Holland, I can't read or write, and when I took it to the hospital they wouldn't help me fill it out." Each sitting week we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are gathered on. We must acknowledge that the Indigenous people in our nation have the largest gap to close in the problem of adult illiteracy and innumeracy, and they also have the loss of their traditional languages, which is a loss of identity.

Here 2 Help began in Bega in May 2022 as a collaboration between TAFE NSW and the Bega Valley Shire Library, following on from a parliamentary inquiry into adult literacy and numeracy, which revealed that 45 per cent of the Australian population have literacy levels below the international standard required for participation in work, education and society. As well, around 49 per cent do not have the numeracy skills to cope with everyday life. The aim of Here 2 Help is to remove barriers to learning. Volunteer tutors provide one-on-one tuition sessions at a drop-in service, working to reach an identified goal. There are no enrolments or assessments, just education in whatever the client needs. Here 2 Help tutors have helped people pass driver knowledge and citizenship tests, understand workplace and government documents, and improve mathematical skills.

Tutors have assisted people to understand vocational course materials and learn how to use assistive technology for literacy skills. The popular service has helped many people learning English as a second language in the Bega shire to go on to secure employment in their local communities. TAFE NSW employs Carol Holden, a former Bega High School teacher and teacher of English as an alternative language at TAFE. Cayce Hill is a volunteer facilitator and former Bega multicultural officer who this year volunteered to expand Here 2 Help to Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre to service the growing migrant community. Here 2 Help would not

function without the wonderful team of volunteers. Above all, we must acknowledge the brave students. It takes courage to admit that you need help. Their courage and commitment are an inspiration.

Individuals from low-income families often lack access to quality education and resources, contributing to gaps in literacy and numeracy skills. Undiagnosed or unaddressed learning disabilities such as dyslexia or dyscalculia can hinder children's ability to develop literacy and numeracy skills. Without proper support, those challenges often persist into adulthood. Adults with low literacy and numeracy skills often struggle to find employment or are confined to low-paying jobs with limited opportunities for advancement. That contributes to higher rates of poverty and economic inequality. Illiterate and innumerate adults may struggle to understand important civic information such as voting materials or public policy, limiting their ability to participate in democratic processes or advocate for their rights.

Adults with literacy challenges may avoid social situations that require reading or writing, leading to isolation. Individuals with poor literacy skills may have difficulty understanding medical information, leading to poor health outcomes. They may struggle to read prescription labels, understand doctors' instructions or access healthcare services. Establishing free or low-cost adult literacy and numeracy programs in community centres, libraries and workplaces can provide adults with opportunities to learn or improve essential skills. Here 2 Help is the perfect example. Programs should be designed to address the specific needs of adults, such as recognising and accommodating learning disabilities or offering language-specific courses for immigrants.

It is essential that governments implement policies that promote universal access to education, including funding adult education programs, improving the quality of education in under-served areas and ensuring that educational standards are met. By addressing both the root causes and consequences of adult illiteracy and innumeracy, and by developing inclusive and supportive policies, our society can work towards reducing these gaps and fostering greater social and economic equity. I commend TAFE NSW Bega and Bega Valley Shire Library for this collaboration.

ONE MEAL NORTHERN BEACHES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:39): I do not wish to alarm members, and I regret having to say this, but there are only 96 days until Christmas.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Get shopping!

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: Get shopping! But I raise the fact that there are 96 days until Christmas for a good reason: to promote the One Meal Northern Beaches annual One Hamper initiative. One Meal may be known to you, Mr Temporary Speaker, because it started 10 years ago in Green Park, Darlinghurst, when a group of friends came together one December in what they thought was a one-off opportunity to provide meals to those in need. Here we are 10 years later with One Meal operating in Blacktown, Canterbury Bankstown, Sydney city, Sutherland shire and, very proudly, up and down the northern beaches. This year One Meal will be kicking off its One Hamper initiative again.

One Meal is a not-for-profit community organisation that helps provide weekly community services right across Sydney. It delivers hot, nutritious main meals, weekly hampers and pantry staples to individuals and families. It is 100 per cent volunteer run. At Christmas time, it partners with the community to fill and deliver more than 3,000 food hampers. Through the generous support of local schools, community groups, businesses and families, One Meal not only packs and fills the hampers but also distributes the hampers. There are four steps in the One Hamper initiative. The first is to get involved by registering on the One Meal website. I encourage all members in this place to consider promoting this through their various avenues and electorate offices.

The second step is to create a hamper. People can either donate one or more hampers, which One Meal volunteers will fill on their behalf, or they can choose to pick up an empty box and a packing list from an electorate office and fill it themselves. Any help is appreciated and will go a long way. The third step is to return the hamper. Once the hamper has been filled, it should be returned unsealed to One Meal by 2 December. There are many locations to which they can be returned. Once returned, One Meal volunteers will check to make sure that everything is in the hamper and may add additional donated goods that the recipient might enjoy for Christmas. The final step is delivery, which is the power and magic of One Meal. Its hundreds of volunteers will go about delivering the hampers right across the community to people in need in the lead-up to Christmas.

This initiative is proudly driven out of the northern beaches but it services electorates right across New South Wales and greater Sydney, including Blacktown, Canterbury Bankstown, Sydney city and the Sutherland shire. There is a great opportunity for members of Parliament to get in touch with One Meal in their area and have their electorate office listed as a registration point for box collection and hamper drop-off. I give a special shout-out to Kim Williams, the coordinator at One Meal; my dear friend Chris Lake, who volunteers many hours at One Meal coordinating the donations; and Jen Lugsdin, who is helping with the promotion and support

of the One Hamper initiative. It is a great opportunity for people and organisations in the community to do something to support those in need at Christmas. It is a simple but great initiative to get behind. I encourage all members in this place to give good thought and consideration to supporting One Meal's One Hamper initiative.

HOMES NSW

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:43): Today I speak about a significant milestone in the history of housing in New South Wales: the creation of Homes NSW. This new government agency is playing a pivotal role in addressing the housing needs of our State's most vulnerable residents. Most importantly, it will put an end to the decade plus of separating property ownership from tenancy management, and end the outsourcing of maintenance management, which caused no end of headaches—and half-completed jobs—for long-suffering social housing tenants. Housing affordability and availability have been major challenges in New South Wales for decades. In 1942 the Housing Commission of New South Wales was established to provide a pathway to home ownership for working families and returned services personnel.

By 30 June 2023 over 155,000 social housing residential dwellings were managed on the NSW Housing Register. Of them, almost 96,000 were managed by the Land and Housing Corporation. LAHC's portfolio was the biggest in Australia and valued at over \$51 billion. After over a decade of separation between LAHC and Department of Communities and Justice Housing, services have become fractured, with accountability gaps between LAHC as landlord and DCJ Housing as the tenancy manager. I know how hard staff members work to help their clients, but the system frustrated their capacity to deliver. As a result, tenants have suffered.

In January 2019 an 87-year-old Housing tenant in Guildford contacted my office about long-overdue maintenance. At that stage, contractors had been out to do a quote for roof repairs but no action was taken. My office referred the job to LAHC. Over the next few months, more contractors came out to inspect the roof. By August some roof repairs had been done. However, in December 2022 my constituent called my office about flooding issues caused by a leak in the roof. The repairs had not been done properly. In January 2023 rain came through the roof again and flooded her bathroom on a number of occasions. In March 2023 contractors visited and took photos of the roof. Later that month, a contractor advised her that LAHC had approved funding for the roof.

On coming to government, I wrote to the new Minister for Housing and action to replace the bathroom ceiling was promptly taken. Tilers came out to fix the tiles on the roof. The Minister replied to my correspondence, saying, "The repairs were completed in May 2023. I have been assured the repairs are now completed. Thanks for raising this issue. We are changing our maintenance contracts going forward to try and resolve this." My constituent was delighted because the faults she had been reporting for 12 years had finally been fixed. A Granville constituent in her sixties reported to Housing a faulty front door. The contractors came out and took the old door away, but the new door they bought did not fit. So they left, leaving her without a front door at all. She was too scared to go to sleep in case someone entered her home. Eventually, after complaints from our office, the door was replaced, but I think tenants have a right to expect better treatment than this.

Another tenant, Abdul, told me in May 2022 that he had been without power for five days. When I contacted Housing to address this, it sent an electrician who could not do the job as it required a level 2 accredited services provider because the fault was between the home and the street. Despite this, Housing sent another two or three electricians who were not level 2 service providers and who would not do the job because they would lose their licences. Only after we complained again did Housing engage an accredited level 2 service provider who could do that work. Meanwhile the family had been moved into temporary accommodation and then had had a generator installed. This could have been so much cheaper and far less disruptive if Housing just did the job properly in the first place.

A South Granville tenant living with disabilities contacted my office in July 2022. She is wheelchair bound and diagnosed with long-term medical conditions. Her occupational therapist advised Housing in February 2021, "She has just received her powered wheelchair. Although she is happy with the electric wheelchair, it is impossible to have it at her home due to the lack of access. At present she needs to be transferred to a manual chair, wheeled to the backyard and hoisted again into her electric wheelchair. This is placing additional strain on her husband and family."

LAHC advised that it would make reasonable adjustments but that, in that instance, the property was not suitable for the full range of modifications and relocation was required. My constituent applied for a transfer and waited and waited, suffering for years. Uncertainty about the timetable for the transfer dragged on. Recently I contacted the Minister, who advised that, as Homes NSW is unable to modify her home, she has been approved for a transfer. Finally the staff is actively working to identify a property that would be suitable for the modifications. These are just four examples of many complaints over many years. They demonstrate why the creation of Homes NSW was so needed.

TWEED ELECTORATE BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:48): Last month the Tweed came together to celebrate the region's vibrant business community at the Tweed Business Awards for 2024. Twenty-nine winners were recognised at the sold-out event, with many Tweed electorate businesses recognised on the night. Tweed Business of the Year was awarded to Potager – A Kitchen Garden, which is located in Carool in the Tweed hinterland. Notably, Potager, which is a very popular paddock-to-plate restaurant, was recently recognised at the Restaurant and Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence. Potager received two accolades in the regional section: Contemporary Australian Restaurant (Formal) and Tourism Restaurant.

Tweed Business Awards winners from the Tweed electorate also included Outstanding Employee joint winners Alex McQuie from Oasis Dental Studio, which has a clinic in Pottsville, and Amber Howarth from Studio Eleven Hair and Beauty, which has salons in Banora Point and Kingscliff. Studio Eleven Hair and Beauty was also crowned the winner of the Excellence in Personal Services category. Emma Cameron from Chinderah business Simple Styling Solutions was named the winner of Outstanding Employee – Traineeship/Apprentice, and Benjamin Worgan from Thermal AC Solutions was highly commended in that category.

Azzi Hamilton from Apex Ad Agency in Tweed Heads was named joint winner of the Outstanding Young Business Leader category, alongside Paul Baker from McGloin Baker, civil engineers and environmental consultants. Potager took home a second award with Peter Burr winning Outstanding Business Leader (20 employees or under) and Julia Foyster from Tweed Real Food in Mooball was highly commended. Potager was also awarded as Outstanding Employer of Choice (under 20 employees) and for Excellence in Tourism. In the Outstanding Business Leader (21 employees and over) category, Elliott Balk from Thermal Air Conditioning Solutions was highly commended. Motor Scout, based in Kingscliff, was awarded Outstanding Employer of Choice (21 employees and over).

The Banora Point based Nail Snail team was a joint winner of the Excellence in Innovation category. Joint winners in the Outstanding Community Organisation were the Community Transport Company and Shaping Outcomes in Tweed Heads. The winner of the Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion category was 10 Winchester Farm in Piggabeen, with Shaping Outcomes highly commended. Tweed Real Food was named a joint winner in the Excellence in Micro Business (less than five employees) category. Excellence in Trade, Construction and Manufacturing was awarded to Highline All Electrical. Fuse Wealth in the Tweed was a joint winner of Excellence in Business and Professional Services, with Effective Workplace Solutions highly commended. Pure Health Therapies in Pottsville was a joint winner of Excellence in Health, Care and Wellness, with Winchester Farm highly commended. The Outstanding Visitor Experience was awarded to Farm and Co in Kingscliff.

Thriving businesses are a sign of a thriving community and I am pleased to see so many Tweed electorate businesses recognised at the Tweed Business Awards this year. It is an amazing thing, the amount of small, innovative businesses that contribute highly to the local community, whether in beauty, hair and wellbeing or restaurants. The Potager restaurant, in particular, has won national awards. It is usually booked out three months in advance. The famous Fins restaurant, based in Byron Bay and also in the Tweed, is also one of our high contributors.

Tourism is a major contributor to my area. Half of the Gold Coast airport is in the electorate of the Tweed, which is quite an amazing thing—five consenting authorities. I know that the member for Lismore, who is sitting in the Chamber, is a great supporter of small businesses in the electorate of Lismore. We are always amazed to see the innovative and young people coming through. They are risking everything at times. They borrow money, usually from mum and dad.

Ms Janelle Saffin: They are courageous.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Yes, I acknowledge that. They are very courageous. There are a lot of success stories there. I am sure all the electorates across the State have some amazing stories to tell about people getting into small businesses. As is often said in this Chamber, small business is the backbone of the whole country. I congratulate all award winners on their achievements. I hope they continue in future success.

LISMORE ELECTORATE BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (13:53): I begin by acknowledging the contribution by the member for Tweed about businesses because some of those also provide services in my electorate. I know a lot of the businesses that the member for Tweed talked about. Recently, the member for Tweed and I were at a business breakfast in Kingscliff, and the tourism Minister, the Hon. John Graham, was also there. We were with some of those businesses at that breakfast, so it was good. The member for Tweed would like to know that I am going to talk about the Lismore Business Excellence Awards 2024.

Mr Geoff Provost: We are in sync.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: We are totally in sync, without even talking to each other. I acknowledge those businesses. They recently had their 2024 Excellence Awards night, which I could not attend, unfortunately. But tomorrow night is the Northern Rivers Business Awards, which are being held locally. I will first step through and name some of the winners from the Lismore awards. I give a huge congratulations to Joel Jensen, whom I have mentioned in the Chamber before. Joel Jensen Constructions won Business of the Year, and it is run by Joel and his wife, Brit. They also do great work community work. We have a Lismore project that helps people get back into their houses post floods. It started as Two Rooms under Resilient Lismore and is run by Elly Bird. Joel Jensen has been part of that, as has Ridley Bell from The Winsome and Andrew Young from the Catholic Church. They donate much time, skills and energy, so I give them a shout-out for their efforts.

The winners for Excellence in Health, Care and Wellness were Stepz Fitness and Lismore Discount Drug Store. Edmonds Conveyancing was highly commended for Employer of Choice (Under 20 Employees) and the winner was Joel Jensen Constructions. Social Futures was highly commended for Employer of Choice (Over 21 Employees) and the winner was Newton Denny Chapelle. PJ's Fruit and Veg, which is just across the road from my office, was highly commended for Excellence in Retail and Personal Service, and the winner was Mel's Melting Moments Gift Shop. The winner for Outstanding Visitor Experience award was Invercauld House.

The winner for Excellence in Innovation was Local Sounds Radio. Outstanding Employee went to Gavin Mulcahy from Bridge Knowledge. The winner for Excellence in Trade, Constructions & Manufacturing was Joel Jensen Constructions. RED Inc, who provide services for people with disability, was highly commended for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, and the winner was Social Futures. Stepz Fitness was highly commended for Excellence in Micro Business, and the winners were Jim's Termite & Pest Control and Flourish Gallery/Studio, which is an arts studio. Lawyers 4 Hope was highly commended in the Outstanding New Business category, and the winner was 187 Cantina.

Edmonds Conveyancing was highly commended for Excellence in Small Business, and, again, the winner was Joel Jensen Constructions. Connect Business Solutions was the winner of Excellence in Business and Professional Services. Lismore Lantern Parade was the winner for Excellence in Tourism, Recreation and Visitor Experience. Summerland Bank and Cleanaway Pty Ltd were winners for Excellence in Sustainability. Resilient Lismore was highly commended for Outstanding Community Organisation category, and the winners were Our House and Women Up North.

Beach and Bush Distributions Pty Ltd was highly commended for Excellence in Large Business, and the winner was Connect Business Solutions. Joel Jensen from Joel Jensen Constructions was the winner for Outstanding Business Leader (under 20 employees). Damian Chapelle from Newton Denny Chapelle was the winner for Outstanding Business Leader (over 21 employees). Lastly, the Business of the Year category was won by Joel Jensen Constructions. I thank all of those businesses for the wonderful contribution they make to our local economy and to our community.

WHITE BAY POWER STATION

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (13:58): My community in the Balmain electorate is home to a vibrant and thriving arts culture and creative scene. Thanks to years of community campaigning and organising to save the White Bay Power Station, we now have a world-class venue in our community to showcase local creative talent. For years, local community advocates, supported by my predecessor Jamie Parker, have called for the White Bay Power Station to be converted into a world-class venue to showcase local arts and culture. The campaign reached its pinnacle in 2022 when the former Government budgeted \$48 million to conserve and repair the building. It was an astonishing about turn from the Coalition, as not two years earlier it had been advocating to tear it down.

The White Bay Power Station has long been a transformative force in our community. It was first constructed between 1912 and 1917 to power Sydney's trams, and later the rail network. From 1958 it serviced the local power grid. I often hear from locals about getting a start at the power station as a young worker. From its decommissioning in 1984 to the recent \$48 million restoration project, this industrial icon has sparked countless redevelopment ideas, community campaigns and passionate debates. Initially it was slated for demolition, but growing recognition of its historical significance led to its heritage listing in 1999.

Over the years numerous proposals—such as a casino, a naval base and a tech hub—have been considered for the site. They have faced pushback from the community, who wanted to preserve the building's industrial character and ensure that it remained a prominent feature in the area. The former Government's restoration project, sensibly continued after the change of government last year, included extensive external and internal repairs. The chimneys were restored and critical structural work and safety measures were seen to, such as roof repairs,

stormwater drainage improvements and the removal of hazardous materials. The Turbine Hall, one of the most iconic parts of the power station, has also been restored, and there are plans to continue with the site's transformation.

The public's first glimpse of the revitalised building was in March, when the Sydney Biennale was hosted at the site. It would be an understatement to say that the community's vision for the White Bay Power Station, and our commitment to its restoration, have been well and truly vindicated. More recently I have supported my community's calls to ensure that locals are given fair and equitable access to the power station and that the space is not reserved for exclusive use by international acts and deep-pocketed promoters. The power station has shown itself to be a world-class venue, but it needs to be an accessible and inclusive space where we can also showcase our wonderful local talent.

I am pleased to report that there is an incredible opportunity for local creatives and artists to utilise and enjoy the space, with the Power Up Festival opening tonight. The Power Up Festival is a grassroots celebration of local creativity, art and culture. It will breathe life into the structure, showcasing live performances, interactive installations and technology exhibits that reflect the area's vibrant culture and history. Local artists, musicians and environmental groups will be at the heart of the festival, promoting community engagement and connection. The festival is designed not only to entertain but also to inspire dialogue about the power station's future, ensuring that it remains a public and cultural landmark for all of Sydney.

As the building's manager of arts, culture and creative industries, Mr Craig Donarski always reminds me that the building itself is a work of art. The festival will fill the space with invigorating displays. The GreenWay Art Prize, which is now in its fourteenth year, will celebrate the vibrancy, creativity and community spirit of the inner west. Other local collectives showcasing their work include Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, One+2 Studios and many other independent artists who have been selected through an expression of interest process that I was honoured to be a part of.

Looking ahead, the Power Up Festival marks a turning point for the White Bay Power Station, offering a glimpse of its potential as a vibrant community and cultural hub with a local community focus. As the restoration project moves forward, local voices must continue to play a critical role in shaping the future of this important heritage icon. In the meantime I urge you to get along this evening and over the coming weekend to enjoy the Power Up Festival at the White Bay Power Station.

ENERGY TRANSITION

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (14:02): The move away from coal for thermal power production in New South Wales to clean renewables is inexorable and moving at a pace. There are good reasons for that and there is broad support for this clean future within this Government and, indeed, the former Government. This month, 200 coalmining workers at Centennial Coal's Mandalong Mine were told their jobs are soon to be lost. It was a move they did not see coming. The news has devastated not only the workers but also their families. It will have wider repercussions throughout the Lake Macquarie community. Concerns around the future of jobs at Eraring Power Station and of the mine workers at Mandalong and Myuna mines have been in focus since Origin Energy flagged the early closure of Eraring Power Station in 2022.

Indeed, in June this year, after a protracted process, Centennial Coal and Origin Energy struck a deal for a six-month extension, beyond the end of its current contract, for Mandalong and Myuna mines to supply coal to Eraring Power Station. This deal was to the relief of many, particularly miners and their families who were directly affected by potential job losses ahead of the closure of Eraring Power Station. The deal provided a lifeline for jobs at both mines until the end of the year. Workers at the Mandalong mine were understandably completely blindsided by the news that some 200 jobs would soon be lost. Centennial Coal has blamed its failure to secure a new long-term contract with Origin to supply coal to Eraring on high production costs, coal price caps and an unreliable domestic market for the decision. Centennial Coal has also stated that restructuring the company was necessary so that it could cater to the export market and extend the life of the mine.

While a loss of 200 high-paying jobs is terrible, it is inevitable that more mining job losses are coming as we move away from traditional power generation and embrace renewable energy. We have known that this is coming, and there has been plenty of talk about how we can provide for a just transition to renewables—a transition that does not unfairly impact and fall disproportionately heavily and unequally on the workers and communities where mines and power stations have done the heavy lifting of energy production for many years. We appear nowhere near having the new jobs and retraining that we need for the eventual closure of those assets. We are certainly not ready for the loss of 200 jobs, let alone the risk to a further 350 workers at Centennial Coal's Myuna mine.

The Myuna mine is fully captive to Eraring Power Station and transports coal directly to Eraring via a conveyor belt. The mine has no opportunity to transport coal to other markets. If Origin Energy does not continue to take coal from Myuna beyond the end of the year, there is a real possibility that the mine will close. I understand that negotiations are ongoing between Centennial Coal and Origin Energy on that front, and I appreciate the conversation in good will that I have had and continue to have with Origin Energy in that regard. Origin Energy has gone on the record saying that it is no longer reliant on locally sourced coal from the Mandalong and Myuna mines, with 80 per cent of its stockpile coming from Hunter Valley based mines further afield.

The Government needs to move on job losses now and prepare for new employment opportunities, particularly in the southern Lake Macquarie area. Developing policies and getting ready for what is happening in the future, while important, is not working for the immediate need. The future is here now. There must be something more that we can action. While new jobs will and are being created in the renewable energy sector and other industries that could, to some extent, replace the jobs that are being lost, the process is taking too long. Those jobs are not here yet. We need jobs available now, not just in the future.

The loss of those jobs will have a ripple effect throughout Lake Macquarie and the region. Workers face the prospect of having to choose between taking a lower paying job to stay in the area or having to upheave their families' lives and relocate to stay in the mining industry. That is not a "just" transition. We will be failing our communities if we do not do all we can to deliver well-paying jobs to workers displaced by the energy transition. I call on the Government to use what levers it has to do the best for those workers and their families, who have ensured that New South Wales has had reliable power for its homes, businesses and industries for years.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (14:07): I speak today about social media, which has had a profound impact on the way our children have been raised in the twenty-first century. Their social development and mental health have been shaped by interactions with others online. On one hand, it offers opportunities for connection, creativity and learning; however, it can also expose children to risks such as cyberbullying, social comparison and inappropriate content. In my inaugural speech in this place last year, I mentioned that one of my key focuses would be advocating for better protections for children online and helping kids build resilience as they develop into adults. As a mother of three children, including two teenagers, my children are slowly being introduced to the online world, whether that be online video games, watching YouTube or communicating with their school friends via mobile phone.

I am proud to support the 36 Months campaign that the New South Wales Opposition introduced to this place, which calls on regulations to delay the age at which teenagers can sign up for social media accounts from 13 years old to 16 years old. That provides an extra 36 months to develop healthy and secure identities before being exposed to the complex world of social media. Founders of the campaign, Michael Wipfli and Rob Galluzzo, deserve particular recognition for their vision and initiative in bringing the critical issue to the forefront. Their collaboration has been instrumental in turning a shared concern into a movement that addresses the unique vulnerabilities that children face online. They have sparked a national conversation around online safety and childhood development. It is through their combined leadership and commitment that this issue has gained such widespread traction, as evidenced by the petition that garnered over 113,000 signatures.

Their efforts reflect not only their understanding of the importance of delaying social media exposure but also their personal commitment to building a safer, healthier online environment for young Australians. Wipfli and Galluzzo's campaign is a testament to the power of grassroots advocacy, taking a common concern shared by many parents and turning it into a legislative and societal priority. Their work has made it clear that we must recalibrate the age at which children are given access to social media, allowing more time for them to mature emotionally and socially before being exposed to the risks inherent in those platforms.

We all recognise that adolescence is a critical period in a child's development. It is a time when they begin to form their sense of self, explore their interests and establish their place in the world. Research has shown that excessive social media use is linked to increased rates of anxiety, depression and low self-esteem among teenagers. The constant need for validation through likes, comments and shares can create a cycle of insecurity where a child's sense of self-worth becomes increasingly dependent on external approval. It was great to see my Coalition counterparts in Federal Parliament announce that a Coalition government would raise the age of social media access to 16. Whilst it is positive to see that the Federal Government has jumped onboard by announcing an age limit, it has not announced what that age limit will be. It appears this announcement was made on the back of significant advocacy and pressure to act, not because it was on the Government's agenda.

There is no doubt that the impacts of social media have contributed to youth suicide in Australia. I do not doubt that every member of this place would agree we need to do more and act quickly to prevent any further deaths caused by mental health issues exacerbated by social media. The rates of death by suicide are currently

highest among young adults aged 18 to 24, followed by those aged 15 to 17. We need to do more to protect teenagers, particularly those between 15 and 17, who are on the verge of adulthood and have many stresses and pressures, such as preparing for the HSC and figuring out which academic and personal pathways they want to take. This critical transition period between childhood and adulthood is already a challenging time, as teenagers face a myriad of pressures from academic demands, social relationships and the exploration of their own identity.

The added layer of social media can amplify those challenges, leaving some of our most vulnerable children at risk of mental health issues. We cannot ignore the tragic reality that too many families in our communities are being devastated by the loss of a child to suicide. It is incumbent upon us to do everything in our power to prevent further tragedies. We all have a chance to contribute to positive change to keep our children safe. I thank the House.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:12): This week many members have spoken in the Chamber about World Suicide Prevention Day, R U OK? Day and the impact of mental ill health in our community. Both of those events took place last week. While it is good that there are two annual days that put mental health front of mind in all of our communities, far too many people struggle in silence with mental health problems and are decidedly not okay. In part, they are not okay because of the reality that successive governments have not stepped up and funded the resources necessary to ensure people are okay.

It is one thing to acknowledge that people are suffering with poor mental health, and it is another thing to do something about it. It is not okay to just quote the statistics and the horror. It is incumbent upon governments to act. If we are serious about supporting the one in five people who experience mental illness, we cannot confine our discussion of mental health to two days a year and put it in the too-hard basket for the remaining 363. No number of morning teas, yellow ribbons or annual days can stand in for real and robust funding for mental health supports to build close-knit, caring communities in which people check in on each other.

We also need to ensure our workplaces and homes are safe and that people do not face the massive pressures they do currently as a result of the housing and cost-of-living crises. We need to stop treating mental health and suicide prevention as some discrete policy area that somehow exists separately to everything else. The reality is that so many of the decisions that we make in this Chamber, the laws that we pass and the funding that is determined by this State Government's budget have direct impacts on the mental health of our communities. That goes well beyond the budget that we fund or do not fund to support mental health care in our community. It is distressing, and no doubt compounds the fact that the cost-of-living and housing crises continue to worsen, that people are forced to make impossible choices between paying their rent or buying enough groceries to feed their family for the week.

In that context, private assistance for mental health is beyond reach for many people. We cannot continue to wring our hands and lament the growing inequality and unaffordability that is pushing poor people and poorer people into poor mental health outcomes while taking little action to address it. In the Sydney Local Health District, which covers much of the electorate of Newtown, just over 6 per cent of residents self-rate their own mental health as poor or very poor. Nearly 18 per cent of adult residents report high or very high levels of psychological distress. To be clear, funding refugees so that women and children experiencing family and domestic violence can flee safely supports mental health care. Expanding access to gender-affirming health care supports mental health care. Building more public housing and reforming our broken temporary accommodation system so that people are not forced to sleep rough supports mental health care.

In addition, we know that people experiencing homelessness, particularly young people, face a higher risk of suicidal ideation, and yet this Labor Government still will not commit to building enough public housing to put a roof over the heads of the more than 57,000 approved applicants on the social housing waiting list. We cannot continue down this path. Sadly, I do not think I am the only member of this House who has advocated on behalf of a public housing tenant or someone who was sleeping rough who has taken their own life as a result of trying to navigate and negotiate the bureaucracy that is overseen by the New South Wales Government. We know that a lack of housing can cause those kinds of tragedies.

Just last week my Greens colleague in the upper House Dr Amanda Cohn chaired a mental health care inquiry that handed down a report containing 39 recommendations for improving our mental health care system. The recommendations included increasing funding and resourcing for mental health care services, shifting away from police-led emergency responses to mental health crises and towards health-led responses, and supporting the delivery of community-led mental health services across the State. We know what the solutions are. What we are lacking is the political will and the funding to make these a reality. We need to see the intersection between the decisions we make in this place and the mental health struggles faced by so many. For all of those people who suffer mental health challenges and have felt the tragedy of suicide touch their lives, I encourage the Government

to act to ensure we are doing all we can to address mental health concerns in this State. To those who are suffering, we see you and we hear you.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 14:18 until
Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 12:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: MACLEAY EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE HONORS
LOCAL EDUCATORS**

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—The Macleay Early Learning Collaborative recently honoured the unsung heroes of early childhood education in a heartwarming awards ceremony at South West Rocks Surf Club. This inaugural event celebrated the exceptional dedication of local educators and staff who have devoted themselves to enhancing the field and improving educational outcomes for young children in the Macleay Valley. The event provided a platform for networking and recognition, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among those dedicated to supporting the community's youngest members. Attendees came together to share stories, celebrate achievements, and build connections. Awards were presented in six categories, including Administrator of the Year, Outstanding Contribution to the Sector, and Trainees of the Year. Each accolade highlighted the remarkable achievements and dedication of individuals who go above and beyond in their roles. The night was a heartfelt acknowledgment of their unwavering commitment and passion, shining a spotlight on the vital role they play in shaping the future of our community and enriching the lives of the children they serve.

HISTORIC CHILDRENS HOSPITAL POLICES BOOK LAUNCH

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Sylvia Anderson, a beloved member of our Nambucca Heads community, touched hearts as she launched her book *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. The event, warmly hosted by author Carrolline Rhodes and introduced by Helen Kirkpatrick, celebrated both personal triumph and significant change. Sylvia's book is a labour of love, born from a transformative journey that began in 1973. It chronicles the efforts of a dedicated group of parents and health professionals who challenged outdated practices in children's hospitals. Their mission, which led to the creation of the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital [AWCH], aimed to put the child's comfort and well-being at the centre of care. As a founding member and the first national Research and Development Officer of AWCH, Sylvia played a crucial role. Her book reveals the intense struggle to reform hospital policies, advocating for parental involvement and simple comforts for children. Sylvia's story is a powerful reminder of how compassionate, determined individuals can make a lasting difference and I congratulate her on this wonderful accomplishment.

NVC GROUP HOST SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—On Sunday, September 8th, the NVC Group started the celebrations of a remarkable 50th anniversary with a vibrant community fundraiser in Nambucca Heads. The event, supported by Nambucca Valley Rotary and ShoreTrack, drew over 100 attendees of all ages who came together for a delightful morning of fun, food, and fitness. The park buzzed with energy as volunteers from ShoreTrack served up bacon and egg rolls, which quickly became a Favorite among the cyclists who had just completed a scenic 8.5-kilometre ride. From its humble beginnings, NVC Group has grown into a thriving not-for-profit organization with over 400 dedicated staff members across the region. This 50th anniversary event was a beautiful reflection of the community spirit that has fuelled NVC's journey from a small, aged care service started by a few passionate volunteers to the substantial organisation it is today. The heartfelt turnout and enthusiastic participation are a powerful reminder of how a shared vision and collective effort can build something truly extraordinary. Here's to celebrating the past, cherishing the present, and looking forward to many more years of community

NARRANDERA GARDEN CLUB'S 50TH CAMELLIA SHOW

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Congratulations to The Narrandera Garden Club on its 50th Camellia Show which was held recently. I congratulate Denise de Silvia who was awarded the Anne Clarke Memorial Medal and Life Membership for her contributions to the Narrandera Garden Club and the Camellia Show. Denise has fostered "Friendship through Gardening" in the community and the show saw entries come from Sydney, Helensburg, Albury, Coolamon, Narrandera and Berry. Denise has been an outstanding coordinator of the Camellia Show for many years, and she is to be commended for her organisational skills in making the show the success it has become. Almost 800 Camellia blooms were entered into the show and the diversity of flowers, all known as Camellia's is astounding. The cake to celebrate the show was, of course, decorated with beautiful Camellia blooms. Margaret Marsh and Sylvia Murrell were on hand to assist Denise in cutting the cake.

NSW SES CANOBOLAS CLUSTER AWARDS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The NSW SES Canobolas Cluster Awards are an annual event that recognizes the outstanding contributions and achievements of volunteers within the Canobolas Cluster of the New South Wales State Emergency Service. This cluster, encompassing various units across the region plays a critical role in providing emergency assistance. This year the awards recognised the heroic efforts during the catastrophic floods that struck Eugowra and the surrounding areas in 2022. Canowindra SES members received Commissioners Unit Citations for the services they performed in Canowindra before the waters arrived in Eugowra. Recipients were Jeanette Bowd, Greg Ciacomin, Damir Invec, Eliza Maroney, Craig Wright, and the Unit Commander, Owen Lloyd. Along with SES Eugowra, members from Orange, Molong, Dubbo and Western Zone RFS members of the NSW Police and CareFlight, LifeFlight and Kestrel Aviation were also recognised. By honouring these individuals, the Canobolas Cluster Awards not only recognize past efforts but also inspire future contributions, reinforcing the vital role of volunteerism in maintaining community resilience. The ceremony serves as a reminder of the strength and solidarity that underpin the SES, encouraging ongoing participation and support for this essential service.

POSTCARDS OF HONOUR

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Cowra Schools recently took part in a new program called "Postcards of Honour" and I would like to congratulate all involved. Post Cards of Honour is a creative learning activity for primary and high school students and is coordinated by local RSL Sub-Branches. Nathan Flanagan, a veteran of both the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars is a Cowra local and RSL Sub-Branch member. He spoke with students from Cowra Public School and St Raphael's Catholic School about the critical roles that Australians played in both conflicts with Iraq and Afghanistan. This program invited students to engage directly with history by creating personalized postcards addressed to veterans, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the veterans' service. The postcards were then distributed to current and past members of the Australian Defence Forces. The student's participation, whilst creative and personal, enabled them to develop and increase a deeper understanding of civic duty, patriotism, and the importance of acknowledging those who have contributed to our nation's freedom and security. I commend this outstanding initiative and congratulate all involved.

ANTHONY AND TRACY BURLING

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Anthony and Tracy Burling for their contribution to aged care and disability services through their innovative Burling Turn Assist Bed. As co-founders of Burling Aged Care Solutions, based in Rainbow Flat, Anthony and Tracy have transformed patient care by creating a bed that helps prevent pressure injuries and reduces the physical strain on care workers. With Tracy's background as a registered nurse and Anthony's expertise in business, the Burlings developed a solution that improves care for the elderly, disabled, and those in palliative care. Their bed repositions individuals by 30 degrees with the simple press of a button, offering a more efficient and less intrusive method of preventing pressure sores, all while protecting nurses from injury. Their persistence has seen their beds installed across Australia, from Sydney to the Northern Rivers, Newcastle, and beyond. Recognised locally at the MidCoast Business Awards and nationally as a HESTA Award finalist, Anthony and Tracy continue to lead the way in aged care innovation. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition.

CORINNE STEPHENSON

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Corinne Stephenson for winning the women's section of the Gloucester Mountain Man Triathlon. Corinne, an athlete from Forster, completed the challenging course, which includes mountain biking, kayaking, and running, in 4 hours and 8 minutes. This accomplishment is part of Corinne's preparation for the Coast to Coast race in New Zealand, one of the world's toughest endurance events. Spanning 240 kilometres over two days, this race involves cycling, running over the Southern Alps, and paddling down the Taramakau River. Corinne and her partner, Matt Olgilvie, are using this challenge to raise funds for the Great Lakes Women's Shelter, with a goal of funding a year's worth of safe bed nights for women and children escaping domestic violence. I congratulate Corinne on her achievements and wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her next great challenge in New Zealand. I also commend her for her efforts in raising much-needed funds for the Great Lakes Women's Shelter, which will make a difference in the lives of women and children in need.

DULCIE GAUNTLET

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to congratulate Dulcie Gauntlet on her milestone of reaching 100 years young. On August 27, Dulcie celebrated her 100th birthday with style at Estia Health in Taree. The staff made sure her day was unforgettable, decorating the facility with gold streamers and balloons and organising special entertainment, including a morning tea with a fashion parade that Dulcie judged

herself. Staff were dressed in sparkling frocks and hair accessories reminiscent of the 1920s. Dulcie's birthday wasn't just a day - it was a week of celebrations, with her family gathering for lunch the day before and three cakes enjoyed in total. Dulcie, who grew up during the Great Depression, is the last of seven siblings. After raising their children, Dulcie and her husband Ted relocated to Taree for its warmer climate, making their home on Victoria Street. In retirement, they were actively involved in community groups such as Rotary, Probus, and VIEW. Congratulations, Dulcie, on this amazing achievement! Your life is an inspiration, and I wish you continued happiness and good health.

TRINITY PRESCHOOL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I would like to congratulate Orange's Trinity Preschool on its long history of teaching and caring for children, culminating on reaching the 100-year milestone this year. One of Orange's most enduring early education brands, Trinity Preschool was established by Reverend Cannon Taylor in 1924 with support from the Anglican Church. It was initially a girls grammar school but in the 1950s expanded to teach girls and boys to primary school. In the 70s growing enrolment led to a new premises and a shift in its educational focus to preschool learning. Trinity Preschool opened its premises on Kooronga Avenue in 1976 where it now caters for up to 160 children weekly. A special mention goes to the Carpenter family who gifted the land for its construction. Responsible for the early education of countless children in Orange, Trinity has been embraced by the community, which took the opportunity to revisit the school during Return to Trinity Day in August while a black-tie ball will officially mark the 100 years on October 19. Inclusive and progressive, Trinity Preschool has nurtured young lives for a century and I believe it will endure for another 100 years.

ANDREW LITTLE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, agricultural shows are part of the fabric of rural life and those who support them hold a special place in their communities. With that in mind I wish to congratulate Andrew Little, who was rewarded for his service to the Forbes Show with honorary life membership. Described by Forbes Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Association president Pip Perry as a rock for the committee, Andrew has been chief steward of the antique machinery display for 17 years. He has also been a willing and reliable volunteer across the board for the Forbes PA and H, highlighted by the countless hours he put in during the 2022 floods cleanup. As I mentioned earlier, rural shows play a huge part in bringing country communities together, recognising the importance primary producers play in their districts and preserving and recording links to the history of those districts. Forbes has over 150 years invested in its show. People like Andrew play a huge, yet largely unrecognised role for their towns, and I thank him for his commitment to the Forbes PA&H and its annual show.

NEIL LAMBERT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, agricultural shows are part of the fabric of rural life and those who support them hold a special place in their communities. With that in mind I wish to congratulate Neil Lambert, who was rewarded for his service to the Forbes Show with honorary life membership. Described by Forbes Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Association president Pip Perry as 'a champion around the ground', Neil has been involved with the Forbes PA&H for more than 20 years as a reliable and able worker, never missing a working bee and lending a hand where needed. Rural shows play a huge part in bringing country communities together, recognising the importance primary producers play in their districts and preserving and recording links to the history of those districts. Forbes has over 150 years invested in its show. People like Neil play a huge, yet largely unrecognised role in their towns and without dedicated workers like Neil, shows simply would not go ahead. I thank him for his commitment to the Forbes PA&H and its annual show.

BARRALLIER PARK WATER PLAY UNVEILED WITH A SPLASH

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Residents of the Oaks and Wollondilly at large can look forward to cooling down this summer at the brand new Barrallier Park Water Play in the Oaks. I joined Wollondilly Shire Council Mayor Matt Gould, the Federal member for Hume the Hon. Angus Taylor MP, Councillors, and Council staff for the unveiling and testing on the 1st August 2024 and I can say, having given it a go myself - albeit with an umbrella given the sunny but chilly weather - I am confident that it will be a hit. The park is the result of all three levels of Government, Federal, State and Local, working together to achieve the objectives of the plan. Funding was granted from the NSW State government, the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and a contribution from Council. It is exciting to see such a fantastic new addition to the Wollondilly electorate. Barrallier Park features fountains, change rooms and is accessible, making it welcoming to all. Once the weather warms up with spring and summer just around the corner, I can't wait to see residents of all ages enjoy this unique recreation facility.

PICTON TO TAHMOOR SHAREWAY READY FOR USE

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—When commuting to the Wollondilly Electorate Office in Tahmoor in the morning, I often see students from Picton High School using the new shareway pathway to cycle or walk to school along with other residents. It's fantastic to witness the community staying active, enjoying the outdoors, getting out and about in the fresh air. The 2.4km long pedestrian shareware now connects Tahmoor to Picton along Remembrance Driveway (Old Hume Highway), providing residents with an alternate transport option. On the 1st August 2024 the shareway was officially opened and I was joined on the day by Mayor Matt Gould, the deputy mayor, current and former Wollondilly Shire Councillors, Wollondilly Shire Council CEO Ben Taylor, council staff and the Western Earth Moving Construction Team. The completed project includes retaining walls, refuge islands, a rest area at the halfway point, as well as road and stormwater improvements. This wonderful initiative was made possible by funding from the NSW State Government's 'Resources for Regions' program and Wollondilly Shire Council development contributions. This safe and accessible shareway is a great asset to the towns, and I look forward to seeing more cycleways throughout Wollondilly.

WOLLONDILLY LIBRARIES RECEIVE GRANTS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Congratulations to both Wollondilly Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council, who have been successful in receiving grants for exciting library initiatives through the NSW Public Library Infrastructure Grants. Wollondilly Library has secured \$332,727 for their Adaptive Mobile Library, and Wingecarribee Library has secured \$207,104 for their Library Between The Lanes Mobile Library Fit-out. The funding aims to strengthen NSW public library infrastructure and improve access to library services. More than just physical books, libraries are a hub for community and offer connection, education, and access to technology. Wollondilly will update their mobile library vehicle, and increase access to books as well as technology and other resources. The Wingecarribee Library Between The Lanes Mobile Library project will see updated books, DVDS, audiobooks. Residents will also benefit from enhanced access to computers, online learning and wifi, as well as increased number of programs, events and visits to schools and aged care facilities. In an area as vast as Wollondilly, many residents rely on these library outreach services. I am proud of the work done by our libraries to foster a love of reading among residents of all ages and provide access to diverse programs and facilities.

CRONULLA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate the Cronulla Junior Rugby League [CJRL] on a successful season in 2024. CJRL has 13 clubs that play in competitions for males and females from under six to open age, together with its all-important referee's association. A record 6,108 players competed in contact and non-contact competitions. Despite the frustrations of rain disrupting six rounds, players, officials and volunteers put on another fantastic season of football culminating with an exciting weekend of 43 grand finals. The CJRL has a strong commitment to developing elite players and its Matthews Cup and Tarsha Gale sides won their way into the competition finals, while local juniors Sam Stonestreet (Sharks) and Chevy Stewart (Raiders) made their NRL debuts in 2024 to highlight the strength of the CJRL pathways program. I recognise the dedication of volunteers from across all local clubs who make the competition tick each week, along with CJRL officials including the executive John Mannah, Simone Osfield, Amanda Kayes, and Adam Wrightson, operations leaders Chris Bannerman and Jenny McNamara and the general committee Belinda Green, Michael Toro, Faith Perryman, Simon Gilroy, Elliott Waugh, Tony Robinson, Kathy Ismay, Alan Kayes, Paul Tubridy, Shaun Osfield and Michael Toro.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate players, officials and volunteers from across the Sutherland Shire Football Association [SSFA] and its clubs for giving so many in the Shire the opportunity to enjoy the game in 2024. The SSFA lays claim to being the largest football association of any code in Australia and the largest sporting association in the Southern Hemisphere. It oversaw impressive growth in participation again in the 2024 season, with an extra 1000 players helping make up a further 100 teams compared with 2023. More than 20,500 players across 1,639 teams took part in SSFA competitions and mini-roos, which is the equivalent of around 1 in 11 of the Shire's population playing the game. Club volunteers deserve recognition for the fantastic job they did to register, grade, and manage their teams. I acknowledge SSFA executive committee led by the Association's first female president Laura Cowell, Russell Marsden, Keith Ward, Cherie Donoghue, Karen Traynor, Marty Manns, Mark Williams, Jim Hankins and Chris Lockwood, together with the management team of CEO Jeff Stewart, Jenny Stephen and Jonathan Dmoch. The Shire is fortunate to have a team running the game that is committed to developing football and our community.

ALBURY WODONGA FINALISTS FOR BUSINESS AWARDS 2024

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—This year's 2024 Optus Albury Wodonga Business Awards Night was a truly special occasion, celebrating the exceptional talent and dedication of our local businesses and individuals, who are truly making a difference. The event, saw an incredible surge in participation compared to the previous year, with entrant numbers doubling, resulting in 73 outstanding finalists named across 15 categories. To the following incredible winners, your contributions to our community are remarkable: Business Edge Advisors, Clayton Wood, Core Clinic, Cumulus, Dash Cakes, Digital Marketer Bee, Formulae Albury, Kirsten Sargeant, Murray River Animal Hospital, Nutrisoil Pty Ltd, Oh My. Style, Technocrete Pty Ltd, TKEL Furniture, The Real Florist, Yardbird, Zauner Construction. To the finalists who did not take home an award, congratulations on the incredible impact you are making in our community. It was inspiring to see all your efforts acknowledged. A special acknowledgement goes to Desiree Georgiou, whose work continues to inspire us all with her vision and creativity. To our two Business Chambers, Albury Business Connect and Business Wodonga, thank you and your dedicated staff for making the event possible, along with the vital support of sponsors and the talented judging panel.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I was delighted to present teams with their trophies at the Sutherland Shire Netball Association [SSNA] massive grand final day earlier this month. The Bellingara complex at Miranda was full of activity as families and supporters turned out in force to see more than 50 grand finals decided. The SSNA is one of the State's largest netball associations, with 20 clubs and competitions for males and females, including all abilities teams that give people living with a disability the opportunity to play netball free of charge. Sutherland has a strong representative netball program and this year saw its under 14 and 15 teams winning the State Championship for the second year in a row, while a number of Sutherland players have represented NSW and Australia in 2024. I congratulate the SSNA and club officials, volunteers, and players on a successful 2024 season, in particular the SSNA executive committee led by president Nerida Noble, with Anne Heptinstall, Jenny Rees, Maureen Finch, Kerry Phillips, Kim Scott, Tammy Moussa, Abbey McCulloch, Catherine Reynolds and Ashleigh Hiller. Such a large club and representative program wouldn't be possible without the hardworking Shire netball volunteers.

HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE SCHOOL LEADERS 2025

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I am honoured today to advise the house of the fantastic school leaders that have been selected to represent Holy Spirit College in 2025 as a part of next year's leadership team. Today I acknowledge the soon to be inducted School Captains Ruby Hoffman and Lawson Douglas, the Vice Captains Macie Simon and Christian Purdevski and the Sport Captains Alyssa Monkman and Charlie Lamberger. To be elected as a school leader is a true testament to your hard work, dedication and leadership qualities as this is recognised by your peers. I am confident these new leaders will carry out their leadership roles exceptionally, as they continue to work extremely hard and strive to do their best with their studies and extracurricular activities. Each of them will spend 2025 acting as role models for their peers, as well as navigating their final year of school. I extended my congratulations to Ruby, Lawson, Macie, Christian, Alyssa and Charlie and their achievement and wish them all the best for the upcoming year and beyond.

VIET TV AUSTRALIA

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 20 July 2024, I had the pleasure of participating in an interview on Viet TV Australia. The interview focused on several crucial topics relevant to my Cabramatta Electorate and the broader NSW State. We explored a range of topics including housing, education, public transport, the Western Sydney Airport, Fairfield Hospital upgrades, and various community events. The discussion of increasing and balancing housing supplies across NSW to address the housing shortage crisis, particularly in light of the recently announced plans of building near train Stations and Metro Stations, was an interesting part of the interview. I extend my gratitude to Mr. Nguyen Khang and Ms. Kim Hoang, hosts of Viet TV Australia, for their kind invitation and for the opportunity to engage with my community about the ongoing NSW Government initiatives and exchange thoughts on these important matters. I wish them success in providing important information and interesting entertainment to many viewers in Australia and especially in my Electorate of Cabramatta. I look forward to joining them in future TV interviews.

VISIT AT PAL BUDDHIST SCHOOL

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 1 August 2024, I had the privilege of visiting the Pal Buddhist School in Canley Vale part of my Electorate of Cabramatta. It was a pleasure to tour the school and speak with the Founding Principle Mr Panha Pal. Mr Pal's journey of leaving a successful career to pursue a deeper meaning and

purpose in life is truly remarkable. His discovery of the Buddha's teachings – the Dhamma – inspired his vision for Pal Buddhist School. Founded in 2013, Pal Buddhist School proudly holds the distinction of being the first and only Buddhist secular Primary and High school in NSW, serving students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Beyond advancing academic knowledge, the School is dedicated to nurturing next generation into compassionate leaders, guided by Buddhist philosophy. I also had the opportunity to congratulate Mr Pal on receiving this year's Community Building Partnership Grant. I would also like to extend my congratulation to Mr Pal as he embarks on his long-anticipated path to ordain as a monk next year. I wish him all the very best on this new path.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2024 DINNER

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On the 16th of August 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the Vietnam Veterans Day dinner at Crystal Palace Canley Heights. This event was to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 and recognise those that served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War. More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973. Tragically, 523 soldiers lost their lives and 3,000 were wounded in a valiant effort to prevent the spread of North Vietnam's Communist regime in South Vietnam. Many more soldiers were inflicted with psychological damage and trauma. These soldiers returned home to an unsympathetic country and did not receive respect and honour due to a growing anti-war movement. In 1987, Vietnam veterans received a parade in front of an audience of 100,000 Australians to honour their service and sacrifice. Many veterans continue their service to our nation through the military or in community activities. I would like to thank the almost 60,000 Australians that served in the Vietnam War, and to the Veterans of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam for the kind invitation.

NORTHERN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024 - PREGO CHARCOAL CHICKEN OF RYDE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Prego Charcoal Chicken of Ryde, winners of the Fast Food/Takeaway category at the Northern Local Business Awards 2024. Prego Charcoal Chicken has long been a beloved establishment known for their delicious offerings and strong commitment to the Ryde community. Their win is a testament to their hard work, quality, and dedication to excellence in customer service. Beyond serving great food, Prego Charcoal Chicken has consistently supported local initiatives and events, fostering a sense of community spirit in Ryde. They have contributed to local charity efforts, providing meals to those in need and supporting community fundraisers. Prego's involvement in these activities has brought people together and exemplified the positive role that local businesses can play in the well-being of a community. This award is a recognition of their ongoing contribution to Ryde's vibrant local business scene and their commitment to the community. I congratulate Prego Charcoal Chicken on their well-deserved win and thank them for their continued support of our local area.

NORTHERN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024 - TEAM BROS FITNESS CLUB – WEST RYDE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Team Bros Fitness Club – West Ryde for their well-deserved win in the Fitness Services category at the Northern Local Business Awards 2024. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the club's unwavering dedication to promoting health and well-being in the community of Ryde. Team Bros Fitness Club has been more than just a gym; they have created a welcoming environment that encourages individuals of all fitness levels to achieve their personal goals. Their commitment to fostering a supportive community has had a positive impact on the physical and mental health of countless local residents. Team Bros Fitness has actively engaged with the Ryde community through their programs and services, offering tailored fitness solutions and supporting various local initiatives. Their success in the Fitness Services category reflects their hard work, passion, and contribution to building a healthier and more connected community in West Ryde. I am sure the whole Parliament will join me in congratulating the team at Team Bros Fitness Club on this achievement and to acknowledge their ongoing commitment to the people of Ryde.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - TANYA TARENTY

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Tanya Terenty a joyous 79th birthday! Tanya's daughter, Jem, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday! Thank you for being the most incredible support and biggest inspiration to me. You and Da have shaped me into who I am today and for that I am incredibly grateful. Love you always." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Tanya's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Tanya!

MILLERS - WARILLA GROVE SHOPPING CENTRE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Millers - Warilla Grove Shopping Centre for taking out the award for best Fashion at the Illawarra South Coast Local Business Awards. The Awards were held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. The Finalists at the annual awards are decided according to public vote. Businesses are then judged against a set criteria and according to information they provide, as well as their online presence. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Millers – Warilla Grove Shopping Centre and wish their business all the success in the future.

WARILLA FLORIST AND CLASSY BASKETS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Warilla Florist and Classy Baskets for taking out the award for best Florist at the Illawarra South Coast Local Business Awards. The Awards were held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. The Finalists at the annual awards are decided according to public vote. Businesses are then judged against a set criteria and according to information they provide, as well as their online presence. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Warilla Florist and Classy Baskets and wish their business all the success in the future.

PETER STEEL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Peter Steel, an English teacher at Oak Flats High School, for being selected as one of Australia's Top 50 Teachers in the prestigious Australia's Best Teacher campaign. Mr Steel is an outstanding English teacher with a passion for his subject. He has a remarkable talent for connecting with lower ability students and helping them discover a love for English through relatable texts. As the Year Advisor, Mr Steel's commitment to student wellbeing is truly inspiring. He goes above and beyond to support his students, especially those who are disengaged or facing significant challenges. His approach of "unconditional high regard" has transformed countless lives, fostering trust and positivity among students and their families. Beyond his exceptional work with students, Peter is a source of inspiration and positivity for all his colleagues. His warm, humble personality, willingness to help, and infectious enthusiasm make Oak Flats High School a better place for everyone. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Peter and wish him well in all his future teaching endeavours.

AUSTRALIAN TRADES SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS 2024

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I recently had the privilege of addressing the Australian Trades Small Business Champion Awards 2024 on behalf of Tim James MP, Member for Willoughby and Shadow Minister for Small Business. This is Australia's only major recognition awards program dedicated to spotlighting trades-based small business operators from all corners of our nation. It was a fantastic and exciting evening celebrating the success of small businesses and recognising the vital role they play in our society and economy. Congratulations to all finalists and the winners. A special thank you to Steve Loe, Awards Founder and Managing Director of Precedent Productions and all major partners for your support.

NEPEAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I was pleased to speak with Nepean Christian School students at their Student Leadership Camp 'Leading in the Shadow of the Cross' and to see their esteem for Christian teachings, ideas and principles. Our future is in good hands with these strong and capable students. I thank and commend Mr Jason Ward, Deputy Principal and all staff and parents who worked to arrange this student leadership camp. I have no doubt that it added great value to the students' development and learning. I wish the students all the very best in this important period of their academic and life journey.

SAMANTHA ROWE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Glenmore Park local Samantha Rowe for being crowned the Penrith Show Young Woman for 2024. Samantha was one of three contestants who competed for this year's prestigious award and I commend the other two entrants Maddison Gomesz and Sampada Kafley for competing so well in the competition. The position was handed to Samantha by the 2023 winner Paige Peters and Samantha will now go on to represent our community and the Penrith Show at the zone final of the Land Sydney Royal Ag Shows NSW scheduled to be held in Kiama in February 2025. Samantha is currently studying a Bachelor of Science, Animal Science at Western Sydney University. She is a volunteer member of Western Sydney University Livestock and Show Team. I congratulate Samantha on all her success and wish her the very best in next year's zone final and in her academic endeavours.

LEGACY WEEK IN WILLOUGHBY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was delighted to support Legacy Week from 1-7 September, a time to honour and support the families of our veterans who have given so much in service to our country. The annual Legacy Week appeal has been a cornerstone of our commitment to the widows and children of those who served. Legacy continues to uphold its promise made in 1923 to provide essential support and care to veterans' families. Nationally, Legacy supports 34 000 spouses, partners and children of veterans, including 10 000 here in NSW. During legacy week, I was heartened by the number of people in Willoughby who showed their support by purchasing a Legacy badge, a symbol of our nation's values of mateship, compassion and fairness. I was also impressed by the number of volunteers at local train stations, shopping centres and street corners who turned out in force to sell legacy badges, pens and key rings. My electorate office stocked a collection of this merchandise for people to purchase. Legacy is one of Australia's great charities and I encourage all our communities to support its mission of caring for our veterans' families.

CHATSWOOD STREET FAIR

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I had an incredible morning at the Chatswood Street Fair as part of the Emerge Festival on Saturday 7 September. Thousands of people turned out to enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, colour, enterprise and community. The Fair featured more than 140 stalls by local businesses, clubs and societies, as well as the NSW Police and SES. There was plenty of delicious food to savour, live entertainment stages, and a colourful community parade. As a real family affair, there were plenty of activities for the kids including free rides, a jumping castle, a gaming centre, obstacle courses and a petting farm. I had the opportunity to meet and greet many of the stall hosts and was delighted to meet with members of the police and SES. The success of the Fair highlighted for me what a special community Willoughby is with its plethora of small businesses, clubs, societies and charities. I thank the many people who worked hard to make this festival a roaring success, including my team at our stall.

GRAND FINAL PRESENTATION, NORTHERN SUBURBS NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2024

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was honoured to be present at the 2024 Grand Final Presentation of the Northern Suburbs Netball Association (NSNA) on Saturday 7 September. Formed in 1969, the NSNA comprises 24 local netball clubs and about 7,000 members across Sydney's lower North Shore, many of whom are in my community of Willoughby. Dedicated to promoting the great sport of netball, the Association welcomes players of all abilities and prides itself on the values of respect, responsibility, growth, loyalty, courage and commitment. It was a joy to help present awards to the players of this great Association to recognise their achievements and team spirit on the netball court. I congratulate the winners and commend all the teams and players for another outstanding season. I express my sincere thanks to President Glenys Paranihi, the NSNA leadership, the club leaders, coaches, umpires, parents and many wonderful volunteers for making the 2024 season a success.

LINDFIELD-KILLARA CATHOLIC PARISH CAREERS FAIR 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Sunday 22 September, I'll be attending the Lindfield-Killara Catholic Parish Career Fair 2024. The fair will feature 16 speakers and over 60 participants, mainly local high school and university students. Speakers include recent university graduates to midcareer and experienced industry leaders. I look forward to hearing those who work in IT and cloud, cyber security, business, sales, finance, commerce, medicine, engineering, law, music, real estate, construction, and many more. There will also be a judge of the Federal Court, a chief operating officer, a social worker and even a member of parliament. Our current workforce is so diverse, and choosing a career path can be exciting and ever changing. I note that the Australian Bureau of Statistics states in the 12 months leading to February 2023, 1.3 million Australians changed jobs – the highest movement in over a decade! I recognise organisers Ilona Johnson and Clement Tsang for their leadership, vision and public service in organising this amazing opportunity that helps bring our community together. I also recognise Parish Priest Rev. Colin Blayney for his ongoing pastoral care of our community. Thank you for making me a part of this careers fair.

POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB (PCYC) HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Tuesday 10 September, I visited the Citizens Youth Club [PCYC] Hornsby Ku-ring-gai in Waitara that helps service the Davidson electorate. I was joined by James Wallace. PCYC Hornsby Ku-ring-gai is a modern, safe and exciting club with a mission to get our community active in life. They empower people to reach their potential through police and community partnerships, offering programs and activities for all ages. This includes a health and boxing gym, multipurpose sports courts and a world class gymnastics set up. James and I are now officially newly enthused pickle ball players, having briefly taken the court with local players Lindsay and Phil. What a great sport! PCYC Hornsby Ku-ring-gai has been a part of our

community since 1968, having moved into their current purpose-built facility in Waitara in 2017. On a personal level, I have wonderful memories playing basketball at their previous Hornsby facility. I recognise Peter Kirkwood OAM for his energetic leadership, vision and public service to our community, as he serves as president of PCYC Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, amongst other community focused roles. Thank you, Peter, for that you do in helping bring our community together.

HARRY BELLAMY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise Harry Bellamy who served our local community in the Davidson Electorate Office in 2023. As a member of parliament, Harry was very supportive in assisting me with community engagement and public policy research. I first got to know Harry when he was my assigned as my campaign adviser with the Liberal Party when I first became a candidate at the 2023 election. He always remained professional and offered frank and fearless advice. Previously, he has served as an adviser at the highest levels of government in the offices of the Federal Minister for Home Affairs and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. He also followed in my footsteps by spending time at the Property Council of Australia – valuable at this point in time as housing affordability is a critical issue. Like me, Harry he has an appreciation of the Liberal Party, public policy and government. Thank you, Harry, for your public service for the people of Davidson and the Parliament of NSW.

INVERELL MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of the Inverell Collaborative for hosting the Inverell Mens Night Out. The event was held to address mental health challenges and to support men in the Inverell community. The evening brought men together, provided information around men's mental health and encouraged people to talk more openly about their well-being. I congratulate Inverell Collaborative led by CentraCare/Headspace with Chairperson Tessa Monckton, for taking up this challenge and assisting in facilitating the event. Thank you to Hunter New England Health and the Central Coast Primary Health Network for partnering with the collaborative. Special thanks to Kerry White and Chris Connor for selflessly volunteering their time and effort(s) towards the success of the evening, along with Riverside Function Centre for providing the venue to stage the evening. I commend all those involved in for this valuable initiative, for their teamwork and commitment to better the lives of others in the Inverell community.

MOREE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST THE BEST IN NSW

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Moree Public School students, Isabella Boland, Kate McDonald and Marley Legg after holding their own against the best in the state at the NSW PSSA All Schools Cross Country, at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. I congratulate Isabella, Kate and Marley for competing at the top level with all three athletes walking away with top class finishes and running impressive times. Kate, 11, finished 8th overall and 6th for government schools in the two-kilometre event. Kate's effort earned her a reserve spot for the state team. Seasoned runner, 10-year-old Marley, finished 16th overall and 11th for government schools. And Isabella who is still a few months shy of her 8th birthday, finished 26th overall in a field of 78 athletes. I commend Isabella, Kate and Marley for their dedication and commitment to their training. I also acknowledge the athlete's parents, teachers and Moree Public School Principal, Mrs Sharon Cox, for their assistance with the girls training and travelling to Sydney for the event.

RECOGNITION OF LYNDA MACCALLUM

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Lynda MacCallum for being a finalist in two categories of the Ladies in Business Industry [ALIBI] Awards. These 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, which aims to celebrate those who run successful businesses in rural and isolated areas. Lynda is the founder of MaCallum Performance, a successful family run business at Woolbrook, which provides mentorship programs, horse training, riding lessons and Health coaching to help people reach their given goals. I commend Lynda for the hard work and commitment to developing a successful career and for representing remarkable women in industry. The local community of Woolbrook and the Northern Tablelands are right behind you and wish you all the best in the upcoming awards.

ALBURY PRECISION ENGINEERING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate local business Albury Precision Engineering, having reached an incredible milestone of 35 years in business. Established in 1989, the company has built a strong reputation for solving complex engineering challenges through precision machining, engineering, and fabrication. Their approach to project development, from initial concept and feasibility studies to production planning and execution, has set them apart as a leader in the industry. Throughout its years of

operation, Albury Precision Engineering has continuously embraced modern technology and innovation staying ahead to meet the evolving needs of its clients. With a talented team of tradespeople, engineers, and apprentices, the company has expanded its capabilities to serve industries as diverse as the automotive, aerospace, and medical sectors. The company's philosophy, "a problem shared is a problem solved," reflects its deep commitment to understanding customer needs and delivering tailored solutions. Congratulations, Linton and Karen Habermann, alongside co-owners Samantha Caldwell and son Ash Habermann, and the entire team for your contributions to the engineering field over the past three and a half decades. May your business continue to succeed and grow.

ALBURY WODONGA FOOTSTEPS PODIATRY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Paula Thompson, owner and director of Footsteps Podiatry in Lavington, along with her dedicated team of professionals, for being named the "Most Outstanding Business" at this year's 2024 Optus Albury Wodonga Business Awards. Footsteps Podiatry was recognised in three categories: Outstanding New Business, Excellence in Healthcare, Disability and Social Assistance, and Outstanding Young Business Leader. This recognition not only highlights the exceptional service provided by Paula and her team but also underscores their commitment to delivering patient-centered care to the local community. Well done to you Paula and your team at Footsteps Podiatry for the positive impact you are the health and well-being of their clients. Your hard work and dedication is truly inspiring!

CONGRATULATION SENIOR CONSTABLE SONIA KRCALOVIC

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, our local police force do so much for the St George community. Each and every day, they walk into emergency situations, putting themselves on the front lines to keep us safe. That is why I would like to thank and congratulate Senior Constable Sonia Krcalovic, who has worn the badge for over 15 years. Sonia recently announced her retirement from the St George Police Area Command. Her achievements over the years have been nothing short of exceptional, working with the culturally and linguistically diverse community to create better outcomes for all. It makes me proud to know that we have officers of such high calibre and esteem working for our local police force. I believe that dedicated officers like Sonia have helped establish the St George Police Area Command as one of the finest in New South Wales, promoting diversity and a commitment to public service above all else. I would like to once again thank Senior Constable Sonia Krcalovic for her service to our local community and wish her luck and success for whatever venture she decides to pursue next.

DAVID CARREON

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an amazing young talent from our local community, who recently performed at the annual Eisteddfod Showcase and won an Orchestra Instrumental Scholarship. At the age of just 23, former Connell's Point local, David Carreon has already achieved so many great things in the performing arts industry. Whilst David now lives in Boston, Massachusetts, he developed his skills right here in the St George area. The Sydney Eisteddfod Showcase gives individuals like David the chance to showcase their talents, bringing together some of the finest musicians across Australia. Not only was David awarded a scholarship but thanks to his successes over the years, he is also currently studying for a master's degree at the New England Conservatory. It always brings me great joy to inform the House about the extraordinary talent in our local community. David shares his passion for the arts in remarkable ways and truly shows the diverse array of talent within the St George community. His technical accomplishment is nothing short of extraordinary, therefore I would like to congratulate David once again and wish him all of the best in his future endeavours.

GRAEME PRESS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an exceptional individual in my local community, Graeme Press. Living in Mortdale, Graeme is leading the NSW Fire and Rescue Band as the conductor of the Beat the Burn Charity Concert. The concert is to be held on 28 September 2024 at the Pavilion Performing Arts Centre in Sutherland. It is dedicated to raising funds for burn victims at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This fantastic initiative started in 2006 and has raised much-needed funds to help bring relief to countless young Australians suffering from life-altering burns. Graeme's involvement with this great cause shows that he is a true-community leader. Might I add, this is just one of Graeme's many remarkable achievements. Throughout his stellar career, Graeme has been a performer in many sell-out tours. From 2009 to 2022, he was also the Music Director for Channel 7's Carols in the Domain. I would like to commend Graeme on his charitable work which will positively impacts many lives, in our community and throughout New South Wales. I wish him all the very best.

CELEBRATING LANA MAJDOUB: BDAFA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2024

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I am pleased to extend my heartfelt gratitude and

congratulations to Lana Majdoub, who was honoured as the Bankstown Sports Stars FC 2024 Volunteer of the Year at the recent BDAFA Awards. Lana's dedication and remarkable contributions make her deserving of this award. As a coach for the U10/11 girls' team and a committed club volunteer, Lana's impact is deeply felt across the club. Her enthusiasm and commitment are exemplified by her pivotal role in launching the club on TikTok, a project she approached with both creativity and passion. Despite her substantial efforts, Lana remains humble and prefers to work behind the scenes, never seeking the recognition she so richly deserves. Lana's coaching has provided a supportive and positive environment for our young players, significantly enhancing their experience and growth. Her willingness to tackle any challenge and support the club's initiatives has made her an indispensable part of Bankstown Sports Stars FC. On behalf of our community, I extend my sincerest thanks to Lana for her extraordinary service and dedication. We are incredibly fortunate to have you as a cornerstone of our volunteer network. Congratulations once again, Lana!

NATIONAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER WEEK – ANHAAR KAREEM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to recognise the outstanding efforts of Year 12 student, Anhaar Kareem, who has demonstrated exceptional initiative in leading National Student Volunteer Week. This year's theme, "Generation Impact," highlights the significant contributions students make to their communities. Having been awarded both the 2021 Youth Volunteer of the Year and Overall Volunteer of the Year for the Mid-West Sydney Region by the Centre of Volunteering, Anhaar exemplifies a profound commitment to community service. Her passion for giving back is evident in the countless hours she dedicates to various causes. She spends much of her time engaged in volunteer work, by running free workshops in debating, public speaking, and creative writing for local youth, to improve their skills and confidence. She also volunteers at the Brothers in Need soup kitchen and makes earrings to raise funds for important causes such as the Australian Indigenous campaign "Change the Record" and the Gaza's Children Fund. Anhaar's dedication to volunteering is inspiring and impactful and sets a powerful example for students to invest their time in helping others in our community. I look forward to watching her continue to grow as a future leader.

GOOD OLD WOY WOY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Happiest 10th Birthday to our fabulous Good Old Woy Woy Community Group, who celebrated their birthday this August. With fantastic content and local knowledge, this group has attracted more than 21,000 members from within the Central Coast and beyond. Members from the group are generous when it comes to sharing beautiful memories of the Peninsula. There are group members who are no longer living in the area but still in the group to share their special photos with everyone. There are also members who found the group to look for their mates from a few decades ago. I love the members who joined the group simply because their parents grew up here, and they just want to see how it looked like for their parents to grow up in the area. My favourite would be the black and white photos of the area where horse carriages were the popular choice for transport. It's amazing how groups like Good Old Woy Woy have enriched our social media experience and helped us appreciate the area even more. I would like to give a special shout to the wonderful admins for monitoring and engaging with the members so beautifully.

MARLI AND SHANE HOYLAND

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Tonight, I would like to recognise two Coasties, who went on holiday and came back as lifesaving heroes. For this very reason, I'm celebrating Marli and Shane Hoyland tonight! Marli and Shane are our local surf live savers at Umina Beach and they are well equipped with courage and knowledge to save lives. When they were enjoying the beautiful beach in Thailand, Marli spotted a struggling woman whose life was in danger as she was pulled into sea by a rip, and within seconds, Marli paddled to her. By then, Marli also realised that her father was in distress nearby. While Marli was at sea fighting with the rip and saving two lives, Shane, a bronze medallion patrol member of Umina, saved the women's two brothers from the rip, and brought them back to shore safely! Marli and Shane are one of the reasons I'm passionate about serving the people of the Gosford electorate. Our beautiful constituents always inspire me, even when they are on holidays! I thank Marli and Shane for your paramount bravery, I hope you had a restful end to an otherwise eventful holiday!

BWSC UMINA'S CHEER TEAM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Tonight, I would love to congratulate the Cheer Team of Brisbane Water Secondary College [BWSC] Umina for crowning the National Title at the 100% Cheer Competition in Adelaide. At this national competition, the students showcased their dedication and talent to other schools across Australia, and our very own local school won first place. How incredible is that! The Cheer Team's victory did not come easy as students worked very hard and the continuous lunch time practices have finally been paid off. I applaud the amazing Eliza Cummins, the fabulous coach of BWSC Umina's Cheer Team. Eliza envisioned this victory and made it happen for the Cheer Team and the school community. I also want to give a special mention to the

school staff who are the backbones of this impressive team. I think we can agree that Cheerleading is unique and exciting. I watched the video from the BWSC Umina Team at this competition, it felt like I was in the middle of a circus and a sport field. The excitement from the high jumps to the tumbling, and the synchronized dance, it was quite a performance and a well-deserved victory! Congratulations to the entire team!

BRODIE PORTER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Brodie Porter for his selfless work and volunteerism with Snacktember. In partnership with OzHarvest, Snacktember is a vital initiative that tackles food insecurity by redirecting unwanted snacks and other food items to children in need. This program is crucial because it not only helps alleviate hunger but also educates and inspires communities about the importance of food redistribution and generosity. Brodie's journey with Snacktember began when he was just four years old, inspired by the impactful work of the program. Over the years, his dedication has only grown stronger. Through his tireless efforts, Brodie has mobilised his family, friends, schoolmates and even strangers to contribute to this cause. His ambitious goal for 2023 was to collect over 3,000 snacks, and he worked diligently to reach this target. Brodie's enthusiasm and commitment embody the spirit of community service. His actions not only assist those in need but also inspire others to follow in his footsteps. It is young individuals like Brodie who remind us of the profound impact that a single person's efforts can have on the lives of many. Thank you, Brodie, you are a credit to your community.

LISMORE BASKETBALL STADIUM BUILDS BACK BETTER

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It is great to see players back in action at the Lismore Basketball Stadium after its post-flood refurbishment. Several months ago, I attended the first representative game back at the stadium since the 2022 floods, and more recently, I officially opened this excellent sports facility. It has been a long haul for the Lismore Basketball Association. After the flood the club persevered with games on the damaged and deteriorating floor, until moving the Goonellabah Sport and Recreation Centre this year while the repairs were done. I support the Association and Lismore City Council in applying for the rebuild. Council took over management of the site during the works, funded by State and Federal recovery grants, and on Monday 9 September handed the stadium back to the Lismore Basketball Association. I want to acknowledge the work of Association President Aaron Simpson, Treasurer Kay Simpson and Publicity Officer Cheryl Amor for their work, along with all the board members and supporters. Their efforts continue to make this an iconic local sporting institution. Cheryl, who is a Life Member of the Association, says Bennetts Constructions did a great job building back better and using local tradespeople.

MURWILLUMBAH AREA BUSINESSES SHINE IN TWEED BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I wish to congratulate local businesses in the Murwillumbah area on winning categories in the recent Victory Group Tweed Shire Business Awards 2024, hosted by Business Murwillumbah. Notably, the recently retired Con Varela, of Varela & Swift Pharmacy in Murwillumbah, was judged Outstanding Business Leader – 21 employees and over. Varela & Swift Pharmacy also was a joint winner, with Pure Health Therapies, of the Excellence in Health, Care & Wellness industry category. Pasta'bah by Woodland Valley Farm won for Excellence in Sustainability and Woodland Valley Farm, which has Regenerative Farming for a Healthier Future as its logo, won for Excellence in Agriculture and Primary Industries. Uki's Hampers on Tweed also took out an impressive double – Excellence in Business & Professional Services (tied with Fuse Wealth) and Excellence in Micro Business – less than five employees (tied with Murwillumbah's 2020 Smokehouse BBQ and Tweed Real Food). Other Murwillumbah-based winners were Valley Ebikes for Outstanding New Business and Bolt and Buckle for Excellence in Retail. The awards ceremony was held at Murwillumbah's cultural and creative venue, M|Arts Precinct. Potager was awarded Business of the Year. There were 32 category winners and 10 highly commended entries.

TROPICAL FRUITS WELCOMES SPRING WITH FRUITOPIA FAIR DAY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Congratulations to Tropical Fruits who welcomed spring with gay abandon at another successful Fruitopia Fair Day held at the Lismore Showgrounds last Sunday, 15 September. The iconic Tropical Fruits is a non-profit LGBTIQ community organisation famous for its annual New Years Eve celebrations, also held at Lismore Showgrounds since 2003, but with a history dating back to the mid-1990s. General Manager Alex Torney describes Fruitopia Fair Day as an event where the LGBTIQ community gathers with their families, friends, pooches and picnic rugs for an outdoor extravaganza. "It's a queer take on the typical country fair with a baking contest, dog show, hat competition and DJs done with our signature flair," Alex says. Fruitopia Fair Day also featured a photo show, kids' activities, stalls, food, raffles and prizes. I'd like to recognise the hard work of Fruitopia Fair Day Coordinator Dex Tallo, together with the current Tropical Fruits Committee – Chair Marty Degney, Treasurer Naomi Feller, Secretary Katya Steele, Event Coordinator Guy Grey,

and Committee members Nicola Garnsey, Wil Polson, Lara Cruickshank, Annie Monks and Brock Taffe. I acknowledge Tropical Fruits' long and vibrant contribution to the rich diversity of the Northern Rivers.

THE HUB GOURMET PIZZA BAR

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community and business contributions the Hub Gourmet Pizza Bar has made to the people of Oberon. Using local ingredients where possible, the Hub Gourmet Pizza Bar creates handcrafted pizzas, made with farm-fresh produce, artisan cheeses, and premium meats. Their cozy, vibrant atmosphere is perfect for gathering with friends and family, celebrating the local community and savouring the true essence of farm to table. Small business is not for the faint-hearted, it is long hours, hard work and a lot of perseverance. But this hard work has paid off by the support and praise from customers and the local community. Customers come for the pizza, but stay for the community spirit. I was pleased to present the Hub Gourmet Pizza Bar with the Excellence in Small Business award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to all team members of the business for this well-deserved accolade.

MAWHOOD'S IGA

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community and business contributions Mawhood's IGA has made to the people of Oberon. Mawhood's IGA is a 3rd generation family business that is the heart of Oberon, literally being located in the middle of town and figuratively having become a meeting place and second home for many locals. Opened in 1930 by their grandfather as a General Merchant's Store, the Mawhood Brothers purchased the store in 2008, and have continued to expand the store offer to meet the needs of the local region. Their support for other local business, sporting clubs, community and school organisations has established the Mawhood family as strong supporters and contributors to Oberon. And their employment records are a testament to this with multiple generations of Oberon families working for the store over the years of business. I was pleased to present Mawhood IGA with the Employer of Choice award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to all team members of the business for this well-deserved accolade.

PLATEAU GARDEN LANDSCAPES

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community and business contributions Plateau Garden Landscapes has made to the people of Oberon. With over 15 years of local experience and a life-long love of gardens, Gary designs and develops private urban spaces, rural country retreats, commercial premises, council and community projects. Using his qualifications in Garden Design, Gary oversees designs from inception to completion and has developed many showcase gardens in the community. Gary is a trusted advisor for his wealth of experience and knowledge of plants and landscaping. He follows the project from concept to realisation, sourcing materials and subcontractors, creating captivating and functional outdoor spaces. I was pleased to present Plateau Garden Landscapes with the Excellence in Micro Business award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to Gary and all team members of the business for this well-deserved accolade.

SOUTH GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I extend my congratulations to South Grafton High School on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary. This is a significant milestone and a testament to the dedication and commitment of everyone who has been a part of the school community over the past six decades. South Grafton High School has been a pillar of education in our region, shaping the lives of countless students and providing them with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in life. The legacy of this institution is one of excellence, and it is something that everyone associated with the school can take immense pride in. The 60th Anniversary celebrations on 9 September was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the rich history of the school, celebrate the successes of its students, both past and present, recognise the hard work of the dedicated staff who have shaped the school's success and look forward to the future with optimism and hope. I ask the House to join me in congratulating South Grafton High School on this significant occasion. May the school continue to thrive and make a positive impact on our community for many more years to come.

CLARENCE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise the significant milestone achieved by the Clarence Valley Independent, which celebrates 30 years of publication this month. Established in 1994 as the Lower Clarence Review, the newspaper has grown into a trusted and vital source of local news, serving the entire Clarence Valley region since the amalgamation of local government areas in 2004. In 2015, the name was changed to reflect its independent nature, with no affiliation to other media organisations or political parties. Over the past three decades, the Clarence Valley Independent has provided essential coverage of local news, events, and stories, while also supporting over 300 local sporting, recreational, and social organisations. I would like to

acknowledge the dedication of founder and editor, John Warden, and manager Anne Mazzitelli, who, along with their team, have worked tirelessly to keep our community informed. I have proudly supported the Clarence Valley Independent by advertising important community updates, knowing the critical role it plays in keeping our region connected. Despite the evolving media landscape, this locally produced newspaper continues to thrive, thanks to its unwavering commitment to factual and impartial reporting. Congratulations on 30 years of outstanding service to our community.

BOOTS AND BLOUSES LONG LUNCH

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to send a huge congratulations to Jackadgery local Lynell Chard who recently organised a very successful event, Boots and Blouses Long Lunch. The celebrations took place at the historic Jackadgery Community Hall which was the perfect location for the now inaugural event that accommodated almost 100 visitors on a picture-perfect day by the beautiful Mann River with spectacular views to the Gibraltar mountain range. The tables were beautifully set, and the guests arrived to be delighted with tasty food prepared by the talented Erin Brown from Vines at 139. Music set the scene and was provided by Eli Fahey, a young and up-and-coming local musician who kept the visitors entertained. Guests were treated to a glass of bubbles on arrival and a special homemade jar of Lynell's now famous tomato chilli relish to take home. Lynell, what a thoughtful and wonderful community event you organised, bringing together friends and strangers who were able to take time out of their busy lives to enjoy something a little special, while raising some much-needed funds for your local community hall. Well done!

BIYANI HOUSE AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—Congratulations to Biyani House on being named a finalist in the Social Enterprise Business category at the Australian Small Business Champion Awards. This recognition is a testament to the incredible work you do in providing safe shelter and comprehensive support services to women and children escaping domestic and family abuse. Biyani House stands as a beacon of hope in the community, offering emergency crisis and transitional accommodation, safety planning, case management, and support coordination. Since its inception in 2022, Biyani House has been committed to treating all women and children with dignity and respect, helping them gain independence and heal from trauma. Your culturally aware and inclusive approach ensures that every individual is supported and empowered to build a better future for themselves and their families. You are making a profound impact and fostering a brighter future for women and children across the community. Thank you to the incredible staff, Board members, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters and everyone at Biyani House. This recognition is well-deserved.

BLAK CEDE GUNYAH

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate Blak Cede Gunyah, a newly opened business in the heart of Nowra, which is truly a landmark in cultural reclamation and decolonisation. Blak Cede is an inspiring social and cultural enterprise created by Waminda, embodying the powerful vision of Aboriginal women and their families leading self-determined futures. Led by a community of strong Blak women, Blak Cede draws from the rich traditions of their Kareela Ngura permaculture garden, cultivating traditional foods and medicine that are transformed into high-quality products for the café and online store. Their carefully curated menu is a blend of culture, home, and healing, providing a delicious and nutritious experience for the community. With their commitment to growing and sharing their cultural knowledge and practices, Blak Cede is creating a robust food and cultural experience that truly gives back to the community. I wish them all the best as they continue to thrive and lead the way in self-determination and cultural empowerment.

GIDGET HOUSE NOWRA

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the Gidget Foundation on the opening of Gidget House Nowra, located within Blooms the Chemist on Junction Street. This is the 36th Gidget House in Australia, and we are incredibly fortunate to have this vital service in the Shoalhaven, offering free perinatal mental health support. The days event began with a beautiful Welcome to Country by Aunty Ruth Simms OAM, setting the tone for a truly meaningful occasion. We were moved by Andrew Crawford, CFO of Blooms the Chemist, as he shared his personal connection to this important cause. It was an honor to have Simone Short, one of the founders and sister of Gidget, tell the heartfelt story behind the Gidget Foundation and a special thank you goes to the Gidget Angel, Gabrielle Boyes, who courageously shared her personal journey through perinatal depression and anxiety. Gabrielle's story reminds us all of the critical work being done here. It was also wonderful to have the Nowra CWA provide a lovely morning tea, making this day even more special. Congratulations once again to the Gidget Foundation.

ADMIRAL SIR VICTOR ALFRED TRUMPET SMITH

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the late Admiral Sir Victor Alfred Trumpet Smith on his extraordinary Navy career. Joining the Navy at just 13 years old, Admiral VAT Smith dedicated 49 years of service and is widely regarded as the father of Australia's Fleet Air Arm. His leadership within the Fleet Air Arm at HMAS Albatross had a pivotal impact on our region, the Navy, and the nation. Recently, a biography written by Graeme Lunn was launched, with a Foreword by our own Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN (Rtd). The book launch took place at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, with distinguished attendees including CDRE Matt Royals, Commander Fleet Air Arm, and Chris Mitchell, XO HMAS Albatross, along with many serving Defence members, veterans, and their families. I extend heartfelt thanks to our serving Defence members, veterans, and their families across our region, as well as the local businesses and organisations that provide unwavering support to our Defence and veteran community - your contributions are deeply valued.

BRAD JAMES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Brad James of the Gulgong Bull Terriers for being named 2024 Castlereagh Player of the Year. Brad, who is the Captain/Coach of the First Grade Gulgong Bull Terriers side has had an impressive year, despite his team not making the grand final. In the lead up to the Castlereagh season commencing, he was named as the Captain/Coach of the Castlereagh League representative team which played both the Group 10 and Group 11 Western Rams teams. The announcement of Brad being Castlereagh Player of the Year on Grand Final day is a history making announcement. Brad became the first player in the history of the Castlereagh League to be awarded this honour an incredible three times. Congratulations Brad on all your achievements in 2024, you have certainly done yourself, Gulgong and the Castlereagh League proud! All the best for the 2025 season!

WELLINGTON REDBACKS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate the Wellington Redbacks on their 2024 Premiership win. The Redbacks were the premiers in 2023 but this year's win has come with extra special sentimental meaning. In 2023 the Wellington Redbacks welcomed Tongan International Heamani Lavaka to their club as the coach. Heamani lead them to their win in 2023, and they started planning for the 2024 season and a consecutive title. Sadly, in early 2024 the club and wider community were devastated to learn of the passing of Heamani. Providing extra determination for the team to get the win for their beloved mate and coach, in front of hundreds of faithful supporters on Saturday 10 August 2024, they did just that, capping off a successful season and winning back-to-back Oilplus Cups. For Captain/Coach Keiran Brien, who is retiring from the game, the win sends him out on an extra special high. Congratulations to the committee and players of the 2024 Premiership Winning Wellington Redbacks on an outstanding season. I look forward to seeing if 2025 will equate to three from three!

NARROMINE FIRIES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to congratulate Narromine Fire Fighters (Fire and Rescue NSW Station 401) Renee Lewry, Tori Sambrook and Jamie Davis who participated in Beat the Burn, a fundraiser supporting children with life changing burn injuries on 10 August 2024. Fundraising for this special cause has been going for thirty-eight years. It started when the FRNSW Recruit Instructors established The Firefighters Burns Unit Fund. Whilst their city counterparts did the City to Surf for their 14 kilometre trek, our local firies joined Narromine parkrun participants doing the Wetlands circuit before continuing their trek around Narromine and completing at the Station. Dressed in full structural firefighting gear and breathing apparatus, Renee, Tori, and Jamie took to the streets of Narromine to complete a fourteen-kilometre trek around town raising money for an important cause. With their gear weighing several kilograms and weather on the day being unseasonably warm, it would not have been an easy stroll and is a credit to them for taking on this challenge for such an important cause. Great work Renee, Tori & Jamie! Thank you for your commitment to keeping the community safe!

COALITION OF GLEBE GROUPS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the important work of the Coalition of Glebe Groups, commonly referred to within our community as COGG. Formed in 2005, it is a coalition of independent stakeholder groups, comprising the Presidents, Chairpersons, and Vice-Presidents of Glebe Connected Project, UTS Glebe Chamber of Commerce, Glebe Community Action Group, The Glebe Society, Rowing Club Glebe, Youth Service Glebe Community Development Project, FLAG (Forest Lodge & Glebe), Glebe Community Action Group, Glebe Community Elger St, Bridge Housing Neighbourhood Advisory Board [NAB], Franklyn St Social Housing Complex, and Bays Precinct. COGG works tirelessly to

represent a wide cross section of residents and businesses and provide advice on priorities such as community events, development within the area and transport issues. I want to commend their Chair, Jenny Burn, Karin Kolbe (Glebe Transport Action), Emily Bullock (Hands Off Glebe), Jan Wilson (former Chair), Tania Thompson (Elger St Action Group), Megan Fletcher (FLAG), Mitra Gusheh (Glebe Youth Service), Duncan Leys (Glebe Society), and all members of the coalition for working so collaboratively for the community across Glebe and Forest Lodge.

40 YEARS OF THE GREENS CELEBRATION IN GLEBE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to acknowledge the members, supporters, volunteers, and staff who contributed to the historic celebration of the Greens that took place recently at Glebe Town Hall. In 1984 a diverse group of environmentalists, anti-war activists, forest campaigners, feminists and other progressives came together at Glebe Town Hall and marked the official beginning of The Greens NSW. This year, Greens members came from across NSW to meet again at Glebe Town Hall and celebrate forty strong years of campaigning for ecological sustainability, social & economic justice, peace & nonviolence and grassroots democracy. I had the pleasure of joining this wonderful event where members from that original group of spoke of their experiences. It was a tremendous opportunity to celebrate our people's movement with so many of the different people that have contributed to it over 40 years. I want to congratulate NSW Greens state manager Jamie Parker, staff members Shane Bazzi, Rose Coates, Monika Baumann, and all of the volunteers that worked together to pull off such a fantastic event.

FOOTPRINTS ECO FESTIVAL

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful array of stallholders, local experts and organisations who participated in the recent Footprints Eco Festival in Annandale. Footprints is an annual celebration of sustainable living held at Whites Creek Valley Park. This long running event showcases a variety of wares, music performances and children's activities. It also provides sustainable education and hands-on experiences to attendees through a number of free workshops, walks, and talks for the community. I was lucky enough to visit Footprints this year and really enjoyed speaking with all of the local community groups about the different work they're doing to make out community more sustainable. I want to congratulate all of the local experts and organisations that took part in the event, including Climate Change Balmain Rozelle, ACF Inner West, Knitting Nanas, Reverse Garbage, Regen Sydney, Renew Sydney, Inner West Beekeepers, Keri Harawira at the Whites Creek Community Garden, Gillian Leahy at the Whites Creek Food Forest and the Parramatta River Catchment Group.

REAL FESTIVAL 2024

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Gear up for an action-packed weekend of cultural and sporting events in Penrith, September 20-22. It's in our nature to showcase unforgettable experiences, and this September is no exception! Penrith will host several major events, drawing crowds from near and far for an exciting weekend. With our stunning natural landscapes and world-class venues, you can look forward to a vibrant atmosphere, thrilling entertainment, and memorable sporting triumphs. I'm positive you will love Penrith, and we can't wait to host all visitors Kicking off this weekend with Penrith's signature family-friendly event – Real Festival 2024! Returning to Tench Reserve, this vibrant riverside celebration features live music, fantastic performances, and a diverse array of market stalls. Enjoy delicious food truck fare, marvel at creative art installations, and take in the stunning backdrop of the Nepean River. This event is supported by Penrith City Council, Admission is FREE, so join us for one day or both! Get creative with hands-on workshops and activities, have fun at the Roller Rink by Busways, arcade games, and the Festival Bar, where you can sip on local beers while savouring food truck delights.

ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Endeavour Foundation on the official opening of its new Learning and Lifestyle Hub in Penrith last week. This facility offers a wide array of opportunities, ranging from virtual reality learning to cooking classes, fitness programs, and various creative arts options, all designed to enrich the lives of individuals within our community. The establishment of this disability centre comes as a welcome addition to the Penrith area, providing much-needed services that will greatly enhance the quality of life for so many. Endeavour Foundation has long been dedicated to advocating for the rights and inclusion of people of all abilities, and this new hub is a testament to their ongoing commitment to creating inclusive and supportive environments. I am confident that the services provided by this hub will have a lasting, positive impact on the lives of those who use them, empowering individuals to achieve greater independence and well-being. I am both proud and deeply appreciative to have such essential services available within our community. The Endeavour Foundation continues to set a strong example of what can be achieved when we prioritize inclusion, support, and opportunity for all.

PENRITH SUNSET BASH

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—It is exciting that the Sunset Bash is returning to Penrith. If you're in the mood for cowboy vibes, Penrith is the place to be this Saturday night 21 September. There will be boot scooting dancing and good times, Sunset Bash returns to The Backyard at Panthers Penrith. Soak in the sun and good vibes with Australia's best home-grown country artists, food trucks, fashion stalls and after party till late. This hit country music festival is set to be a showstopper with performances from Travis Collins, a 9-time Golden Guitar winner and 4-time CMC Award winner who has toured alongside US megastars Tim McGraw and Luke Combs! Joining this incredible lineup are Duncan Toombs (2-time 2024 Golden Guitar winner), Wade Forster (Toyota Star Maker Winner 2024), Lane Pittman, Missy Lancaster, Andrew Swift, and Penrith local Cass Hopetoun. Get ready for an unforgettable night of top-notch country music!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE BACKPACK VENTURE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to the Maitland Community and Officeworks Rutherford for their generous support of The Backpack Venture. Officeworks run a 'Make a Difference' appeal which allows all Officeworks Stores make a choice on which charity they would like to support, the Rutherford store opted to support The Backpack Venture. The Backpack Venture provides rural students with a backpack and all the essential supplies and resources needed so that they can start the school year feeling confident, empowered and ready to learn. The community of Maitland raised \$7000 for the program and across the state over \$46,000 was raised for the Backpack Venture this year. What a wonderful response to assisting our rural children with their schooling in 2025. Thank you to the Maitland community and Officeworks Rutherford for your efforts.

OLD SCHOOL SOCIAL MOTORBIKE CLUB

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations and thank you to the Old School Motorcycle Club for their ongoing fundraising efforts for the Maitland Hospital. On September 8th over 100 riders rode from Freemans Waterhole, through Kulnura, out to Wollombi and finished at Weston Workers Club. At the conclusion of the ride the club held a sausage sizzle and a monster raffle was held. Club president Michael Yule was proud that the club could give back to the community and such an important cause. All funds raised will go directly to Maitland Hospital Special Care Nursery to purchase additional equipment for premature babies. Members of the club chose this cause as many have had family, or know someone, who had used the nursery. This is the second ride for the club, with \$8000 raised for the hospital last year and this year's result was a \$9136 donation. Once again thank you to all involved for their generous support of premature babies at our hospital.

SCOTT MELMETH

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Maitland's Scott Melmeth who recently made his 100th donation of blood to the Australian Red Cross. I was recently contacted by very proud daughter Karleigha Melmeth, and I am grateful to her for informing me of her father's efforts. Scott has never sought the spotlight and it is people like Scott who are usually the unsung heroes. Scott regularly donates both blood and plasma and has been giving to his community for many years. Scott has proudly volunteered at Maitland City Council events for over 15 years, and he has passed this volunteering spirit onto his daughter. Blood and plasma donations save lives. Most donations are used to help people with medical conditions that require blood or blood products regularly. Over a third of all donations are used to help treat people with cancer and blood diseases. Donations are also used by medical researchers to develop and test new treatments for many medical conditions – such as blood clots, heart attack, stroke and cancer. Thank you Scott for your efforts on behalf of, not only your proud daughter, but the whole community.

KENTHURST STREET PARADE AND FAIR, 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—The Hills Shire's annual Orange Blossom Festival is held in September each year. As part of the Orange Blossom Festival the Kenthurst Rotary Club for many years has held a Street Parade and Fair. It was an absolute pleasure to attend this year on Sunday, 8 September 2024 the Kenthurst Street Parade and Fair. The day was a wonderful day for the entire community. The day included a street parade of vintage cars, RFS and SES vehicles, and much more. It was wonderful to see so many smiling and happy children waving and cheering as the street parade travelled down Kenthurst Road to John Benyon Reserve. The fair was a wonderful family day which included rides, stalls, displays, food trucks, face painting, fresh orange juice and the Rotary BBQ. The Kenthurst community had a wonderful day at John Benyon Park. Thank you very much to Chris Gaskin, Paul Rapp and to the entire Kenthurst Rotary Club.

HASTINGS SECONDARY COLLEGE – DUNGANG AECG ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS 2024

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise the noteworthy achievements of several students from Hastings Secondary College. These prestigious awards, selected from 94 nominations across all schools in the Hastings district, celebrate the remarkable achievements and efforts, in Aboriginal Education. I congratulate all awardees: Cooper Berry, who received Outstanding All-Round Student 2024, Anthony Hooper, who received Outstanding Student Leadership 2024 and Cordell Scott, who received NSW VET (Vocational Education and Training) in Schools Student of the Year. These students' achievements are reflected in the success of their school. I am honoured to congratulate Hastings Secondary College on receiving the 2024 Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award. This award is presented to a campus that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to respectful and productive partnerships with students, staff, parents and their local Aboriginal communities. I am proud to acknowledge Hastings Secondary College's ongoing collaboration and commitment to Aboriginal Education. I sincerely congratulate all award winners, those who were nominated and the Hastings AECG for their persistent hard work across our community and dedication in First Nations education and excellence.

HARRINGTON CWA

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I acknowledge the closure of the Harrington Country Women's Association [CWA] and thank them for their service and stewardship in the Harrington community spanning more than half a century. The Harrington Branch of the CWA was formed on 19 August 1968 with a mission of improving conditions for country women, both at home and abroad. In the early days this included highlighting the isolation experienced by women in rural and remote communities and advocacy on healthcare inequities. Today, their work has expanded to include scholarships for rural medical students, disaster relief, medical research and local fundraising for Marine Rescue, Rural Fire Brigade, Taree Women's Refuge, Harrington Public School and more. After 54 years of service, our CWA ladies sadly announced the closure of the Harrington Branch on 31 August due to a decrease in membership and the inability to fill executive positions. Knowing these women, they will continue to serve their community in some form for years to come because that is at the heart of what country women do. My appreciation is extended to President Gwen Hudson and the membership for the legacy they have left which will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

MRS JENNIFER LUCEY – CAMDEN HAVEN UHA

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise the amazing, ongoing effort and dedication of Mrs Jennifer Lucey, as she steps down as President of the Camden Haven United Hospital Auxiliary. Mrs Lucey is a Life Member of the Auxiliary and has been President for the past five years. Auxiliary members make an enormous contribution to our community giving generously of their time and skills to benefit and assist the welfare of patients and staff in local hospitals. Over the past year, the ladies of the Auxiliary have held raffles, street stalls and various fund raisers to amass an impressive sum of \$12,000. These funds have helped Wauchope District Memorial Hospital and Port Macquarie Base Hospital to purchase much needed equipment. The ladies have dedicated hours and hours to knitting and crocheting warm, colourful rugs for the comfort of patients in Palliative Care and Rehabilitation at Wauchope Hospital - such a compassionate gesture. Mrs Lucey has upheld the beliefs of the Auxiliary and encouraged and inspired all the members. I express my absolute gratitude to Jennifer, for her endless devotion to this wonderful cause and all the volunteers, for their dedication to improving healthcare services in our local community.

COPTIC NEW YEAR NAYROUZ 1741

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 18th September, I was delighted to meet with students, parishioners and clergy from our local Coptic community to celebrate the Feast of Nayrouz, Coptic New Year 1741, in the Parliament of NSW. Nayrouz is a religious celebration marking the start of the Coptic calendar. It falls annually on September 11 and commemorates the martyrs of the early Christian Church who suffered persecution, particularly under Roman rule. It is a time for reflection, honouring the faith of the martyrs, and also coincides with the beginning of the agricultural year in Egypt. Celebrations include special church services and prayers for blessings in the new year. It was great to celebrate Nayrouz in Parliament with Premier, Chris Minns, Minister for Multiculturalism, Steve Kamper MP, Coptic Orthodox Trustee Secretary, Mrs Lydia Sedrak, Consul General of Egypt in Sydney, Mr Mohamed Khalil, His Grace, Bishop Daniel and Fr Joshua Tadros, Coptic Orthodox Church, and Co-Founder of NSW Parliamentary Friends of Egypt, Edmond Atalla MP. I extend my warmest wishes to all Coptic Australians, in our local Prospect Electorate, across Western Sydney and throughout NSW in celebrating the Coptic Feast of Nayrouz 1741.

ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKTOWN CITY – POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 23rd August, 2024, I was pleased to attend the Rotary Club of Blacktown City Police Officer of the Year Awards. The Police Officer of the Year Awards proudly continue the Rotary tradition of recognising exceptional members of the NSW Police Force, volunteers, and civilian employees on behalf of our community. Rotary's motto of "service above all" was reflected in the character and accomplishments of the nominees and finalists. Their commitment is an inspiration to all of us. Thank you to Russell Ashley, Club President, for hosting a fantastic Awards night. I wish to extend special congratulations to Detective Senior Constable Daniel Breen, who was awarded 2024 Police Officer of the Year. I also congratulate Sonja Zheng, winner of the Unsworn Employee category and Senior Constable Amante Decena, winner of the Crime Prevention category. Congratulations to Constable Jasmin Dighton, Senior Constable Cameron Fitzjohn and Constable Daman Myburgh-Sisam who were named finalists in the General Duties category. My heartfelt thanks go out to Area Commander Superintendent Kristy Heyward, and the whole Blacktown Police Area Command for your continued vigilance and dedicated service, in our Prospect Electorate and across Western Sydney.

ARCHBISHOP'S AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE – ZACHARY FACER

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Zachary Facer on receiving an Archbishop's Award for Student Excellence on 23rd August 2024, presented by the Rev. Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP, at St Mary's Cathedral. College Captain at Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield, Zachary leads by example. Inspiring people embarking on their faith journey, Zachary leads the Filipino Youth Group at St. Joseph's Parish, Moorebank. Part of the College Mission Team, Zachary engages in liturgical and sacramental opportunities and facilitates a range of exciting activities to welcome and engage his peers. His recent portrayal of Simon the Cyrene in the College Stations of the Cross liturgy encapsulated his willingness to help others. Zachary epitomises a Patrician graduate, striving to embody Christ in all he does. The Archbishop of Sydney Awards celebrate all-rounded excellence, acknowledging the empathy, humility, and service students offer schools and their broader community. The awards recognise Catholic Education's legacy to champion every person for the common good. Thank you to Archbishop Anthony Fisher and the Catholic Education community for facilitating this showcase. Thank you to Peter Wade, College Principal, and the College community for their dedication to developing compassionate students. Congratulations again, Zachary, on this prestigious Award.

KELLYVILLE KOLTS FOOTBALL CLUB, RED AND BLACK BALL, 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Kellyville Kolts Football club on another great season. Recently I attended the Kolts Red and Black Ball. The Ball serves as a presentation evening to recognise the achievements of players, teams, coaches, and the committee. The statistics demonstrate the importance of the Kolts to our local community. The Kolts are the 4th largest club in NSW and the largest club in Hills Football. The Kolts have 176 Managers including 76 female managers, 198 coaches including 15 female coaches, 140 teams including 33 female teams. The Kolts have 2,160 registered players. Since 2021 the club has grown by 23 per cent. I acknowledge and recognise the Kolts President Bob Harrold and the entire committee for another successful season.

ROTARY MEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION RURAL VAN

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Today and tomorrow the Rotary Men's Health Education Rural Van [MHERV] will be at Twin Towns Club Banora Point, providing lifesaving free health checkups. Operated by the Rotary Club of Warners Bay in collaboration with local NSW Rotary Clubs, the MHERV project has been brought to the Tweed by the Rotary Club of Banora-Tweed Heads and the Rotary Club of Currumbin-Coolangatta Tweed. For six years MHERV has been travelling throughout regional and rural NSW offering free checkups to people who, for whatever reason, haven't been to a doctor for some time. The program is open to men and women but has a focus on men who can be a little more reticent in seeking healthcare. I applaud this initiative and thank Rotary Clubs for making this life saving service available to Tweed residents.

BURRINGBAR HALL TURNS 120

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Tomorrow Burringbar School of Arts Hall in the Tweed Electorate celebrates its 120th birthday, with a full day of free family fun and activities. Burringbar School of Arts Hall has been an important part of the Burringbar community since it was built in 1904. Early on it was a meeting place for social events and was also home to a library with a fireplace. The hall hosted farewell functions for those brave men and women joining the Australian contingent in World War I and II. It has also accommodated many other life milestones such as balls, weddings and kitchen teas. Nowadays it's home to a large variety of classes, including Zumba and yoga, and workshops. Tomorrow the hall's impressive history will be commemorated with historical photo displays and information, as well as a series of entertainers, performances and activities. These include a

free morning tea, Bollywood dancing, line dancing, open mic comedy, live music, local food stalls and a raffle. The Burringbar School of Arts Hall is part of the fabric of the Burringbar community and I congratulate the Burringbar Hall School of Arts Committee for organising a wonderful celebration of this treasured and much-loved community hall.

TWEED COAST BAND

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—The Tweed Coast Band has been delighting audiences for 25 years and tomorrow the band will be holding an open day to showcase their talents and encourage new members to join. The band has a wide-ranging repertoire including music from The Beatles, Laga Gaga, ABBA and Queen and pride themselves on catering to all music tastes and can play many genres. The band performs at local markets, retirement homes, community events such as Vietnam Memorial Day and ANZAC Day and perform concerts in collaboration with other community bands. Tomorrow's open day will enable music enthusiasts and those considering joining the band to take a look inside the band experience. Attendees can just observe or bring in instruments and music stands to join a rehearsal. Members will be on hand to have a chat and enjoy morning tea with attendees. Well done to the Tweed Coast Band for bringing musical joy to the Tweed for two and half decades and for continuing to inspire the love of music for many more people to come.

WENDEN SWIMMING CLUB

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—I congratulate Wenden Swimming Club in Miller for their highly successful participation in the MS Mega Challenge. The squad at Wenden have raised over \$5000 in funds to support people living with multiple sclerosis. The event saw participants from Wenden swim an incredible 62.2 kilometres over a 24-hour period, all with a massive smile and for a great cause. I congratulate all participants and members of the community for your generosity in supporting this important cause. Multiple sclerosis affects more than 33,000 Australians, and because of the generosity of the Liverpool community, those Australians will be able to access important services that assist them in day-to-day life. Multiple sclerosis has a particular impact on young people. The average age of diagnosis is 30 and it affects more young people than any other chronic neurological condition. Special shout out to Jorja Suga who was able to raise \$830. Jorja is a former Liverpool Young Person of the Year. Community-minded and intuitive, Jorja has hustled hard to organise donations towards achieving this important goal. It is fantastic to see such community spirit in the Liverpool electorate.

VOLUNTEER WARD GRANDPARENTS AT RNSH NICU

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker In Australia every year 26,000 babies are born prematurely. The Royal North Shore Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit works around the clock to support babies and families struggling with the challenges of premature birth. I acknowledge the admirable efforts of a few North Shore locals who are volunteering as Ward Grandparents at the Royal North Shore Hospital NICU. The Ward Grandparents program first launched in 1987 and is an initiative of the not-for-profit Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare. It has become a highly regarded service in all major childrens' hospitals. Ward Grandparents offer much-needed support for families who are not always able sit with their babies for a number of reasons. They read books, offer hand cuddles, sing songs, give comfort, or simply sit with the infants. They also provide a shoulder to lean on and a friendly face for parents. So far, the Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare program has welcomed nine volunteers at Royal North Shore Hospital. I thank the volunteer Ward Grandparents and staff at Royal North Shore Hospital for their heartwarming and selfless service to our community.

CAMMERAYGAL HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker I want to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of Cammeraygal High School in Crows Nest. Cammeraygal High originally opened its doors to a Year 7 cohort of just 100 children. Now, ten years later, Cammeraygal accommodates over 880 students and more than 100 teaching, support and administration staff across two campuses. Today, Cammeraygal adopts a holistic approach when it comes to teaching, and encourages the personal growth and enrichment of its students. Current school captain Sydney Atkinson has said that Cammeraygal High's youth is one of its greatest advantages. The school is known for its forward-thinking approach to education including the adoption of new technologies and its focus on student wellbeing. Pratham Gupta, Cammeraygal High School's first ever school captain has explained that unlike some high schools, the age of Cammeraygal has fostered a culture of closeness and comradery between the year groups. I want to acknowledge all the hard work principal Kathy Melky has done in helping establish such a flourishing and reputable school. congratulate Cammeraygal on a fantastic first decade, and look forward to many more decades to come.

MOSMAN PREP STUDENT SHINES AT STATE GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker I want to congratulate Mosman Preparatory School student Charlie from Year 2 for his outstanding achievements at the NSW State Club Gymnastics Championships. Gymnastics is not only a physically challenging sport, but also a mental one. It takes a lot of training and perseverance, and so for Charlie to compete at such an elite level at a young age is incredibly impressive. Charlie competed alongside his Aussie Gems Team at the championships. The team won a fantastic five gold out of the six apparatus and silver in the other. The Aussie Gems Team were deemed the overall champions. Impressively, Charlie achieved the highest scores of the day. I want to congratulate Charlie on his fantastic achievements I am sure that Mosman Prep is very proud of this accomplishment and I can't wait to see what you achieve in the future.

ZANN MAXWELL

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government)—I rise to congratulate Zann Maxwell on his election as a Councillor for the City of Sydney. Born on Lord Howe Island, Zann's early life was shaped by his experiences after moving to New Zealand with his mother following his parents' separation. His journey to public service began with a deep commitment to helping people, sparked during his time as an electorate officer for Bill Shorten. Zann's personal experiences as a renter and his passion for making Sydney accessible to all have given him a unique perspective on fairness and affordability. I, no doubt along with our shared constituents, look forward to seeing Zann's dedication and vision for a more vibrant and inclusive city come to life.

SORAYA KASSIM

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government)—I rise to congratulate Soraya Kassim on her election to Bayside Council. Soraya has over two decades of experience in community services, including managing programs in mental health, family violence, and migrant and refugee services. She brings an incredible depth of knowledge and compassion to her new role. Soraya is deeply committed to improving the lives of local families and making Bayside a more inclusive and supportive community. I trust she will maintain her tireless dedication to fairness, accessibility, and strong community connections to make a positive impact on the council and the lives of our shared constituents.

MITCH WILSON

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government)—I rise to congratulate Mitch Wilson on their election as a Councillor for the City of Sydney. With over a decade of experience across public policy, communications, and live entertainment, Mitch has demonstrated a strong commitment to advocacy, community engagement, and creative industries. As the Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association, they have led efforts to support and revive festivals during challenging times, including overseeing a \$1 million COVID-recovery grant scheme. Mitch's work with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and their expertise in government relations, strategy, and crisis management equip them with the skills to effectively represent and serve the diverse community of Sydney. Their vision for a more inclusive, vibrant city will no doubt inspire positive change, and I look forward to seeing their leadership in action.

MOVE4MYELOMA

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I take this opportunity to recognise the remarkable contributions of Donna Bergamin, whose charitable work has had a profound impact on individuals affected by multiple myeloma. As founder of the Move4Myeloma initiative, Donna has worked tirelessly raising money and awareness, supporting those impacted by blood cancers. Since its inception, the foundation has successfully raised over \$60,000 for research, awareness, and treatment of multiple myeloma through community events such as their annual 'Move Day'. Move4Myeloma has been an active supporter of the Sydney Blood Cancer Research Institute, working towards a cure and preventative measures for multiple myeloma. Donna and her husband Giuseppe are shining examples of the wonderful impact and difference they are making in our community. Their selfless efforts have inspired so many to raise awareness, get moving and raise money. I recently met Donna and Giuseppe in my electorate office. It was a pleasure to meet Donna. She is so inspiration. I want to thank her for the countless hours of hard work and dedication she has committed to the foundation. I wish her all the very best.

DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL SPRING FETE

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate the Drummoyne Public School Parents and Citizens Association on an outstanding school fete held on Sunday 25 August. The Spring Fete brought together local families, students and the wider community for an amazing day that was enjoyed by all. The fete featured performances, amusement rides, food stalls, games and so much more family friendly fun. Congratulations to the Drummoyne Public School Junior and Senior Band and Choir for their fantastic performance performances. The Spring Fete was a lovely showcase of our outstanding local talent. I would like

to sincerely thank P&C President Angela Farrell and Fete Coordinator Robert Tolliday and all members of the P&C executive and parent volunteers for organising such an wonderful and inclusive community event. The success of the Fete is a testament to the countless hours of hard work and dedication put into planning and facilitating the day for the most important cause – our local kids. I also acknowledge Drummoyne Public School Principal, Mr John Nguyen and all teachers and staff for their involvement in the day. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in the 2024 Drummoyne Public School Spring Fete!

CANADA BAY PHOENIX CHINESE RESTAURANT

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I recently had the privilege of attending the Grand Opening of the Canada Bay Phoenix Chinese Restaurant at the Canada Bay Club in Five Dock on Wednesday 28 August. The Phoenix Restaurant Group's newest location is an a la carte Chinese restaurant, serving traditional Asian cuisine with modern influences. The restaurant's commitment to authenticity is a fantastic tribute to Chinese culture and cuisine. I would like to congratulate Phoenix Restaurant Group CEOs and Founders Anita Fung and Raymon Yuen on the opening of this new venue. Their success in the hospitality industry is a testament to their passion for outstanding customer service and quality food. I extend my congratulations to the Canada Bay Club President Frank Failla, and CEO Joumana Jacob, the board of directors and the hard-working club staff on an outstanding grand opening. Congratulations to everyone involved in the opening of the Canada Bay Phoenix Chinese Restaurant. I wish you all the very best and look forward to many meals in future.

LIFT OFF EARLY INTERVENTION – 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 offer my congratulations to Lift off Early Intervention for winning the Outstanding New Business Award 2024. This award not only recognises the achievements of this organisation but also the incredible impact that Lift off Early Intervention has had on our community. Lift off Early Intervention provides specialised support for children with disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, developmental delays and other diverse needs. Early detection and intervention are vital to significantly reduce the impact of developmental delays, autism spectrum disorders, speech delays and other disorders. With the aim to alter the trajectory of children's development, Lift Off Early Intervention provides a launchpad for their success, in collaboration with families in the community. Lift Off Early Interventions' commitment to quality service and ethical practices have set a benchmark in our community, consistently going above and beyond to support the children of our community and their families. Lift Off Early Intervention reflects a genuine desire to make our Bankstown community a better and more supporting community for children with a range of diverse disorders. Congratulations once again to Lift Off Early Intervention for winning the Outstanding New Business Award 2024.
