

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday 18 October 2024

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Bills

EQUALITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LGBTIQA+) BILL 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (CERTIFICATION) BILL 2024

Returned

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

STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

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

Committees

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Deputy Chair

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 27 September 2024 Mr Tim Crakanthorp was elected deputy chair of the committee.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST

Chair and Deputy Chair

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 18 October 2024 the Hon. Peter Primrose was elected chair and Mr Alex Greenwich was elected deputy chair of the committee.

[Notices of motions given.]

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

Reports

Debate resumed from 19 September 2024.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (10:18): As Chair: I take note of the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Electric and hybrid vehicle batteries*. The committee heard that automotive workers, such as mechanics, also face risks from handling electric vehicle [EV] batteries, such as electrical hazards and chemical exposure. Inquiry participants called for further training and qualifications for automotive workers to address those risks. The committee acknowledges that the New South Wales Government is considering developing specialised qualifications and training for workers that repair and service electric vehicles. The committee is confident that, if implemented, they will ensure that automotive workers have the appropriate skills to handle EVs safely. To keep consumers safe, it is important that they know where to buy reputable products and how to use and charge them safely. The committee notes the existing work being done by the New South Wales Government to educate consumers and recommends that any existing campaigns should be coordinated to ensure that consumers have consistent, clear and accessible information on how to buy high-quality EVs and personal mobility devices that are safe to use and fit for purpose, and on the best practice for handling those vehicles.

As I conclude my contribution on the report, I sincerely thank my committee colleagues for their invaluable input and commitment and the collegiate way in which they worked together throughout this inquiry. When I took on the role of chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety, I was adamant that I wanted to have an inclusive committee that put aside politics. Why? Because road safety is well beyond politics. Road safety is about having the best measures in place for the public who use the roads. I thank everyone who contributed to this important inquiry through submissions and evidence at the public hearings. I really appreciate that people took that time. It is my sincere hope that this report and its recommendations will ensure that these important emerging technologies are safe for the people of New South Wales.

The Government is also taking proactive steps to address the issues around wearing helmets and is making that a priority in communities. The committee wishes to make further investigations and inquiries about the road toll, particularly around regional New South Wales, where that is a continuing and serious issue. We want to get to the bottom of those issues and see what we can do to support the Government and the Parliament in making the roads safer. I commend the report to the House.

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (10:24): I contribute to debate on the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Electric and hybrid vehicle batteries*. It was a great pleasure to serve as a member of the committee for the inquiry. As someone who has worked closely with the car industry for more than two decades, it was important to me that the legislative framework that surrounds the industry supports the moves being undertaken by the industry and the car manufacturers. Through the inquiry, I was pleased to note that the risk posed by electric vehicles [EVs] is relatively low. When I say relatively low, we are talking about a fire risk that is 80 times greater for petrol and diesel vehicles than it is for electric vehicles. However, it was noted that collision and water damage pose a fire risk, and that EV fires are more intense and more difficult to extinguish. In fact, it can take between three and five hours to put out an EV battery fire, compared to about 30 minutes for an internal combustion engine fire.

The committee found that personal mobility devices pose a much higher fire risk than other electric vehicles. That is largely due to the unregulated sale of products that do not meet Australian standards. We found that the Australian standards were adequate. However, there were a number of areas in the market that were falling below the Australian standards. Those are the products most likely to cause an electric vehicle fire. In dealing with the fires, there are some significant concerns about thermal runaway, the venting of toxic gases, secondary ignition and also contaminated water run-off when fires are being put out. That was brought to the committee's attention by representatives of the emergency services that have to deal with those risks.

There is also a vapour cloud that forms, which is a particular risk in enclosed spaces. Greater ventilation is required in enclosed spaces such as garages and underground car parks. Because of the large amount of water used to cool lithium-ion battery fires, which can be toxic, the contaminated water run-off from an EV battery fire can pollute the soil, groundwater and nearby waterways. That also requires consideration. We found that there were questions about the personal protective equipment that first responders use and about the environment that is available to clean the equipment. We found that it was not really adequate at all, and that there were not enough of them around to be able to do that in a meaningful way. That needs to be improved.

We also found the industry was struggling to keep up with EV fires, particularly aftermarket mechanics and servicing centres. The Government can work with industry to provide greater courses to help this area out. Overall, the framework behind it was adequate, but a bit more work needs to be done when it comes to educating consumers who are disposing of these batteries. They can cause fires when they go into garbage trucks and get compacted. We know that there are certain risks around the home. There is a requirement to significantly review the building codes to make sure that they comply if an EV fire occurs, particularly in underground car parks. The inquiry was a great pleasure for me to be part of, and I urge each and every member to read the report.

Report noted.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (10:26): As Chair: It is with great pleasure that I address the House today as the Chair of the Legislation Review Committee and speak on the report entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 19/58*, which was tabled on 24 September 2024. In the digest, the committee examined eight bills that were introduced during the last sitting week. It also reviewed 17 regulations and statutory instruments, one of which it commented on. The 16 regulations that were examined and found not to reach the reporting threshold under the

Legislation Review Act are in part 3 of the 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 impact of legislation on personal rights and liberties, and any potential inappropriate exercise of government or legislative power. I now draw members' attention to some of the key issues raised in the digest. The committee reported on the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the domestic violence legislative framework to create a new scheme for serious domestic violence offences. The bill would amend the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 to enable certain courts to make a serious domestic abuse prevention order against a person and create further offences for a person who breaches an apprehended domestic violence order.

The bill would also amend other Acts to protect persons from domestic and personal violence. The committee raised four issues of concern with the bill, and I will comment on one of those. In its report, the committee highlighted the issue of procedural fairness and the right to the presumption of innocence for people who have an application brought against them for a serious domestic abuse prevention order. An application for this type of order can be made against a person who has been involved in a serious domestic abuse incident and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the order would protect a person from domestic abuse.

The committee noted that, as those reasonable grounds include circumstances where a person has been tried, tried and acquitted, or convicted but the conviction has been set aside, the bill may, therefore, limit a person's right to be presumed innocent of a particular charge. That may also limit their freedom of movement. However, the committee recognised that the order is intended to protect people, and people closely linked to the protected person, from domestic and family violence by capturing high-risk offenders who may demonstrate ongoing patterns of offending. The order would apply only to specific serious alleged activities that are serious domestic violence offences that carry significant custodial penalties. While the committee understands that the bill is intended to protect people from domestic violence and address high-risk behaviour, given its concerns, the committee referred the matter to the Parliament for consideration.

As no private members' bills were introduced during the last sitting week, I will now turn to another Government bill that the committee considered. The committee reported on the Music Festivals Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the regulatory framework for music festivals in New South Wales, including how the organisers of music festivals work with the Government and the NSW Police Force to promote health and safety while ensuring the viability of an event. The committee raised concerns about the wide delegation of powers to the Secretary of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport. The bill would give the secretary the power to require music festivals to have an approved health and medical plan. The health and medical plan would be required to meet guidelines produced by the department of health and be subject to changes and additions at the request of the Commissioner of Police.

The bill, therefore, creates a wide regulatory power for the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport, the Secretary of NSW Health and the Commissioner of Police. The committee generally prefers that regulatory powers delegated to the Executive are discrete and limited to ensure clarity and appropriate oversight of the exercise of legislative power. However, the committee acknowledged that the regulatory powers that the bill creates are currently delegated to the Independent Gaming and Liquor Authority, that a decision by the secretary to require a music festival to have a health and medical plan would be appealable, and that the bill is intended to promote music festivals in New South Wales. For those reasons, the committee made no further comment on the bill.

Finally, the committee reported on the Pipelines Amendment Regulation 2024. The regulation amends the Pipelines Regulation 2023, which is made under the Pipelines Act 1967. The regulation would set out requirements for the protection of pipelines and land used in the construction or operation of pipelines, as well as requirements for providing information about matters under the Act. The regulation would also prescribe absolute liability offences and make directions in response to cybersecurity incidents. The committee commented on the introduction of absolute liability offences to protect pipelines and land used for the construction and operation of pipelines.

The committee generally prefers that penalties are set down in primary legislation to allow for greater parliamentary scrutiny. The committee also considers that offences should generally require a mental element to be proven to establish criminal liability. However, the committee acknowledged that pipelines are highly regulated and that it may be administratively efficient for offences to be prescribed in regulations. The committee also noted that the offences are more likely to apply to corporations and that they are designed to promote safety around hazardous substances. For those reasons, the committee made no further comment. That concludes my remarks on the nineteenth digest. I encourage everyone to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (10:32): I make a contribution to the take-note debate of the Legislation Review Committee's report entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 19/58*. First, I thank the chair for her leadership of the committee, and she needs to be applauded for the efficiency that she applies to make sure that the committee's work gets done. I also thank the secretariat, who include a bunch of absolutely brilliant lawyers and give members the best advice possible. I am thankful that we have such talent on our team.

Eight bills were considered in the current period of review. Four of those bills had issues as set out in section 8A or section 9 of the Legislation Review Act. Firstly, the Marine Safety Amendment Bill 2024 was found to have issues regarding absolute liability, strict liability and wide regulation-making powers. On those issues, the committee had no further comment. Secondly, the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 was found to have the following issues: procedural fairness, freedom under arbitrary detention and commencement by proclamation. In particular, the right to the presumption of innocence, under procedural fairness, was referred for further comment. Thirdly, the Music Festivals Amendment Bill 2024 was found to have a number of issues.

I will go into slightly more detail. The committee noted that the bill inappropriately delegates legislative powers. The wide delegation of powers to the secretary of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport [DCITHS] and the health secretary was identified as an issue. The bill seeks to amend the Music Festivals Act 2019 to give DCITHS's secretary the power to require music festival organisers to have an approved health and medical plan in place. The bill may, therefore, provide for the delegation of wide regulatory powers to DCITHS. One would think that department could come up with a more creative acronym; maybe we need a Department Acronym Review Committee, chaired by the member for Cessnock. The Legislation Review Committee generally prefers that regulatory powers delegated to the Executive are as discrete and limited as possible.

Fourthly, I comment on the Police Amendment (Police Officer Support Scheme) Bill 2024. A number of issues were identified with no further comment. Significant matters are deferred to regulations. The bill seeks to insert section 199D into the Police Act 1990, which would allow the regulations to provide for a range of matters that are fundamental to the new police officer support scheme. The committee generally prefers substantive matters such as these to be set out in primary legislation rather than regulations to ensure an appropriate level of parliamentary oversight. This is particularly important where the matters deferred to the regulations constitute significant aspects of the new scheme. That concludes my comments on the report. I recommend that all members have a look at it; it makes for good reading.

Report noted.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (10:36): As Chair: I take note of report No. 1/58 of the Joint Standing Committee on the Officer of the Valuer General entitled *Sixteenth General Meeting with the Valuer General*, dated September 2024. The Office of the Valuer General and Value NSW had a very busy time in 2022 because it was a general valuation year. I congratulate the Valuer General on her work. I also thank the committee secretariat, because we had a couple of years to catch up on. The committee tabled its report on 25 September. It covers the annual reporting periods of 2021-22 and 2022-23. The annual review is one of the committee's core functions. It allows the committee to scrutinise the Valuer General's methodologies used for land valuations, its valuation service contracts arrangements and the standard of valuation services provided under service contracts.

The committee's review covers a range of topics, including Ms Sally Dale's appointment as Valuer General for a four-year term on 1 June 2024, after serving as Acting Valuer General for a year. On behalf of the committee, I congratulate Ms Dale on her permanent appointment, particularly as she is the first woman Valuer General for New South Wales since the role was established over 100 years ago. We heard that there was an increase in objections to land valuations in the 2022-23 period. I know that members from across the Chamber have received calls and emails from constituents concerned about quite significant increases in land valuations. As members know, in New South Wales, the valuation methodology uses unimproved land values. The experts cited two reasons for the increase in objections: 2022 was a general valuation year and it coincided with a significant increase in land values, caused by market forces.

Every three years is a general valuation year when the Valuer General provides notices of land valuation to members of the community and to local councils in New South Wales. Those land valuations are used to influence rates. As we know, with the cost-of-living crisis and inflation across the board, particularly in

construction, there is no surprise. But that does not make it any easier for members of the community to see those land values go up, particularly in areas like the Northern Rivers where we have had significant floods. People find it very hard to understand that the land value has gone up, despite the fact that they may have lost their home. I know that committee members and I have discussed that. It is a quandary, but I commend the Office of the Valuer General and Value NSW for the professional way in which they have navigated that.

The committee heard that the new organisational structure of Value NSW has helped to support agility in the workplace, particularly around increased work periods like general valuation years. Value NSW staff have made significant efficiencies in terms of their own capacity. In the committee's previous review, Value NSW noted that it was implementing a new organisational structure. The committee is pleased to see, on the metrics provided, that this has been successful. The new structure, which was implemented following consultation with staff and relevant stakeholders, results in more valuation functions being performed in-house as opposed to contracting the work out. That is very welcome, particularly since we know the Government is very keen to wind back privatisation.

At the recommendation of the committee in previous reports, the Valuer General and Value NSW have reviewed and are committed to improving all public-facing communications, including their website, to better support public awareness and education around the land valuation process. The committee was pleased to see that answers to frequently asked questions about the valuation system have been translated into 10 community languages on the website. We look forward to reviewing further developments in this space with the rollout of Val IQ, a new Value NSW valuation platform. The staff certainly are exploring artificial intelligence as a tool, but the committee is encouraging them to continue to make sure that all-facing communication to the public is accessible, appropriate and in commonsense language or plain English.

Following the committee's recommendation in its 2021 report, the Government approved funding for Val IQ, which seeks to improve the user experience, including customers being able to track their valuation through a portal. The committee noted that the three-year program to launch Val IQ commenced in March 2023 and looks forward to receiving further updates in future reports. Another item that the committee will continue to monitor is the paid licence agreements Value NSW enters into with organisations during the review period. The agreement provides data from property sales to be exchanged with organisations for a fee. The committee notes that the Valuer General has consulted with the Privacy Commissioner to ensure that Value NSW is meeting policies and practices around privacy concerns. The committee will continue to monitor that.

The committee thanks the Valuer General, the staff in Value NSW and the department for their participation in the public hearing and for their hard work over the review period. I thank the deputy chair, all members of the committee and, in particular, the secretariat for their hard work in catching up. The committee looks forward to the next report.

Report noted.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (10:43): As Chair: I note that on Tuesday the committee tabled its twentieth digest of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament, *Legislation Review Digest No. 20/58*. The committee examined 10 bills that were introduced during the last sitting week. It also reviewed 49 regulations and statutory instruments, two of which were reported on with comment. Forty-seven regulations examined were found not to reach the reporting threshold under the Legislation Review Act. They are listed under Part Three of the digest. As members are aware, the committee has the important role of reviewing all bills.

I draw members' attention to some of the key issues raised in the report. The committee reported on the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the Water Management Act 2000, the Sydney Water Act 1994 and the Water NSW Act 2014 by inserting a number of new regulation-making powers. The committee noted that those were made by way of Henry VIII clauses. The proposed broader regulation powers included prescribing conditions of exemptions to requirements under the Act to hold water access licences, and approvals for certain activities like the taking of water. It also included powers for regulations to authorise a Minister to impose those conditions.

In its report, the committee acknowledged that those regulation-making powers may be required to ensure the effective administration of the water regulatory framework. However, the committee also noted that those regulation-making powers were broadly worded and significant in nature, and that they would amount to

Henry VIII clauses in that they would allow the Executive to amend the operation of the parent Act without reference to the Parliament. The committee considered the use of those clauses as an inappropriate delegation of legislative power and highlighted that regulations are not subject to the same level of parliamentary scrutiny as primary legislation. For those reasons, the committee has referred the bill to Parliament for its consideration.

Turning to a private member's bill, the committee reported on the Anti-Discrimination and Crimes Legislation Amendment (Disability) Bill 2024. The bill proposed amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1997 and the Crimes Act 1900 that would prohibit certain public acts against people from particular groups, such as people with disability. Public acts would include any communication to the public or conduct observable by the public. In its report, the committee commented that making certain forms of expression unlawful may limit a person's freedom of expression, as provided by article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, the committee also noted that this right to freedom of expression is not absolute and may be limited at times by laws that uphold the rights of other people. For those reasons, the committee made no further comment on the bill in respect of the issues set out in the Legislation Review Act.

Finally, the committee reported on the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2024. The regulation is a remake of the amendments of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2014, which was to be repealed on 1 December 2024 by the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989. The new regulation prohibits commercial and public activities such as the collection of petitions or the conducting of surveys in Centennial Park and Moore Park. In its report, the committee noted that restricting a person's ability to conduct petitions and surveys infringes on the implied freedom of political communication.

The committee acknowledged the objects of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983, which allows for regulating the use and enjoyment of trust lands, and for the care, control and management of those lands. However, the committee commented that the implied freedom of political communication should not be unreasonably restricted. For that reason, the committee referred the matter to Parliament for further consideration. That concludes my remarks on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 20/58*. I encourage all members to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage. I thank my fellow committee members and, of course, our hardworking staff. I commend the digest to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (10:47): I update the House on the work of the Legislation Review Committee, in particular the report entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 20/58*. I thank the Chair of the committee for her leadership and the secretariat for its wonderful work, of course. Ten bills were under consideration in the review, with four identified to have issues, as set out in sections 8A and 9 of the Legislation Review Act. Those bills included the Anti-Discrimination and Crimes Legislation Amendment (Disability) Bill 2024, which was found to have issues related to offences against certain public acts and expressions, and the right to freedom of expression, about which the committee made no further comment. The second bill was the Justice Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2024, which was found to have two issues related to a wide regulation-making power and a wide delegation of powers, about which the committee made no further comment.

The third bill was the Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment Bill 2024, which was found to have an issue regarding strict liability offences, of which the committee had no further comment. The final bill was the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which was found to have an issue with its broad regulation-making powers. I will go into more detail about that, not just because my favourite part of working on this committee may have been that we got to look at a clause known as the Henry VIII clause. I love to talk about it. It is great to finish the week with Henry VIII, and although he had no great interest in water legislation, his clause does cause issues in the bill.

The bill proposes to amend the Water Management Act 2000, the Sydney Water Act 1994 and the Water NSW Act 2014 by inserting numerous regulation-making powers. The regulation-making powers are broadly defined and address a range of significant operational matters related to the management and supply of water in New South Wales. The bill contains provisions that create significant and broadly worded regulation-making powers under the Act. Those provisions therefore amount to Henry VIII clauses because they allow the Executive to amend the operation of the parent Act without reference to the Parliament. The committee generally considers Henry VIII clauses to be an inappropriate delegation of legislative power because the regulations are not subject to the same level of parliamentary scrutiny as primary legislation. On that note, I commend the digest to the House.

Report noted.

*Bills***AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER BILL 2024****Second Reading Speech**

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (10:51): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great delight to introduce the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024 to this place. It is the fulfillment of an election commitment made by Labor in the 2023 election. At the outset I congratulate my friend and the fine Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Tara Moriarty, and her staff on their work in getting this election commitment to this stage. It is on the verge of being delivered and a lot of work has gone into it. It has been a tremendous effort.

New South Wales farmers are a resilient bunch. Those of us who live in rural New South Wales and have spent a bit of time working in the agricultural space are well aware of that. Over the past decade, the industry has faced more than its fair share of challenges from floods, bushfires, drought and multiple biosecurity incursions to the impacts of COVID-19 on global supply chains. That is on top of ongoing impacts from pests and weeds, which have an estimated annual cost of over \$2 billion to the sector. We also face the increasing impacts of climate change and competing land use pressures, particularly on high-quality farmland. Despite those challenges, the sector remains a powerhouse of economic activity in New South Wales, contributing more than \$15 billion to the State economy.

Today the New South Wales Government is once again taking action in support of our farmers as we deliver our commitment to establish an independent agriculture commissioner with the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. The Agriculture Commissioner will be a dedicated statutory officer providing independent advice to government. The advice will inform evidence-based decisions on policy and programs that promote our agricultural sector. Enshrining the office in legislation will ensure that the role is permanent and empowered to execute its important work. The initiative is backed by strong stakeholder support, including from the State's peak agriculture body, NSW Farmers.

In July last year the Minister for Agriculture tasked Daryl Quinlivan, AO, to investigate and report on options for an independent agriculture commissioner for New South Wales. Mr Quinlivan—who, as many members in this place would know, has extensive experience in the administration of agriculture and related departments—recommended that the Government establish a statutory officer, as is proposed in the bill. Mr Quinlivan's findings and recommendations were based on consultation with industry stakeholders, councils and relevant New South Wales government agencies. His report made two key recommendations, which the Government is proposing to implement today: first, to create a statutory office of the Agriculture Commissioner to give the position greater authority to influence policy relating to the New South Wales agriculture sector; and, secondly, to provide the commissioner with the powers to access information to ensure that they can review and investigate a wide range of matters. The bill delivers on those recommendations.

Upon recruitment of the new statutory commissioner, there will be an initial program of work. The work plan and priorities for the commissioner will be based on priorities recommended in the Quinlivan report. The Minister for Agriculture outlined in the other place that the commissioner's initial focus will be to advise the New South Wales Government on the development of a rural land use policy to guide on managing competing demands for land use; to assist in progressing the development of an ongoing system for defining, identifying and mapping agricultural lands and its use throughout the State; to progress the pilot of the Farm Practices Panel, which will reduce conflict between agricultural producers and neighbours on a broader scale; and to provide input and advice to government about the challenges and opportunities for the agriculture sector related to renewable energy infrastructure.

Importantly, the Government has ensured that the commissioner will be supported by sufficient resourcing to undertake their role effectively. There is \$5.4 million allocated over four years to support this important work. There will be dedicated staff within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to support the commissioner in exercising their functions. The commissioner will also be able to leverage the extensive expertise, networks and skills available across government.

With that in mind, I now turn to the details of the bill. The bill is made up of several parts that provide for the establishment of the Agriculture Commissioner, including the functions and powers of the commissioner, employment conditions and other administrative provisions. The bill establishes the Agriculture Commissioner as a statutory role to be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for the Act. The bill sets out the functions of the commissioner, which include undertaking reviews and providing advice

and recommendations. In support of these functions, the commissioner will monitor developments relating to agriculture and will identify opportunities for improvements in relation to matters relevant to agriculture.

The commissioner will also promote coordination and collaboration across all tiers of government. The bill specifies that in relation to the development of advice, reviews, reports and recommendations, the commissioner must act in an independent and impartial way. The bill provides for the commissioner to make recommendations to the Minister administering the Act and to other Ministers. To provide for transparency and accountability in reporting, reviews undertaken by the commissioner must be accompanied by a report published on the commissioner's website. Prior to publication, a copy of the report will be provided to the Minister administering the Act, and to any other Ministers to whom the contents of the report are relevant, so that they can consider the report.

To promote accountability and action from the work of the commissioner, the relevant Minister or Ministers will have six months to publish a response to the commissioner's recommendations. The commissioner may require a public service agency or State owned corporation that has functions relating to, or is otherwise involved in, agriculture, land use, food security and agricultural productivity to provide documents and information to the commissioner. The bill provides for the employment conditions of the commissioner's role. An appointed commissioner may hold office for a term of not more than five years. A person appointed to the office is eligible for reappointment. The commissioner will be employed via a contract of employment between the commissioner and the Minister.

Staff may be employed under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 to support the commissioner in carrying out their functions. The commissioner will be supported by dedicated staff in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This model leverages the significant expertise within the department and is consistent with the model used successfully to support the first New South Wales Independent Biosecurity Commissioner. The bill makes consequential amendments to the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 to provide that the Agriculture Commissioner is a statutory position. To ensure that the operations of the commissioner continue to be effective and appropriate, the bill also includes a standard statutory review provision for the Act to be reviewed every five years. The outcome of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the five-year period.

I now turn to the amendments agreed to in the Legislative Council. The first amendment agreed to in the other place has added a reference to agroecology to the definition of "agricultural matters" in the bill. The term "agroecology" refers to the ecological processes in agricultural production systems and aligns closely with the definition of "agricultural matters" in the bill. As a result of the amendment, agroecology will sit alongside productivity, land use conflict and food security as matters the commissioner can consider that relate to agriculture. An amendment to the original bill has also been agreed to that expands the commissioner's function related to identifying opportunities to improve agricultural productivity. The amendment changes the reference to "agricultural productivity" to now refer to "agricultural matters" and, in doing so, broadens the scope of this function consistent with how the other functions are drafted in the bill.

A final amendment has been made which specifically references the commissioner considering mapping as an additional function. Mapping as a mechanism to support land use management decisions is a matter of considerable interest among stakeholders. I note the Minister in the other place committed in her second reading speech to asking the commissioner to assist in progressing the development of an ongoing system for defining, identifying and mapping agricultural land and its use throughout the State. I know that has been a long-time effort for government to achieve. The amendment aligns to that intent and so was supported by the Government.

The bill delivers an independent voice to government with a dedicated focus on considering the issues facing the industry. The commissioner will provide strategic advice to the New South Wales Government that will be used to inform government decision-making. This is something the Government promised it would do prior to the last election, something stakeholders have asked for and something we are delivering. The passage of the bill will mark the delivery of an independent Agriculture Commissioner for New South Wales. The expert advice will support the needs of the agriculture sector and will help our farming sector to grow. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (11:01): Opposition members will not oppose the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. It is worth noting that the previous Government introduced the Agriculture Commissioner role. We believe it is a critically important role in government, but I do not believe the role needs to be legislated. After being created by the former Coalition Government, the Agriculture Commissioner was efficient and independent. It provided great oversight of a number of important issues, including the rollout of renewable energy in regional areas.

Unfortunately, the Government completely ignored those recommendations from the former Agriculture Commissioner and the rollout is being badly bungled, partly due to the complete failure to recognise the advice provided around some of those simple principles. As the former agriculture Minister, I know how important it is to give a voice to farmers across regional New South Wales. They need an avenue to raise concerns and give advice on how to best manage the issues facing the agriculture sector, but in the past 18 months we have seen a failure to achieve anything in that space, despite the importance of the role.

New South Wales is home to more than 39,000 agriculture businesses and around 42,000 farms. Between them they employ more than 66,000 people and contribute a massive \$15 billion to our economy. Regardless of politics, there is no doubt that our primary producers are the backbone of the State. I was pleased to see the gross value of production for agriculture in New South Wales reach a record \$23.1 billion for 2021-22, while I was lucky enough to be the Minister. Although that figure declined slightly last year to around about \$21.2 billion, I believe we can keep pushing it higher. I have always said that farmers are the best custodians of land. They produce our world-class food and fibre, and they are exceptionally resilient, as we have seen with the many challenges they have faced over the past decade. That is why I am a strong advocate for the Agriculture Commissioner role being an independent position, which it was under the Coalition, so that our agriculture industries are represented in a truly genuine way.

The former Liberal-Nationals Government was always there to stand with our farmers as they faced the hard times and help them seize the opportunities of the future. But this Labor Government has shifted the approach from partnering with farmers to thinking it knows best and imposing things on farmers. That kind of attitude is the biggest risk to farmers managing their land. We saw it play out recently with the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Minns Government introduced an amendment to that Act on the back of a cherrypicked lie that New South Wales has extensive land clearing. No-one wants to see the environment destroyed, which is why there are already restrictions in place for landowners, who must consult properly with Local Land Services before they can make any large-scale changes to their properties. Labor's new plan offers little more than a shopping list of new reviews. It reduces the ability of landowners to manage their own land in the best possible way. The proposal is extremely concerning and will have real consequences for farmers, based on a false premise. That is why, again, it is crucial to support an independent Agriculture Commissioner who can provide honest, frank and impartial advice to the Government, this Parliament and the public.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the major concerns in regional areas right now is the botched rollout of renewables. Since 2023 the lack of consultation and awareness this Government has provided to communities and individual property owners has been staggeringly bad. It is why the former Agriculture Commissioner worked on a set of guiding principles to help provide certainty and clarity to farming communities about what the impact could be, and it is why I took those as election commitments to the 2023 election. The cumulative impact of building wind, solar and transmission lines throughout regional areas, with no end in sight, is causing incredible angst. I see an opportunity where an independent Agriculture Commissioner could and should work with the newly appointed Federal Energy Infrastructure Commissioner to ensure a better framework. That collaboration with the Federal Government is crucial. We cannot wait another 18 months for the Agriculture Commissioner to be appointed. The implementation of that role has been completely bungled by the Minister and the Minns Labor Government. Frankly, the lack of urgency shows its complete disregard for farmers and regional New South Wales.

Mr Edmond Atalla: You had 12 years.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: That is why we established an Agriculture Commissioner many years ago. Let us look at the timeline since the legislated Agriculture Commissioner was made an election commitment by Labor, as mentioned by the member for Monaro. Applications opened for the role last year and closed at the end of January this year. The Minister then changed the structure and told the people who initially applied for the role that it would not proceed. The Opposition asked about that extensively in budget estimates, but the Government stonewalled. Something weird happened there. The Government has now put out a media release saying that it will establish the role, but 18 months after forming government, based on the election commitment, it is yet to be filled. Today will be the starting point of another recruitment process to fill the role. I do not think it is unreasonable to ask what the hold-up is. Cuts to budgets for regional projects and infrastructure for regional areas seem to happen overnight with no worries, but this significant role is still on the "to do" list. If we were talking about an important appointment in the city, I am sure it would have been made a top priority.

There are also real concerns about whether the position will be a full-time role, after we learned in budget estimates that the Biosecurity Commissioner only works three days a week. With no disrespect to that commissioner, we need to make sure this role is designed to serve the needs of our agricultural sector. That means budgeting for a full-time commissioner. The person appointed to that role—whether it is Mick Veitch or not—needs to have the backs of the farmers of this State. That is what farmers had previously and what they continue

to deserve. I finish with the final question: Where should this full-time commissioner be based? Will it be regional Parramatta or regional New South Wales?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): Order! The conduct of the member for Dubbo is disorderly. If he persists, he will be called to order. The Minister will cease interjecting.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (11:09): I make a brief contribution in support of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. Since coming to government, members on this side of the House have done everything we can to support our farmers. Whether it be investing nearly \$1 billion in biosecurity to protect New South Wales farmers and businesses, or investing in support for industry research and technological development, we have shown that we are committed to supporting the agriculture sector. Once again, we have listened to our stakeholders, and we are delivering a statutory Agriculture Commissioner via the bill before the House. The bill delivers in full on the Government's commitment to establish an Agriculture Commissioner to provide independent expert advice. With that in mind, I will speak about some key elements of the bill that will ensure that it delivers the positive outcomes stakeholders are looking for.

Firstly, the bill sets out several important measures to ensure that the advice of the commissioner and the Government's response to that advice are publicly available. That will provide transparency and drive accountability for how the advice of the commissioner is used. The bill provides for the commissioner to make recommendations to the Minister administering the Act and to other Ministers, which ensures that the commissioner can make recommendations about any portfolio that may impact on the agriculture industry. In addition, a review undertaken by the commissioner must be accompanied by a report published on the commissioner's website. Any Minister to whom a recommendation is made must publish a response within six months.

The second element of the bill that I will highlight is the information-gathering powers it provides. Former Agriculture Commissioner Daryl Quinlivan recommended creating a statutory office of the Agriculture Commissioner to give the position greater authority and influence relating to the New South Wales agriculture sector. That is also why Mr Quinlivan recommended that the commissioner be provided with sufficient powers to access information to support them undertaking their role. That is exactly what the bill before the House provides for. The commissioner will have legislated powers to require a public service agency or State owned corporation that has functions relating to, or is otherwise involved in, agriculture, land use, food security or agricultural productivity to provide documents and information to the commissioner. Having the power to access essential documents and information will enable the commissioner to undertake their functions appropriately and ensure they can access any and all information necessary to provide informed, independent advice to government.

Finally, I will touch on the sensible measures in the bill that ensure that the role of the commissioner is set up to support the agriculture industry into the future. The scope of the commissioner's role is intentionally broad. It includes any matter relevant to agriculture and specifically addresses issues identified by the former Agriculture Commissioner, such as land use conflict and productivity. That means that as future issues and opportunities arise for our farmers, the responsible Minister will be able to direct the commissioner to provide advice on those issues. That flexibility is critical to the bill and will enable positive outcomes from the statutory role for years to come. To make certain the bill will be fit for purpose into the future, it includes a requirement for a statutory review of the Act every five years. A five-year statutory review period is a common standard across New South Wales government legislation and will ensure that sufficient data and evidence will be available about the operation of the commissioner to facilitate an insightful and productive statutory review process.

The bill is well thought out and delivers on a Government commitment. It delivers on what stakeholders have asked for in a way that aligns with expert advice about how the role should be established. I commend the Minister for Agriculture and Minister Whan for bringing forward legislation with a clear focus on transparency and for ensuring that the Agriculture Commissioner has genuine powers to deliver positive outcomes for the New South Wales agriculture industry. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): Before I call the member for Murray, I welcome the visitors who have just entered the public gallery.

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (11:15): I welcome the introduction of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. It has been a long time coming; we have been calling for it for years. I also have some proposed amendments to the bill, which I will explain. As we all know, this bill is designed, amongst other things, to shape the role played by the Agriculture Commissioner. Basically, it contains the commissioner's marching orders and, as a Parliament, we have to get those orders right. At the moment the bill does not achieve that goal. I believe that there are some important aspects of the Agriculture Commissioner's role that are currently missing from the bill, and I will propose an amendment to fix that.

Specifically, the Government has forgotten what is involved in what are described as "agricultural matters". The Government has included land in the bill but has forgotten about water. How on earth can the Government expect the Agriculture Commissioner to not consider the essential role of water when it comes to agriculture? In my electorate, the expansion of the nut industry, predominantly for overseas companies, is extraordinary. Apparently, one small almond takes 13 litres of water to produce. No-one is looking at water security. No-one has worked out that we will run out of water during a drought when all of those almond trees come to maturity, which is full production. Is that not the role of the Agriculture Commissioner? Yet the Minister for Agriculture does not want to include water.

It will not just be almonds that run out of water; food staples such as dairy will be under threat. Water is an important input into irrigated agriculture. If two-thirds of the world's food is produced under irrigation, who is against irrigation and why would an Agriculture Commissioner or the Minister for Agriculture ignore the fact that water is an important input. The Minister has the opportunity today to make the necessary changes to include water and not step around it and say, "She'll be right", like everybody else does. It is time to recognise that irrigated agriculture is important for food security and affordable food and to understand that 85 per cent of the State's food, much of which is grown under irrigation, comes from the southern connected system. Again, I ask who is against irrigation or irrigated agriculture. In its current form, the bill does not adequately address the issue of food security either, because food security obviously relies on water security. You cannot have one without the other. That is another reason the bill needs amending.

Finally, the bill provides for the commissioner to sort out conflicts relating to land, but it does not empower the commissioner to help avoid those very conflicts in the first place by overseeing better planning. That is why I am seeking to amend the definition of "agricultural matters" in part 1, clause 3. Under my proposed changes the Agriculture Commissioner would not just consider land conflicts but would instead help avoid conflicts relating to land by also overseeing planning. Again, under my proposed changes, the Agriculture Commissioner would oversee food security and water security, given how inseparable they are. The expansion of the definition of agricultural matters is needed to ensure that agriculture commissioners now and in the future can perform their roles effectively and with the best possible outcomes. I call on all members in this place to support my proposed amendment.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (11:19): I contribute to debate on the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. I start by responding to the contribution by the member for Murray. I acknowledge that no member in the House knows more about agriculture and farming than the member for Murray. It is her life, and her family has made a living off the land. It is my understanding—and I have spoken to the Minister and it is her understanding as well—that there is no limit on the ability of the Agriculture Commissioner, by way of definition, to also look at the issue of water. I speak to the definition as it is currently written. It states:

Agricultural matters means matters relating to agriculture, agricultural productivity, land use conflicts, food security and agroecology.

It is hard to imagine the Agriculture Commissioner being able to do any of that without also contemplating water. They cannot do any of that without water as one of the inputs. The bill will give the necessary powers to the Agriculture Commissioner to explore water, water use and any of the conflicts with water that happen in and around land being used for agriculture. That is important to speak about.

I reflect on the contribution by the member for Dubbo. This is a new government and it is taking a new approach. It may be a cautious approach, having been in government for 18 months and only getting to this matter now. I accept "cautious", but I do not accept the word that the member for Dubbo used, which was "bungled". Rushing into things sometimes leads to bungling. A great turn of phrase is "slow is smooth and smooth is fast". That is what this Government is determined to do with regard to the Agriculture Commissioner, making sure that the shape and model provided for the role is just right. To that end, I also acknowledge the work of Mr Daryl Quinlivan, who was the Agriculture Commissioner from 2020 onwards. He has come back to do the report, as requested by the Minister, to make sure that we get right what we believe to be the shape, size, scale and scope of this role.

While the member for Dubbo complained about 18 months, I say to people reading the *Hansard* or watching the webcast that the member's side of politics was in government for 12 years and did not do this at all. After 12 years in government, I am not sure that he should stand up in this place and complain about 18 months. It is getting done now. I can only imagine that, if the former Government was re-elected, it still would not be done. Progress needs to be recognised when it is being made. This is absolutely progress. There will be enormous challenges around agriculture, food security and water use over the coming decades, more so than ever in history. That is because our climate is changing.

Just this week I read that the currents in our oceans are changing, and that will fundamentally tip our weather patterns on their head. The climate of the equator could move south, so that the climate environments of Papua New Guinea or the northern tip of Australia would be more equatorial. In terms of weeds and pests, I also read about the incredible increase in productivity in New Zealand because of its deliberate, targeted approach to eliminating invasive pest species or removing them in great numbers. We need to do more of that in New South Wales, and we have started that work with feral pigs. I agree entirely with the member for Murray that we should attack the problem of carp as well.

The challenges ahead of us will be enormous, and so it is incredibly important that we establish the role of Agriculture Commissioner so a person who has access to information and is deeply engaged with the industry can give frank and fearless advice to the Government. Importantly, the bill makes it clear that when the commissioner makes recommendations to this or a future government, that government will be required to respond. That will all be done publicly. The frank and fearless advice from the Agriculture Commissioner will be made public, even if it is in conflict with what government wants to do. That is incredibly important.

It is also important that the commissioner has the power to require information from government departments and agencies. The work of the commissioner needs to be as thorough and precise as it possibly can be. There are wonderful public sector departments and public servants and experts in many fields working for the people of New South Wales. They have incredible knowledge, skills and information. It is appropriate that the Agriculture Commissioner has access to all of that in order to exercise their power properly.

I welcome the passage of this bill through the House. The bill is as close as possible to being correct in its current form, but it may require changes and alterations in the future. That is why we have allowed for a review in five years time. No-one should mistakenly assume that the challenges of land use, food security and water use do not lie ahead of us. Those challenges are coming at us fast. In fact, they are already here. The challenges are only going to get harder. The role of Agriculture Commissioner is all the more important because of that reality. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (11:27): I speak in support of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. People may be surprised that the member for East Hills is speaking on an agriculture bill, but it was not that long ago that suburbs around metropolitan Sydney were also involved in agriculture. Indeed, as recently as a decade ago, 30 per cent of Asian greens came from the Sydney Basin. In particular, Milperra, a suburb in my electorate of East Hills, was an important farming area in Sydney. Graeme, my hardworking husband, worked on the chicken farms in Milperra as a young man. Those farms are long gone now, but our farmland is still very important to ensure food security for all Australians.

The bill before the House is yet another example of this Government making good on its commitments and basing its decisions on consultation, evidence and expert advice. The Government is establishing an Agriculture Commissioner in legislation to provide expert advice to the New South Wales Government on matters related to agriculture. The bill is based on the expert advice of a former commissioner, Mr Daryl Quinlivan, who was tasked by the Minister for Agriculture last year with providing advice about options for implementing an independent Agriculture Commissioner in New South Wales. Mr Quinlivan's report and recommendations were informed by consultation with government agencies, local government and agricultural industry representatives.

This is a bill informed by consultation and expert advice that will provide a mechanism for transparent and independent advice to government. Our principles of transparency, consultation and expert advice are more than just words. We are continuing to implement legislation and policies to give effect to these values. The overarching goal of establishing a statutory Agriculture Commissioner is to provide more protection for our best farmland and ensure food security and a more sustainable and productive agriculture industry. This will be achieved through the commissioner providing independent expert advice to government to support informed and considered decision-making. The bill appropriately provides for the independence of the Agriculture Commissioner. The commissioner will have legislated functions and report directly to the Minister administering the Act rather than to the secretary of a government agency or equivalent.

The reviews, reports, recommendations and advice of the commissioner will not be subject to the control of the Minister. The commissioner will be required by legislation to act independently and impartially in developing these materials. The commissioner will also have the power to gather information and essential documents from government agencies and State-owned corporations involved in issues relevant to agriculture, land use, food security and agricultural productivity. By having the power to access essential documents and data independently, the commissioner is not reliant on external sources for critical information. The commissioner will also have a website where reviews, reports and recommendations will be published. This platform will enhance accountability and accessibility by allowing stakeholders and the public to view the commissioner's work directly.

These provisions all combine to provide a robust framework for the commissioner to be able to independently develop advice and make transparent recommendations to the Government. I note that the work plan of the commissioner will be at the direction of the responsible Minister. As the former commissioner said in his report, "Independence is not an outcome in itself; it is a tool to be leveraged." The Government agrees that the greatest value from this role will be when the commissioner's efforts can be directed strategically toward the key issues of the day. The Minister for Agriculture is out there on the ground and is speaking with farmers about the challenges they face. The Minister is best placed to direct the commissioner toward the most pressing and important issues for the agriculture sector.

Finally, I want to touch on the arrangements which ensure that the commissioner will have the necessary resources and support to undertake their functions properly. The Government has allocated a budget for this role over the coming years to cover a full-time role with dedicated support staff. The dedicated support staff will come from within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This departmental support model for a commissioner that is independent of the department has been used successfully for the New South Wales Independent Biosecurity Commissioner. It has also been used by the Commonwealth to support the Inspector-General of Biosecurity, who is also independent and reports directly to the Minister.

The dedicated departmental support staff will support the commissioner in undertaking its functions in an administratively efficient way. It will also enable the commissioner to leverage the extensive expertise, networks and skills available across government. The Government will always listen to its stakeholders and base its work on principles of transparency and consultation. The bill before the House is one the agricultural sector has been asking for. It will deliver a statutory Agriculture Commissioner designed to provide independent expert advice to support government decision-making. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (11:33): I speak in support of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. The member for East Hills noted that, until recently, we used to grow food in many parts of Sydney. I take this opportunity to encourage all Sydneysiders to attend the Camden Fresh Produce Market this weekend, where they can get Sydney-grown food, some of which is grown at the end of my very street.

Mr Clayton Barr: What about the Camden Show?

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL: That is another great event. This Government is taking action to establish an Agriculture Commissioner in statute, in recognition of the importance of our agriculture sector to the future prosperity of New South Wales. The ag sector is a major contributor to our economy, and New South Wales produces the highest quality agriculture products in the world. The world is buying what we are selling, and it is important that we have a strong and independent Agriculture Commissioner to support the sector into the future. In the context of the bill, I highlight the exceptional achievements that our agriculture sector has accomplished.

Over recent years, primary industries exports have achieved new heights, with the value of exports reaching record highs of up to \$13.1 billion. Wheat, canola and cotton are the biggest drivers of exports in New South Wales at the moment. However, the agriculture sector is also facing challenges, and many of those require a cooperative and coordinated approach between governments and the people who live on the land. One example is biosecurity and the impact that pests, weeds and diseases can have on production and productivity. The New South Wales Government understands that challenge well and, time and again, we have demonstrated that it is a priority issue. Protecting New South Wales businesses and farmers by investing in biosecurity will safeguard jobs and support access to premium export markets, whether it is by supporting continued market access or by expanding the access to new markets that will be important for the growth of our agriculture sector.

Our track record is clear. This Government has invested a record amount in protecting the biosecurity of New South Wales. We have established the Independent Biosecurity Commissioner to oversee the biosecurity framework. We have appointed a feral pig coordinator to spearhead the work to manage the devastating impacts of that pest. We have responded to emergency outbreaks, like white spot disease and red imported fire ants. We have invested \$10 million in a Good Neighbour Program to better manage pests and weeds. We are ensuring that we focus on and deal with the specific biosecurity threats that New South Wales currently faces, and we are also focusing on futureproofing and protecting ourselves from any future events that may occur.

There are also challenges around competing land uses. Land is a finite resource. It is important that we are thinking strategically about the best value use of the land—be it for farming, environmental and biodiversity value, our homes, or those critical industries that provide jobs and support the State's economic growth and prosperity. That is why last year the Minister for Agriculture requested that the former Agriculture Commissioner, Daryl Quinlivan, provide advice on the role and functions of an Agriculture Commissioner to best support the sector to face those challenges and improve productivity. Mr Quinlivan's report made several key recommendations and observations.

Primarily, his report recommended that an Agriculture Commissioner be established in statute. That is necessary to ensure that the role has the authority and influence to drive improvements and address the challenges facing the agriculture sector. Importantly, the report's recommendations are grounded in direct stakeholder feedback. In developing the report, like his previous reports, Mr Quinlivan consulted extensively to ensure that his proposals and recommendations were targeted and would make a real difference. Mr Quinlivan consulted with a range of stakeholders from across agriculture industries, with the planning sector and with State and local governments.

A key issue that came up time and again was the need to do more to manage conflicts between agriculture producers and their neighbours. That situation is not unique to New South Wales or even Australia. To address the issue, one of the first things that the new statutory commissioner will do is test the Farm Practices Panel model raised by Mr Quinlivan, which is based on an approach used in Canada. The panel will provide clarity and certainty around normal farming practices and help to reduce conflicts between neighbours. Another issue that was raised in consultation was the need to take a strategic approach to managing our rural lands. To that end, the Minister for Agriculture has outlined that she will task the new Agriculture Commissioner with looking at developing a rural land use policy.

The policy would provide guidance to land use regulators and planners on how to approach competing demands for land use from food and fibre production, residential development, renewable energy development, public infrastructure, biodiversity recovery and carbon sequestration. The key objective of such a policy is to provide a basis for land use decision-making in an efficient way that addresses potential impacts, while maintaining the growth trajectory of the State's food systems. In addition to those priorities, there are further opportunities for the Agriculture Commissioner on the horizon that undoubtedly represent great opportunities for the future of agriculture in this State. I reiterate how vital the agriculture sector is to the New South Wales economy and community. It provides the food that we eat every day. Despite the challenges they face, producers still manage to innovate and grow. The additional support and expertise provided by the Agriculture Commissioner will only help the sector to achieve even more. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (11:40): I speak in support of the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. Today, as we have since coming into government, Labor is delivering on what we committed to do, in a way that is backed by stakeholder feedback and input from members of the agricultural sector. The Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024 is based directly on stakeholder feedback and the expert advice of former Agriculture Commissioner Mr Daryl Quinlivan. Based on this feedback and advice, the bill before the House creates, for the first time, a statutory Agriculture Commissioner for New South Wales with a strategic advisory role. This Government works hard for the people of New South Wales and for our primary industries. We have heard from stakeholders about the positive impact of the former Agriculture Commissioner and about their desire to see the role continue and be enshrined in statute.

That is why Mr Quinlivan was engaged to deliver a report to the New South Wales Government on the ongoing role and functions of an Agriculture Commissioner for New South Wales. The report builds upon work Mr Quinlivan completed as Agriculture Commissioner in delivering his two reports on land use conflict and interactions between the agricultural and renewable energy industries. The Government has considered his report and recommendations in developing the bill before the House. The fundamental role of the statutory Agriculture Commissioner will be to provide advice and undertake reviews of relevant matters relating to agriculture, agricultural productivity, land use conflicts and food security. That strategic advice on key issues will help to inform government decision-making and policy positions.

The statutory Agriculture Commissioner will focus on the matters that mean the most to our stakeholders and farmers in New South Wales, which is why the Government has ensured that the Agriculture Commissioner may engage experts and stakeholders. This ensures that the commissioner will undertake consultation with farmers and other stakeholders within the agricultural sector of New South Wales. This Government will always prioritise thorough consultation and genuinely listen to stakeholders. Labor continues to show stakeholders that we do not just listen; we also take action. The establishment of a statutory Agriculture Commissioner is another important step in the right direction. The functions set out in the bill and the powers to gather information from across government will enable the commissioner to provide valuable input to support government decision-making.

This bill is another demonstration of the values of transparency and accountability that underpin the work that this Government is doing. The commissioner will be required to publish any report that is developed, and there will also be a requirement for relevant Ministers to respond to any recommendations made. The provision of independent expert advice to government, and transparency about what advice is being received, will enable the Agriculture Commissioner to be a valuable resource for years to come.

In the context of this bill, I will speak about what we have been doing since coming to government that shows Labor's strong dedication to our regions and to the agricultural sector. Protecting New South Wales

businesses and farmers by investing in biosecurity will safeguard jobs and support access to high-value export markets. We must make sure that we focus on and deal with the specific biosecurity threats that we currently face in New South Wales, but we must also focus on futureproofing and protecting ourselves from any future events that may occur. It is for those reasons that the Government has committed to investing \$945.7 million into the biosecurity and agriculture sectors.

That budget commitment will be meaningful in increasing the productivity, sustainability and, most importantly, the resilience of the agriculture sector in New South Wales. This is important in maximising outcomes for our primary industries, but also for all of the people who work in them and who benefit from them in New South Wales. Commitments like that show that the Government has been listening to regional communities like mine and has acted on the issues that are of concern to our stakeholders. The passing of this bill will fulfil the election commitment we made to our farmers in full and is something stakeholders have been asking for. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (11:45): I participate in debate on the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024, which is important legislation that delivers on an election commitment made by the Minns Labor Government to establish an independent Agriculture Commissioner. The commissioner will be able to provide independent advice, conduct reviews and make recommendations to government on agriculture, agricultural productivity, land use and food security. I will concentrate my comments around land use and food security. Members might be thinking, "What is little old Leppington doing, talking about agriculture? Isn't that where the Government is putting all the houses? Isn't that where all the growth is going?" It must be remembered that, to put all those houses in, we have to get rid of what was there. For the most part, a lot of that land was previously agricultural land of market gardeners, tomato farmers, chicken farmers—we don't farm chickens, do we?

Mrs Helen Dalton: Yes, you do.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: Is that the term I should use?

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Poultry farming is still farming.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: Poultry farming is the term I was looking for. Despite that, there is quite a swathe of my electorate that is still agricultural and will remain agricultural.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Are you wearing your R. M. Williams?

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: Yes, I am wearing R. M. Williams. How many members of this House look out the window of their electorate office and literally see agriculture across the road? I do—the member for Leppington.

Mr David Layzell: You are right; I have seen it. I can testify that is true.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: The member for Upper Hunter has seen it. There are farms, and agriculture is taking place across the road from my office every day. So I feel that I am very qualified to speak on this bill. Throughout my electorate—in Austral, Kemps Creek, Rossmore and even in the suburb of Leppington—there is still plenty of agriculture taking place. One agricultural business in Leppington I talk about today is Leppington Speedy Seedlings and Supplies. I have had the pleasure of visiting the Vella family and speaking to them on a number of occasions. I have had a look around the property, which comprises six adjoining properties that are not far from my Leppington office. It is a family owned and operated seedling-growing business that is probably the largest commercial nursery of its type in Australia.

The business supplies seedlings for a whole host of agricultural products along the eastern seaboard. Little old Leppington is contributing to agriculture across this State and along the eastern seaboard. The business employs 62 workers as well as supplying fruit and vegetables across the State. The site has a small laboratory, which I have had the pleasure of visiting. The third generation of the Vella family does the laboratory work. The family's grandfather used to grow tomatoes. One day in the early '70s on market day, he thought he would bring some seedlings with him along with his usual boxes of tomatoes.

The next time he went to the market he was asked, "Do you have any more of those seedlings? They went really well." Over the years the business effectively went from growing tomatoes to specialising in seedlings, and the business has grown immensely since then. Other family members now run the business. A grandchild of the original owner went to university and got a whole host of qualifications and degrees in genetics. They now do cutting-edge work in the laboratory. The business now works with international corporations and universities, and it undertakes very innovative research into gene splicing and trialling emerging disease-resistant crops. They are even doing work on cannabis—legally, of course—and other crops.

The appointment of an Agriculture Commissioner will have an important impact on Leppington. The commissioner will have the remit to look into land use and food security. It is critically important to continue growing food in the Sydney Basin. We often talk about housing reforms and tackling the housing crisis in Sydney, and the Premier has said that we must build up and not out. What is often forgotten is that, by building up and not out, we can preserve significant sections of the Sydney Basin for agricultural use, which is important. Western Sydney airport is also important, which is next door to my electorate. There has been talk about developing an agriport around the airport with cutting-edge transport and logistics.

That could mean that when produce is picked up in Orange, it can leave the farm cleared for quarantine. Produce will arrive at the agriport in two or three hours and, when it does, a plane will arrive, the produce will move straight through the agriport onto the plane, and the next morning someone may be able to enjoy that produce from a food market in Tokyo or elsewhere in the world. It is very important to everyone in this State that we do this properly. I reiterate the point that we must look at land use and food security, especially in the Sydney Basin.

I referred to my friends at Leppington Speedy Seedlings because, despite its fantastic work, the business is under threat. As housing grows through the south-west corridor, a road is proposed to be built from Leppington station to the Northern Road. At present, the road corridor will go across the main dam at Leppington Speedy Seedlings. It is not like the business is a hamburger joint, a chemist or any other business that can pack up and set up shop down the road. The seedlings business and the knowledge that the team have developed are very specialised to the microclimate there, so packing up shop and moving elsewhere is not simple. They have become very good at working out the way the weather works, the soil, the water and the ingredients that need to be added to the mix. Moving a few kilometres in another direction may have a detrimental impact on the business. As we know, land is not particularly cheap in Sydney, so moving would come at a significant cost.

We must consider the importance of their work to the value chain of agriculture in this State. We are working with the council and I think we will come to a pretty good solution. I think we are going to realign the road so that they can keep their dam and continue producing seedlings in Leppington. But it does present a question. When the Agriculture Commissioner is appointed and in the job, I would like to sit down with them to chat about land use around the peri-urban fringe of Sydney and what we can do with some of the businesses there. Whether it is Leppington Speedy Seedlings; Ramin's Farm, which grows specialised crops of Asian vegetables that the South Asian community knows, such as bitter melon and other kinds of vegetables; or whether it is the Asian greens that are grown in market gardens by members of the Zhaoqing community in Rossmore, in Leppington we do some of the heavy lifting when it comes to agriculture.

Businesses in the area want certainty. Will all of that land be used for housing? Will it be used for logistics and industry to support the airport? It is only fair that those businesses get some certainty about land use, and the remit of the Agriculture Commissioner will cover that. I look forward to the appointment of the Agriculture Commissioner. I look forward to sitting down with them to have a chat about how Leppington has contributed to agriculture in this great State and how I would like to see it continue to do so for many years to come. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (11:55): I support the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. It demonstrates the Minns Labor Government's support for regional communities and farmers because, after all, we are the party of the bush. The bill will establish an independent statutory Agriculture Commissioner for New South Wales for the first time—a position that will ensure that our agriculture sector is equipped to meet the challenges of today and of the future.

The bill delivers on the New South Wales Government's election commitment to put in place a strong and independent Agriculture Commissioner to protect our farmland, ensure food security and support a more sustainable and productive agriculture sector. Establishing the role in legislation was not only a longstanding Labor commitment for years prior to us coming to government but was also a recommendation of former Agriculture Commissioner Daryl Quinlivan—who was not an independent statutory officer—in his report to the Minister for Agriculture about the options for implementing an independent Agriculture Commissioner, which those opposite failed to do.

Those of us who were here at the time—I was the shadow Minister for Agriculture back then—will remember well the shock sacking of former Land and Water Commissioner Jock Laurie by the then Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey. I remember seeing an email from the then agriculture Minister, the Hon. Adam Marshall, after he heard the news that stated, "WTF?". I think he wrote it in full, but it might have been the abbreviation. But such was his shock as the Minister for Agriculture.

The sacking was because of Mr Laurie's so-called "crime" of calling out the extensive water theft that was overseen by those opposite, particularly The Nationals. The Natural Resources Access Regulator stated in an early report that water theft had contributed to the worst drought in New South Wales this century, and possibly ever.

All of us are living with the consequences of that in the catastrophic bushfires and then the floods that followed them, which have had a devastating impact on all of our State, and not just on agriculturally productive land. In my current portfolio, I see the legacy of those impacts every single day in the connectivity of regional communities to education, health and job opportunities. The damage to roads from the droughts, bushfires and floods have impacted social inclusion and people's ability to build resilience and positive mental health.

That is the problem with The Nationals. They do not get that proper land management is not just about farming; it is about all aspects of rural, regional and remote economies and communities. It has an impact on our entire State. The Nationals—excluding the member for Murray, who contributed to debate on the bill—have been unable to resolve land use conflict. Their engagement in and escalation of the so-called coal wars, koala wars, water wars and land wars have held our regional communities back by not letting them move forward. Their economic and environmental vandalism has caused our State to go backwards.

Who from the National Party—the self-proclaimed "party of the bush", which they absolutely are not—has contributed to debate on the bill? It was only the member for Dubbo, who is a former Minister for Agriculture. He was in the role of agriculture Minister for less time than the current agriculture Minister has been—for less time than any of us have been in our roles. During that time he failed to do anything to address this and, in fact, could not keep the other former agriculture Minister on the frontbench, who has been lost to this Parliament forever because of the infighting of The Nationals. It is a disgrace.

The Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024 is vital. The new Agriculture Commissioner will have a broad remit to provide expert advice, conduct comprehensive reviews and make informed recommendations on critical agriculture issues. That has not just been devised by the Labor Party on the back of an envelope, like so many of the former Government's so-called regional policies were. It addresses the agriculture issues that the State faces, like agricultural productivity, land use conflict and food security. Those things directly impact the livelihoods of our farmers, the sustainability of our land and the wellbeing of our communities. The Government commissioned the investigation and tasked Daryl Quinlivan to lead it. The Government listened to industry groups like the NSW Farmers Association, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation, the Australian Lot Feeders' Association, Berries Australia, Cotton Australia, the Planning Institute of Australia and the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia.

The Minister for Agriculture consulted with local councils across a wide variety of rural and regional communities, as well as with the planning, environment and local government agencies within the New South Wales Government and with her own agency. This Government has listened, and always will listen, to rural and regional New South Wales. There is overwhelming and unequivocal support for the change. It is a key ask of farmers. These stakeholders understand that the challenges faced by the agriculture sector are complex and multifaceted. They recognise the need for a dedicated, impartial body that can provide ongoing support and strategic direction. The Government will establish the role, which will report directly to the Minister. It will not be buried in the bureaucracy, subject to someone else, like the former role that was established under The Nationals.

The functions of the commissioner are comprehensive and targeted. The commissioner will offer independent expert insights on matters relating to the agriculture sector, ensuring that policies are grounded in the latest evidence and best practices. A key role will be to conduct reviews of agricultural practices and policies and identify areas for improvement and innovation. The commissioner will have the authority—imagine that!—to recommend actions to the Minister and other relevant government officials, ensuring that agricultural interests are well represented in decision-making processes. Maintaining rigorous scrutiny of developments in the agriculture sector will be essential. The commissioner will monitor changes and challenges in real time, allowing the Government to listen and respond proactively to the needs of regional communities and farmers.

Finally, the commissioner will foster a collaborative approach across all levels of government, ensuring that agriculture issues are addressed comprehensively and promptly. Importantly, that means the commissioner will be independent and impartial, and will operate free from political influence, allowing for the delivery of unbiased recommendations—what a change! After each review, the commissioner will have to publish reports and the Minister will have time to respond. That mechanism will provide the transparency that was absent when those opposite were in government. The commissioner will also have the authority to require information from State owned corporations and government agencies so that they have power over those agencies to get the information needed and access data to make informed decisions and recommendations.

They will be able to engage with subject matter experts both within the Government and externally. That will enrich the commissioner's capacity to analyse complex issues and provide well-rounded advice. The bill also amends the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 to designate the Agriculture Commissioner as a statutory position. That integration reflects the Government's commitments to take meaningful action on climate change

and ensure that agricultural considerations are woven into broader environmental and sustainability efforts. It is interesting to see some Nats coming into the Chamber. Are you all speaking on the bill?

Mr Brendan Moylan: Why not?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Why not? Who knows? Do not talk for too long, because I want to get the average speed camera bill through.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The Minister will direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Net Zero Commission will now consult the Agriculture Commissioner while preparing its annual reports. That will promote a cohesive approach to policymaking and ensure the long-term health of regional economies and our local agriculture industry. Make no mistake, Labor—the true party of the bush—and the Minns Labor Government are listening to regional communities. We are determined to deliver a better future for regional communities and farmers. We will have a statutory review of the legislation every five years to make sure it is still meeting the needs of regional New South Wales. That will allow us to adapt to the evolving challenges and opportunities in the agriculture landscape.

The bill reflects an understanding that Labor and this Government have, which is that agriculture is not just an industry but a vital part of our State economy and identity throughout regional, rural and remote communities. It is the backbone of rural Australia. It is our responsibility to ensure that it thrives and survives. I congratulate Minister Moriarty on her extensive work to bring the bill to the Parliament and on bringing the role to fruition. I urge everyone to support the bill. We need to work together to foster a prosperous regional economy for the future.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Opposition members will come to order.

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands) (12:05): I contribute to debate on the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. I was in my office having a meeting when I saw the member for Maitland make a contribution. I have great respect for the member for Maitland. I admire her work ethic and the fact that, as a regional member, I can speak to her about her ministerial portfolio. I thank the member for that. However, her comment about the land wars caught my attention. I assume the member was referring to native vegetation in the Land and Environment Court. If that is the case, I can shed some light on that process. I also heard the member speak about the water wars. If that is in reference to prosecutions in the Land and Environment Court, I can shed some light on those as well.

The land wars resulted from the ridiculous legislation known as the Native Vegetation Act 2003, which came into force in 2005. That legislation was introduced by the previous Labor Government. Essentially that legislation stopped any possible practical, sensible and reasonable development of agricultural land in our State. It made it impossible for a landholder to actively manage invasive native scrub on their land. In my electorate we have plant community type 39 [PCT 39], coolibah black box woodland. It is a declared invasive native species. If a flood goes through the area, PCT 39 will regrow thicker than the hairs on a dog's back. It would appear in farming country and could not be managed, because the 2003 legislation stopped any proper, fair and reasonable development.

Mr Steve Whan: Point of order: The member for Northern Tablelands has been given quite a bit of latitude, but he has strayed a long way from the leave of the bill. I ask that the member be drawn back to the bill.

Mr David Layzell: To the point of order: We have just listened to a member who blamed The Nationals for droughts. Quite a lot of latitude was given to the previous member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I remind the member for Northern Tablelands that we are dealing with the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024.

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN: I am responding to comments about the land and water wars, which were raised by my friend the member for Maitland, but I will continue. The farming community wants an Agriculture Commissioner who will not listen to members in this place. Farmers do not want the Agriculture Commissioner to listen to politicians. Farmers have relatively low respect for politicians, on all sides of the Chamber.

Mr Steve Whan: Especially National Party ones.

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN: I repeat: on all sides of the Chamber. Politicians over many years have not endeared themselves to the farming community. When we bring in the Agriculture Commissioner, the farming community does not want them to listen to politicians or activists, whose idea of agriculture is so far removed from how it actually works. The farming community wants an Agriculture Commissioner who will listen to farmers and rural communities. In the rural communities where I live and where the member for Murray lives,

agriculture drives those communities. When Moree is in drought, for example, it has a financial crisis. It goes all the way through. If the farmers are going well, our towns are going well. If our towns are going well, our small businesses are going well. The best thing the Agriculture Commissioner can do is listen to farmers and not politicians or activists. The commissioner should listen to the people who live and work in the regions.

I take great offence when any member in this place blames a party—whether it be my party, Independents, the Liberals or Labor—for a drought or for exacerbating a drought. That is so unfair, because those of us who live in the regions, like the member for Maitland, have lived through droughts. We see the impact they have on not only financial positions but also the mental health of people. During the last drought, I found myself in a shed unloading a rifle from a client who was under prosecution in the Land and Environment Court. For a member in this Chamber to blame my party for a drought is so unfair, because we live it. We live droughts and then we live with the floods, the mouse plagues and the grasshopper plagues. Our kids live it. We put babies to bed in cots with mice. To say that we are making that worse is unfair, because we live these things. We want the Agriculture Commissioner to work. Let us hope that when it is introduced and given legal effect, the Agriculture Commissioner listens to rural and regional communities and not politicians or activists.

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (12:12): In reply: I thank the members for the electorates of Dubbo, Mount Druitt, Murray, Cessnock, East Hills, Camden, South Coast, Leppington, Maitland and Northern Tablelands for their contributions to debate on the Agriculture Commissioner Bill 2024. I listened carefully to some of the contributions earlier, particularly that of the member for Dubbo. I am intrigued by some of the comments the member made. Addressing the last comments raised by the member for Northern Tablelands, this is all about having an independent expert voice. It is about an independent Agriculture Commissioner, who is not bound by any party and can provide independent advice to the Minister on issues relating to agriculture. That is fundamental. We are making it a statutory commissioner because it gives that certainty.

Mr Michael Kemp: Our farmers do not care whether it is legislated or statutory or not.

Mr STEVE WHAN: That is an important issue, and it was raised by the member for Dubbo. The member for Oxley says farmers do not care what it is, but the statutory structure makes a fundamental difference to whether someone is able to act independently. That is an important point that the member probably needs to learn about the structure of government. It allows the opportunity to make sure that a commissioner has the confidence—not being employed on ad hoc contracts that can be renewed or terminated at any time, as was the case under the Coalition for a couple of years—to make recommendations and provide independent advice. That is an important part of what this legislation will do.

The member for Dubbo made an interesting comment about The Nationals' record when in government of employing an Agriculture Commissioner. Yes, they did have one for a couple of years and, as I said, it was on ad hoc contracts. That is very different to the role legislated for in the bill, which gives stakeholders and farmers certainty about its ongoing existence. It gives the role the weight and power the Government believes it needs to have. The member for Dubbo in his contribution made the sarcastic comment about whether the Agriculture Commissioner would be a full-time role, but Daryl Quinlivan was not employed full time under the previous Government. That is the hypocrisy that we expect, unfortunately, from some of The Nationals who were in the previous Government. We will employ the commissioner full time.

We have outlined the funding that has been made available to resource not only the commissioner but also the important support staff who they will need in order to be effective. In his contribution to debate on the bill, the Leader of The Nationals talked about being the voice of farmers. If farmers thought that, then The Nationals would still hold the sorts of electorates that the member for Murray and the member for Barwon hold. They would certainly not be seen—as they are, in regional New South Wales—as having left farmers a long way behind and instead having often become the voice of miners. That is the way in which many in regional New South Wales see them. Rightly or wrongly, that is how they are seen.

Mr Michael Kemp: How many people have you spoken to?

Mr STEVE WHAN: That is an interesting interjection from the member for Oxley. What was your profession before you came to Parliament?

Mr Michael Kemp: A farmer, mate, and a physio.

Mr STEVE WHAN: That is an interesting interjection because—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): Order! The member for Oxley will cease interjecting. The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr STEVE WHAN: How many farmers have I spoken to? I spent eight years that I was not in Parliament working as the CEO of the National Irrigators' Council and working on the board of an irrigation company. When I was in this place last time, I was the shadow agriculture Minister and the agriculture Minister. I suspect I have probably spoken to many more across the State than the member is quoting. Unlike the member for Dubbo when he was the Minister for Agriculture, I listen to people who do not agree with my views. The Nationals have a huge problem with that.

When we hear the member for Dubbo talk about whether "regional" means Parramatta, and we are reminded that he included pictures of Canada and claimed they were canola growers in New South Wales in his recent posts, we have to be cynical about some of the comments from the doom-and-gloom Nats. The Leader of The Nationals claimed that the bill has taken a long time. It is 18 months into this Government. The former commissioner give us recommendations on where to go with this, and we are implementing them in good time. The member for Northern Tablelands raised in debate the Native Vegetation Act. I remind him that before The Nationals came in to government in 2011, they promised the Act would be their immediate priority. They did not introduce the legislation until November 2014.

That tells members how fast they think they work. The hypocrisy of the member for Dubbo—and I am not looking at the member for Northern Tablelands—in claiming this Government is slow to implement election promises is absolute. In fact, they went to the election in 2011 with the former Deputy Premier John Barilaro making the completely unrealistic promise to farmers that they would be able to clear their land without the risk of being fined. That was a blanket claim he made. That just tells people what The Nationals are willing to say in opposition. They will say anything at all, however unrealistic it is, to try to make people in country New South Wales think that they are actually standing up for their needs. Issues around water are critical to the future of farming in New South Wales. I acknowledge comments of the member for Murray on that. The Government believes the bill already includes the capacity for the Agriculture Commissioner to deal with issues around water.

I absolutely agree with the member for Murray in a number of areas—although in some areas I do not, as she knows very well. She talked about almond trees coming into full production, and almonds are the highest users of water per hectare of any crop that we plant in New South Wales. But I have always taken it as a fundamental principle that farmers determine how they use their water entitlements. The owner of the water entitlement determines how they want to use it. I agree with the member that it is likely that quite a few people will go out of business in the next serious drought because of the way that permanent plantings have grown in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Unfortunately, people have to make decisions about how they will use the megalitres of water that they own. As the member said, irrigated agriculture is absolutely vital for food security. I have said that in this place as well, citing some of the same statistics.

Coming back to the contributions from The Nationals—including the member for Dubbo—one of the key reasons that the member for Murray has to constantly talk about the threat of buybacks, which hurt communities in regional areas, is that The Nationals sat on the Government benches for 12 years with their heads in the sand about progressing water reform in New South Wales. Niall Blair gave it a shot, but no-one in the party room ever backed him. He gave it a good go, but on this and a number of other issues—things like the transition to renewables from coal—for too long The Nationals were willing to say to people in rural New South Wales, "Don't worry; it's all going to go away. Just keep the blindfold on and walk towards the cliff." That is unrealistic, and that is why The Nationals do not represent the majority of rural New South Wales anymore. Rural communities are well aware of that. They cannot be fooled about the reality of what is going on at the moment.

The member for Dubbo also talked about the challenges of land use. He talked about the botched rollout of renewable energy zones [REZs]. We came to government 18 months ago, and what had happened to those REZs, which were announced by the previous Government but were getting all that negative reaction in country New South Wales? The Nationals had not done their job when they tried to introduce them. Again, they simply tried to pretend that they would not happen and did not have to happen—that they could turn back the clock and pretend that people did not have to make the transition. But they do; we all do. Let's get some reality about those land use challenges. If we replaced all coal-fired power in Australia with solar plants, they would cover 0.027 per cent of the agricultural land. That is not even close to 1 per cent of agricultural land in Australia.

That does not mean we do not have to go through appropriate consultation with communities to make sure they are coming along. One of the interesting jobs I had before I came to this place was helping out with the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference, where farmers got together and shared their stories about the positive impact that renewables could have and the opportunities for landowners to host solar farms. They can graze animals under solar panels, contrary to comments from The Nationals' Barnaby Joyce. He made the stupidest comment I have heard in years when he was talking about solar panels—"Sheep don't live in caves."

We acknowledged at the time the REZs rolled out by the previous Government. But The Nationals, now in opposition, have gone back to just being negative and not helping communities to make the transition. They

are just trying to beat up their opponents and make people feel like renewable energy is a threat to their livelihoods and lifestyles across regional areas. The Nationals should be embarrassed about that; it is something that they stand condemned for. Looking at land use conflict is a really important part of the Agriculture Commissioner's job. Again, in the comments from the Opposition, we heard only about that land use conflict with regard to renewables. The reality is that urban sprawl and housing development have taken up prime agricultural land in New South Wales.

Mr Brendan Moylan: Not in Moree.

Mr STEVE WHAN: Not in Moree, I'll give you that. But there is a lot of prime agricultural land in the coastal zone in New South Wales and in the Sydney Basin that has been subject to this sprawl. That is a key land use factor that we need to look at and which the Government is addressing through its other housing policies. A number of members who live in the Sydney Basin contributed to debate on the bill. The Sydney Basin is an important food bowl for some of the fresh fruit and vegetables consumed by people in Sydney. Over the years I have been fond of saying that most of that food comes from the Murray-Darling Basin, and it does, but the Sydney Basin is still an important source, particularly for market fruit and vegetables.

Getting the land use balance right is important and will be a key role of the Agriculture Commissioner. That is why it is so important to put the Agriculture Commissioner in place. I acknowledge the work the Minister has done to talk to people and farmers across New South Wales about the structure of the commissioner's role, to give them the certainty and independence to ensure they can do their job effectively to assist the farming communities and people of New South Wales. Ultimately, it is the people who are serviced by our farming communities. I congratulate Minister Tara Moriarty for her fantastic work on the bill. She was in the gallery earlier. She is a Queanbeyan resident and we have been friends for many years. I was thrilled to see her become the Minister for Agriculture.

Mr Brendan Moylan: I don't think you were. You wanted that job.

Mr STEVE WHAN: She spent a huge amount of time travelling in regional New South Wales, talking and listening to people from all sides of debates, particularly farmers. I heard heckling from members on the other side of the House. I am certain we will not see farmers calling for our agriculture Minister to resign, as they did for the previous Minister. Opposition members should read the history on that situation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Northern Tablelands and the member for Terrigal will cease interjecting.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Opposition is hard, isn't it?

Mr STEVE WHAN: Opposition is hard, if they are heckling like that.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: How many of you are left? Eight? Nine?

The SPEAKER: The member for Coogee will cease interjecting.

Mr STEVE WHAN: The Nationals are holding their lowest number of seats in this place in 99 years, which is a credit to a whole range of other areas. I think I heard an interjection about my electorate of Monaro. The Nationals lost 14 per cent of their vote in Monaro. I take great pleasure in the fact that I can stand in this place and represent the hard work of Minister Moriarty. I give her credit for that work and thank her and her staff for their work. I also thank my staff for their work, including Thomas, who is in the Chamber. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mrs Helen Dalton.

Consideration in Detail

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): By leave: I will deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 13 and schedules 1 to 3 be agreed to.

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (12:28): I move my amendment No. 1 on sheet c2024-169B:

No. 1 **Agricultural matters**

Page 2, clause 3, definition of *agricultural matters*, lines 9 and 10. Omit all words on the lines. Insert instead—

agricultural matters means matters relating to agriculture, including the following—

(a) agricultural productivity,

- (b) land use planning and land use conflicts,
- (c) food security and water security,
- (d) agroecology. There is an opportunity for the commissioner to be proactive in land use planning, rather than waiting for conflicts to happen and then dealing with those conflicts. Surely it is better to avoid a fight than to break up a fight. My amendment addresses that issue. In its current form, the bill ignores how important water is for guaranteeing food security. Food security and water security are inseparable. They need to be reviewed as a whole in order to consider the impact that one has on the other. At proposed part 1, section 3, the definition currently reads:

In this Act—

agricultural matters means matters relating to agriculture, agricultural productivity, land use conflicts, food security and agroecology.

My amendment seeks to amend the definition in two ways: first, to insert the words "planning and" after "land use"; and, secondly, to insert the words "and water" after "food". The new definition would read, "agricultural matters means matters relating to agriculture ... agricultural productivity, land use planning and conflicts, food security and water security, and agroecology." We are asking the Agriculture Commissioner to undertake a very important task, so it is essential we give them the right law to do that. By making the changes I have recommended, I believe we will achieve that. I call on all members in this place to support this sensible amendment.

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (12:30):

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the member for Murray about water security. I understand the reasons. The Government believes—and the Minister has given advice—that the amendments are unnecessary. The Government is consistent in saying that the scope of the commissioner's work is intentionally broad and includes the issues that the member for Murray spoke to. I agree that one cannot separate the issues of agriculture and water in any capacity—whether it is irrigation water or dryland farming, or questions of rainfall and drought preparedness. That is absolutely critical, and it is inherent in the work that the commissioner will be doing. While I appreciate the arguments of the member for Murray, the Government will not support the amendment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that amendment No. 1 on sheet c2024-169B of the member for Murray be agreed to.

Amendment negated.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that clauses 1 to 13 and schedules 1 to 3 be agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 13 and schedules 1 to 3 agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr STEVE WHAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

ROAD TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SPEED CAMERA DETECTION) BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 15 October 2024

No. 1 GRNS No. 1 [c2024-178]

Page 3, Schedule. Insert after 16—

[7A] Section 133A

Insert after section 133—

133A Review of use of division in relation to light vehicles

- (1) The Minister must ensure a review is conducted of the use of this division in relation to light vehicles.
- (2) The review must consider—
 - (a) road safety outcomes from the use of this division in relation to light vehicles, including the following—
 - (i) the number of speeding offences involving light vehicles and the trends in the commission of the offences,

- (ii) the impact on speeding by drivers of light vehicles,
 - (iii) the average speed of light vehicles,
 - (iv) the estimated impact on crashes and other trauma involving light vehicles, and
- (b) the cost of using this division in relation to light vehicles.
- (3) The review must be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 18 months from the commencement of this section.
- (4) A report on the outcome of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within six months after the end of the period of 18 months.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (12:33): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

The amendment moved by Ms Cate Fachrmann on behalf of The Greens and agreed to in the other place is supported by the New South Wales Government. As outlined in debate on the bill, the Government is committed to trialling the life-saving benefits of average speed cameras as part of its efforts to combat deaths on New South Wales roads. The bill is a key step and provides the legislative framework for the trial to commence in 2025. It will bring the law in New South Wales into line with that in other mainland Australian States and the Australian Capital Territory, where the technology is an integral part of their speed enforcement programs for all vehicles.

As the Government has made clear, this trial will be comprehensively and transparently reviewed to help inform any decisions about the further use of average speed cameras for light vehicles in New South Wales. The amendment will require the review of the trial to be reported back to Parliament within a clear and reasonable time frame. It also outlines the minimum expected content of the review. The review of the trial must be undertaken as soon as possible after a period of 18 months from the commencement of the provisions, and it must be tabled within six months of the end of that 18-month period. This is a fair time frame that reflects the need to collect a full range of important information about how the trial operated and its effects.

The amendment outlines key road safety outcomes that must be considered as part of the review and which the New South Wales Government fully expects to be explored. Those include the impact on speeding by drivers of light vehicles, the average speed of the vehicles, the cost of enforcing light vehicles using average speed cameras and the estimated impact of the trial on crashes involving light vehicles. These sensible amendments provide the transparency that the people of New South Wales expect, and they reflect areas of interest raised in debate which are of interest to the community. I was very sorry to not be in the Chamber for the debate because I had COVID. I listened to the debate at home, and I thank the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Ron Hoenig, for stepping in on my behalf and extensively addressing these issues. I am very grateful to the Minister and his team, and my team, for their assistance.

As has been mentioned in debates in both places, the New South Wales Government has been convinced to undertake this trial because of the research evidence and our ongoing trauma challenge, particularly in regional New South Wales. Regional New South Wales is home to one-third of the State's population but is where two-thirds of all road deaths occur. It is also where most of our current average speed cameras are located. Studies clearly show that average speed enforcement for all vehicles leads to significant reductions in traffic-related injuries and fatalities. This evidence was clearly outlined in debate and has grown since the introduction of average speed cameras for heavy vehicles in New South Wales in 2009.

We know that 79 per cent of all fatalities and serious injuries across the existing 31 average speed camera enforcement lengths over the period 2018-22 did not involve any heavy vehicles. That is why we must turn our attention to light vehicles. We acknowledge that the trial will be a change for motorists in New South Wales, and especially for those who travel along the routes regularly. People who travel interstate will know that average speed cameras in other States already pick up light vehicles. In fact, ever since this bill was introduced, a number of people have asked me, "Aren't these cameras already monitoring light vehicles?" The trial will be supported by community and stakeholder communications, and warning signs will be installed. For the period of the trial, a 60-day warning letter period for light vehicles will apply prior to infringements being issued.

The impact of road trauma is real for so many in our communities. This is something that every member who spoke on this bill here and in the other place could agree on. At the two locations chosen for the trial, there were a combined total of six fatalities—six people dying—and 33 serious injuries between 2018 and 2022. The trial cannot save lives that have already been lost or change the outcome for the people who will live the rest of their lives with a life-changing injury, but it has the potential to prevent further trauma and inform our long-term approach. This bill reflects the commitment of the New South Wales Government to listen to expert evidence, to trial road safety measures hand in hand with the community and to take more action to meet the targets in our 2026 Road Safety Action Plan to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

I thank all of the members who have contributed to debate on this bill. I reassure all members that I did hear their comments. In fact, yesterday I met with the member for Cootamundra to discuss particular roads that she mentioned in her contribution and how we can try to assist. Recently I have met with the member for Coffs Harbour about safety issues in his electorate. I spoke to the member for Albury today about another fatality in his area. Every day these issues are part of the core business of my role—to look at any way that we can save lives on our regional roads.

We committed nearly one-quarter of a billion dollars in the past couple of months to Towards Zero Safer Roads programs. Those programs are funded in large part by enforcement activities. I hope that we have no more money left in the kitty to do enforcement, because I hope that people who think speeding is okay understand that it is not okay, that they stop doing it and that we do not have to fine them or pick up bodies of people who die in terrible circumstances on the road. It moves me to action. We are trying a variety of methods to reduce the road deaths in New South Wales. I will not canvass them all again, but I refer members to the second reading speeches on the bill if they want to know exactly what we are doing.

As leaders in our communities, we have a responsibility to do more than just wring our hands and grieve with our community over those deaths on our roads. We have to take responsible action. If every member in this place could remove the term "safe speeding" from their lexicon and conversations, that would be helpful. If members want to get some information about the impact of speed on road deaths, they should refer to the budget estimates hearing at which the Hon. Wes Fang asked many questions of Bernard Carlon about the old furphy that Germany's autobahns are fine and that we should let everyone go whatever speed they want, 130 kilometres per hour or whatever it is. The evidence is in those answers. I direct members to look at the facts before spreading misinformation in their communities. I urge members opposite to stand up for the people in their communities who have experienced road trauma and to vote for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (12:41): Opposition members certainly share the commitment to ensuring the reduction of our road toll. It is a heavy burden on members to see the tragic circumstances around road accidents and the impact on not only the frontline workers who have to attend those accidents but also the families going forward. All efforts to ensure that we are reducing the road toll are good efforts. The Opposition supports the Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Speed Camera Detection) Bill 2024 and the Legislative Council's amendment. It is an important amendment that addresses the need for a review of the trial sites and the information that comes through so that we are making the best possible decisions. It also ensures that the information is shared with the Parliament in a transparent way.

Transparency is important for road safety. In order to strengthen our road safety message in our communities, we must have the confidence of the community that we are making the right decisions for safety and not due to some other conspiracy theories or other alternative ideas. That is why transparency around the decision-making process is so important. Transparency has been difficult with this Government. The Government has made lot of promises about transparency of information, but it has been difficult to work out details of the trial. That is why I am disappointed that we did not add to the bill some more robustness about how the trial would proceed, where it would be located and why those decisions have been made.

I am particularly disappointed that we are not expanding the trial into metro areas. We may not have the sort of information we need to make the right decisions in 18 months time if we do not conduct trials in metro locations. That is something I think the Government should look at and expand. There are no requirements in the bill about where trials are to be located, so the Government has the ability to expand them to make sure that we receive a good set of data. A number of questions have been raised during this debate about particular trial locations. I will conclude with some key messages. Addressing the road toll requires a whole-of-government approach. We need to have the right number of police on our roads and ensure that we make the right investments in our roads. Of course, community support is of utmost importance. We need to bring the community along with us so that the right education goes out to the community, delivered by those who live in it. That is the best way to get the message across.

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

Motion agreed to.

STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 17 October 2024

No. 1 **AJP No. 1 [c2024-187A]**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 28—Insert instead—

[8A]Section 52 Definitions

Omit "Wildlife Information and Rescue Service" from section 52(2).

Insert instead "Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service".

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (12:46): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

The Government is happy to support the amendment. The Hon. Emma Hurst of the Animal Justice Party proposed this amendment to ensure that the Act refers to the correct name for WIRES—the Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service. One of the purposes of this bill is to update references in the Act to ensure that it correctly reflects current emergency management arrangements. The proposed amendment is similar to the clause in the bill that updates the Act to correctly reference VRA Rescue NSW. The Government has no concerns with supporting the change. The Government supported an amendment moved by the member for Coffs Harbour that improved the bill. The amendment moved by the Hon. Emma Hurst also improves the bill, it gets it right, and so it is agreed to. When parties are able to find common ground, it produces good legislation. The Government supports the Legislative Council amendment.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:48): The Opposition supports the Legislative Council amendment proposed by the Hon. Emma Hurst. On behalf of the Opposition, I thank the Minister for taking on board the recommendations for improvement to the bill contained in the amendment moved by the member for Coffs Harbour. It shows good government when all stakeholders are listened to. At the end of the day, it produces better legislation. As I have said to many people, both inside and outside of this place, legislation is a living document. Almost every sitting week the Parliament amends existing legislation to bring it up to date and to make it pertinent and correct. Again, I thank the Minister and his team for the time they have spent on the bill. The Opposition supports the Legislative Council amendment.

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

Motion agreed to.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 25 September 2024.

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (12:49): I lead for the Opposition to support the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment Bill 2024 on behalf of the shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Scott Farlow, who is a member of the Legislative Council. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust manages trust lands in the Royal Botanic Garden, The Domain and various other sites across New South Wales, primarily to encourage the use of the lands by the public for enjoyment and recreation. On trust lands, there is a variety of commercial activities, mainly restaurants and cafes. The trust has a statutory obligation to exclusively reinvest all revenue into the trust.

Public spaces play a critical role in enhancing the quality of life for communities across New South Wales by offering benefits that extend beyond recreation. The former Coalition Government's decision to establish the Public Spaces portfolio underscored the growing recognition of the value that parks, gardens, historical spaces and natural reserves bring to society. I acknowledge the role of my friend the Hon. Rob Stokes in the establishment of the Public Spaces portfolio and as the first holder of that ministry. It is encouraging that the focus on public spaces has continued with bipartisan support, reflecting the shared commitment to creating environments that foster health and community engagement as well as improved wellbeing. Public spaces are beneficial for residents throughout New South Wales and provide opportunities to unwind, connect with the environment and engage in physical activities. For many, visiting parks, bushlands and waterfronts offers respite from the stresses of daily life and promotes improvements to mental and physical health. Particularly in urban areas, where access to nature is limited, public spaces are vital in fostering social connections and encouraging a more active lifestyle.

I turn now to the content of the bill. Schedule 1 [2] extends the length of the lease of any part of the trust land for commercial purposes from eight years to 50 years. The Coalition has sought further information about the reasoning behind this measure to choose a time frame of 50 years. It is a considerable change. The Opposition was briefed by the new CEO of the trust, Mr Simon Duffy, who outlined why the trust required more flexibility

than it has at present. This is because the length of leases must ensure that projects requiring a high level of capital investment for refurbishment are economically viable. Mr Duffy outlined that 50 years for the term of the lease was decided upon because of the sizeable investment required by some projects in the pipeline, requiring significant construction works to deliver high-quality refurbishments. It is important that the trust has conditions in legislation that provide lease terms that offer greater incentive for investment and reduce risk that may impact on operators.

The Coalition accepts that allowing longer lease terms allows for extensive enhancements and new spaces while ensuring economic viability. It is reassuring that the length of the leases will be determined by market forces and not just because 50 years would be allowed and would regularly be sought. If shorter leases are economically wise in specific situations, that should happen. The Coalition wishes the trust and Mr Duffy, who is the former director of Taronga Zoo, all the very best with their plans to enhance existing spaces and create new public spaces.

Schedule 1 [3] will ensure that a lease or a licence under schedule 2 to the Act may not be granted for a term of more than five years unless the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has consented. The Coalition accepts that will help to reduce bureaucracy and will streamline approvals. It is a wise safeguard to require ministerial consent for longer leases. Schedule 1 [4] ensures that a lease or licence of a part of trust land for 10 years or more must not be granted by the trust unless the granting of the lease or licence has been the subject of an open tender process. This is an important transparency measure to ensure integrity in the process. The Opposition strongly supports this measure. The Opposition is satisfied that the provisions in this legislation are consistent with the rest of the Public Spaces portfolio and could even be described as more restrictive.

The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 and the Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006 have no restrictions on lease lengths, but ministerial approval is required for leases longer than 25 years. The Place Management NSW Act 1998 and the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983 allow for leases up to 99 years with ministerial approval. Schedule 1 [6] is a bureaucratic tidy-up to make it clear that certain land situated in the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah and the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is vested in the trust.

Labor has again broken its anti-privatisation pledge by extending private leases on public land. It has repeatedly broken its election commitments and its pledge to end short-term economic reliance on privatisation. Labor's "fresh start" plan was not worth the paper it was written on. It was a manifesto on which to get elected, not on which to govern. Continuing to invest in the maintenance and creation of public spaces will ensure that future generations can access an environment that supports their health, social and community engagement, and connection with nature. The Coalition is proud to support ongoing efforts to enhance and expand public spaces across the State. The bipartisan approach to this initiative reflects the universal value of public space. All New South Wales residents should have access to vibrant, well-maintained areas for relaxation, recreation and social interaction. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (12:55): I support the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment Bill 2024. As the Minister noted, the bill will amend the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980, or the RBGDT Act, to increase the term for leases and licences and update the description of the land that the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is responsible for overseeing. Certain areas of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah and the entirety of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan are not included in schedule 2 to the Act. While section 9 of the Act prevents the trust from disposing of any part of the land identified in schedule 2, that does not apply to land that the Minister has referred to in the bill, which forms part of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah and the entirety of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

Accordingly, the bill is vital to ensuring that those botanic gardens are afforded the same status and protections as the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain, and that the trust can protect and maintain those vital public spaces. As my colleagues have noted, the bill will ensure that the trust can provide a greater visitor experience for the 13 million annual visitors it receives and that it can continue serving the people and communities of New South Wales for generations to come. Of those 13 million visitors, just over five million visit the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and almost seven million visit The Domain, particularly for major events like music festivals. The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah receives approximately 215,000 visitors every year. The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is visited by over one million people annually, and that number is forecast to increase significantly.

Since 2011 visitation to Mount Annan has increased by 325,000 annually. It is important that, as visitation continues to increase, so too do the facilities and services the community relies on. The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is also home to the incredible Australian PlantBank, a conservation nursery, and the National Herbarium. It is also home to one of the hardest and longest named park runs in history, the Australian Botanic

Garden Mount Annan park run. Those scientific assets—there are also fun assets—form a critical part of our national botanical sciences and are vital to informing how our plant life will respond to a changing climate.

Given the diversity of scientific, educational and community assets located at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah, it is vital that they be appropriately reflected in the Act. Without the bill, there is no guarantee that those areas will continue to be protected for future generations. Public spaces are valued assets for the people of New South Wales, and the trust oversees over 700 hectares of land. By accurately identifying those areas in the RBGDT Act, we can ensure that they continue to be used and enjoyed by future generations, particularly the people of Mount Annan and the rest of Camden. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:59): The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment Bill 2024 extends the period for commercial leases and licences within the gardens and The Domain from eight years to 50 years. I acknowledge that businesses like cafes and the plant and gift shop that operate in the gardens and The Domain need lease and licence agreements to ensure business viability. Eight-year periods do not promote viability or encourage investment in facilities and services. Notwithstanding that, leases and licences of 50 years are too long and create the risk of increased commercialisation of the gardens and The Domain. There have been past development proposals for the precinct that proponents argued were consistent with the objects of the Act, including a permanent soundshell, a viewing platform and a hotel in The Domain. However, constituents have viewed those developments as inappropriate.

The prospect of a 50-year lease or licence would strengthen the appeal of commercial undertakings. There will be a greater incentive to transform small businesses into larger businesses: for example, cafes and kiosks morphing into function centres. There will also be a risk that businesses that may not be in the long-term interest of the gardens and The Domain will be locked in. One such business is the car park at The Domain. While it brings visitors to the precinct, most people parking their cars are visiting elsewhere in the city. Further, the metro and expanded cycleways are providing new alternatives to driving to the city. Future improvements to public transport could mean most people would be able to get to the city without a car and the car park could be repurposed into something that has wider public and recreational benefits. I would not want to see a 50-year lease block a return of that space to the parklands.

I acknowledge the safeguards in the bill that require ministerial approval for leases or licences over five years and an open tender process for leases and licences over 10 years, and I welcome those. Ministerial approval relies on the will of the government of the day. Governments of the past have shown a preference for commercialising parks and parklands, and there will be future governments with similar views. As we plan to increase population densities, the need to protect and expand green open space becomes more important. As the threats of climate change to the urban and natural environment increase, the need to advance botanical science becomes more important. The public green open space and the recreational and botanical science values of the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain must remain the focus of lease and licence decisions. I hope the bill can promote those outcomes.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (13:01): I am pleased to speak in support of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment Bill 2024 and thank the Minister for bringing it to the House. As the Minister outlined in his second reading speech, the bill will amend the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 to increase the term for leases and licences and to update the description of the land that the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is responsible for overseeing. Specifically, the amendment to section 20 of the Act increases the term of leases or licences that the trust is able to grant to 50 years. It is important that the Parliament is aware that the extension comes with the condition that any lease or licence with a term of five years or more can only be granted with ministerial consent. It is also important that the Parliament is aware that the bill introduces a provision that any lease or licence over 10 years will be subject to public tender, an important oversight mechanism that will make sure that the future use of sites is subject to a competitive and public process.

Both provisions are consistent with how leases and licences are managed across the State's public spaces. For example, long-term leases within the Greater Sydney Parklands are subject to both ministerial approval and a public tender. In my understanding that includes longer term leases under which the lessee pays for and delivers the function centre or the restaurant rather than the government, and therefore there is zero cost to the New South Wales taxpayer. The lease also generates payments to the parklands itself. The amendment does not affect the existing requirement that the trust is only able to grant leases or licences if they directly or indirectly assist in attaining the objects of the trust. That includes that any agreement must maintain or improve the trust lands, the National Herbarium and the collections and preserved plant life owned by the trust; increase and share knowledge about the plant life of Australia and New South Wales; and encourage the use and enjoyment of the trust lands by the public, increasing the educational, cultural, historical and recreational values of the lands. Without that amendment to the Act, the trust is limited in its ability to attract investors because the current Act limits the trust to granting leases of no longer than eight years generally, and up to 10 years for restaurants and cafes.

Investment in our public spaces is crucial. Such short-term leases act as a deterrent to potential investors, given the limited financial return for them. With over 13 million visitors annually, the trust faces the challenge of maintaining ageing public assets and meeting the rising costs of doing so for the growing communities in both the east and the west. Any revenue that is generated by the trust under the leases and licences goes directly back into maintaining and protecting crucial public assets on behalf of the people of New South Wales. That means more investment in natural heritage, education and research that helps New South Wales lead the country in botanical science. Greater revenue means that the trust is able to do that important work without needing to rely on taxpayer funds. We need greater investment in public spaces, and the amendment allows us to attract that investment. The bill adjusts the areas covered under the Act to include certain areas of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah and the entirety of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

As the Minister stated, "Public spaces are a valued asset for the people of New South Wales, and the trust oversees over 700 hectares of land across its four sites." It is great to see that the Minister is in charge. I had the thought that he is the landlord. Given that he has a wonderful Parliamentary Secretary, that means I am the deputy landlord of the botanic gardens. Next to the Royal Botanic Garden is the Andrew "Boy" Charlton Pool, which is currently closed for repairs. The aquatic centre includes two pools, cafes and a multipurpose room. I note the extensive works being undertaken to repair the 50-metre and 20-metre pools, replace the timber decking on the grandstand and concourse, and install a new lift. I am not saying that there is a private lease, but it is an example of how the private sector can step in and develop the botanic gardens and various State gardens if there is a legitimate focus to encourage more people to attend.

We all like to eat and browse in those gardens. The Royal Botanic Garden also holds numerous exhibitions and activities, including *Artisans in the Gardens*, which showcases Australia's best artists and craftspeople, with thousands of unique artworks. It is open at the moment. The garden also has a great glasshouse, plant sales and kids' activities, all with the backdrop of Sydney Harbour. Mount Annan in Sydney's south-west, apart from its wonderful gardens and walking tracks, has the Australian PlantBank, which is a storage preservation facility for seeds, tissue culture and cryostorage for future plant security. Mount Tomah in the Blue Mountains is in a beautiful setting, with a mountain backdrop and great walks through fantastic gardens, and is a wedding destination.

In conclusion, the Minister and I make special mention of the networks of fantastic volunteers who help staff in the three parks. The dedicated volunteers assist with scientific, horticultural and conservation work as well as guided tours. I pay particular tribute to the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens, which, apart from assisting with the scientific, cultural and recreational functions of the gardens, is also a passionate advocate and fundraiser. Frank and Ros Allat have been volunteer tour guides for the past 21 years. Cherie Hung loves volunteering and has learnt so much about plants and met new friends.

Volunteers at Mount Annan play a vital role in protecting endangered species like the Wollemi pine. Ross Wheeler and Tim Jackson have each volunteered for over 25 years. Together with 150 volunteers at Mount Annan, they make such a positive contribution. I thank all volunteers and staff at all three botanic gardens for their wonderful and valuable service to the people of New South Wales. The trust has been maintaining and supporting an institution that has served the people of New South Wales for over 200 years. The bill ensures that those public places continue to serve people for hundreds of years to come. I thank the Minister for the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (13:09): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment Bill 2024. In particular, I thank and acknowledge the member for Castle Hill; the member for Camden, who is very passionate about Mount Annan and making sure that people can continue to enjoy it, which is why it is important that we legislatively protect the areas that have fallen outside the protections of the Act; the member for Sydney, a very passionate advocate for parklands in Sydney in recognising their importance with urban growth; and the member for Blacktown, the Parliamentary Secretary and self-appointed deputy landlord of the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain. There is no doubting his level of engagement with not only the greater Western Sydney Parklands but also other parklands all over Sydney in his role as the Parliamentary Secretary.

The bill amends the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 to make sure the trust continues to serve the people and communities of New South Wales by increasing the terms for commercial leases and licences on trust land and by updating the description of the land that the trust is responsible for overseeing. I make the same point I made in the second reading speech that the bill does not make any changes to the current requirement that the trust may only grant a lease or a licence for a purpose that directly or indirectly assists in attaining the objects of the Act. That is important to remember as we make sure there are opportunities to continue to encourage investment in assets.

I thank the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and the wider Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for championing better access to and investment in public spaces for the people of New South

Wales. An increase in the length of commercial leases and licences in relation to trust land will contribute to better facilities and services for the people of New South Wales and better opportunities for capital investment in public spaces. Correctly identifying all of the land vested in the trust ensures that the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah will be protected for the people of New South Wales for generations to come.

The bill is another example of the Government working for the people of New South Wales by investing in our public spaces. It is an example of the Government's commitment to reinvest in the important education and research programs conducted by the botanic gardens. Our public spaces are valued assets, and we are committed to ensuring that they can be enjoyed by the people of New South Wales for generations to come. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr PAUL SCULLY: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (13:13): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended this day to permit community recognition statements to commence forthwith.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:14): I thank the Acting Leader of the House. The Opposition supports and agrees with the suspension of standing and sessional orders.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

EMERALD HILLS BOOTCAMP

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (13:14): On 4 August the Emerald Hills Bootcamp hosted an endometriosis charity workout event that I am happy to report was a smashing success. The event aimed to raise awareness and funds for endometriosis, a chronic condition affecting many women. The bootcamp workout brought together the local community, including fitness enthusiasts, supporters and individuals affected by endometriosis, to participate in a series of exercises designed for all levels of fitness. Proceeds from the event were directed towards supporting research and providing resources for those dealing with the affliction. The event not only focused on physical fitness but also highlighted the importance of supporting women's health within the community. There was a great turnout, with so many members of the community coming together for a great cause. It was heartwarming to see people of all ages and fitness levels turn up to participate, wearing yellow in solidarity. I give a big thank you to everyone who showed up and contributed. Their support is making a real difference, with \$2,500 raised.

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOODBURN

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (13:15): I acknowledge the hard work, determination and resilience of St Joseph's Primary School in Woodburn. Earlier this week the students and teachers returned to their school following the 2022 floods, which all but destroyed the campus. Congratulations to the school principal, Jeanette Wilkins, and her staff. I also pay tribute to the school captains, Nick Felsch and Pip Swanson, and the vice-captains, Cooper Bailey and Ayla Stahl, for their leadership. I am sure all the students absolutely love their new school. I also pay tribute to Bishop Homeming and the church for their confidence in reinvesting in the school and its community. It is certainly a great day for the school community and the greater community of Woodburn and the Mid Richmond, as we slowly but surely recover from the devastating 2022 floods.

INGHAM INSTITUTE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (13:16): As a health professional, I am incredibly proud of the health and medical research that Liverpool is leading the way in. I attended the twelfth annual Ingham Institute Research Excellence Awards, which bring together leaders from government, health care, education, business and community who are all working together to transform health care in one of Australia's fastest growing regions. The Ingham Institute grounds its world-class medical research in the needs of the communities of south-west Sydney. I congratulate the winner of the Lady Fairfax Distinguished Achiever Award, Associate Professor Tara Roberts. Her research into cancer and inflammation has had vast impacts in personalising patient care. I also congratulate Dr Abhi Pal, who received the Early Career Researcher Award; Nevenka Francis, who received the Higher Degree Student Award; the dual recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Award, Grace Micali and Shivani Mani; and the winner of the Best Administration and Research Support Award, Ashley Ford. On behalf of the people of Liverpool, I thank them all and recognise their valuable contributions.

WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE COUNCILLORS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (13:17): I extend my congratulations to all the recently elected councillors across the Willoughby electorate in the New South Wales local government elections. It is an exciting time for both council areas of Willoughby and North Sydney, and I am confident that all elected officials will bring energy, dedication and a strong commitment to serving the people in those areas. Their roles as councillors are vital in shaping the future of our part of New South Wales, ensuring that our communities continue to thrive. From improving local infrastructure and services to supporting small businesses and community initiatives, their leadership will play a crucial part in the continued success of Willoughby and North Sydney. Particular congratulations go to the re-elected mayors, Tanya Taylor of Willoughby and Zoë Baker of North Sydney. I look forward to working with all councillors in the coming months and years to ensure that our communities remain vibrant, connected and resilient. I congratulate them once again on their elections and thank them for their dedication to making Willoughby and North Sydney great places to live, work and play.

JUST ONE MORE ROW

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (13:18): It is amazing to see creative minds in our community using their skills for good, adding warmth and vibrancy to the places we love. I was delighted to discover that the area around Panania library had been yarn-bombed by our local knitting and crochet group. The group, called Just One More Row, was started by local Panania women Anna Prasad and Jodi Philip, and now attracts up to 35 keen knitters, crocheters and quilters to their meetings at the Picnic Point bowling club. Their regular knitting sessions attract both young and old, newcomers and experienced crafters. Just One More Row recently brought a splash of springtime fun to the red chair and surrounding trees near the Panania library, turning a familiar spot into a colourful celebration. The group also participated in the recent fete at the Picnic Point bowling club, raising \$445 for our local women's shelter. Thank you to Anna, Jodi and all members of Just One More Row. We are lucky to have them as part of the local fabric of our society.

PITTWATER HOUSE STUDENTS AND STAFF

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (13:19): Today I commend the year 9 students and three staff members from Pittwater House who successfully completed the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea in June this year. The students from years 8 and 11 worked together with their Adventure Kokoda trek leader, Major Scott Babington, to finish the monumental 96-kilometre journey in nine days. I can only imagine the weight that sat on the students' shoulders while they completed the trek—not just the physical weight of their large backpacks in the humid climate, but also the gravity of this solemn experience, walking in the footsteps of Australians who fought there more than 80 years ago. After completing the trek, the students had the honour of visiting the Bomana war cemetery, which contains the graves of 3,824 Commonwealth soldiers who gave their lives during battles in Papua and Bougainville Island in the Second World War. I congratulate the students on their bravery and fortitude in taking on this mammoth trek. I am certain it was a deeply rewarding experience for each of them and something to cherish for the rest of their lives. Well done!

VIETNAMESE FAMILY DAY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (13:20): I recognise and acknowledge the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association, or VEFA, for organising the Vietnamese Family Day. I also acknowledge the celebration of special wedding anniversaries of a number of members on this special occasion. My heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr Van Chung Duong and Mrs Ngoc Phan Nguyen on their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, and Mr Quoi Hong Diep and Mrs Thi Dieu Lai on their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary. Sixty-plus years of marriage is an extraordinary journey that exemplifies not only enduring love but also the value of commitment, mutual respect, compromise and resilience. The endurance required to maintain a long-lasting marriage is also rooted in

their Vietnamese marriage traditions and beliefs, which prioritise family and the wellbeing of children. I commend the couples for their incredible achievements. The invaluable lessons cultivated throughout their journeys are truly worthy of celebration and should be cherished by younger generations. I wish them good health, continued happiness and joy together as they celebrate these remarkable milestones.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (13:21): I acknowledge the incredible team at the Sutherland Shire Football Association on the opening of the hybrid synthetic field at the Harrie Denning Centre on 7 July 2024. The hybrid playing surface, delivered thanks to over \$600,000 in funding from the former Coalition Government, combines synthetic grass and natural turf to provide enhanced stability and extended playing hours. By integrating modern irrigation and advanced maintenance systems, the upgrades will reduce maintenance costs and allow for matches to be played during wet weather periods—importantly, given the Sutherland Shire Football Association cancelled 3,689 games this season due to rain. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Sutherland Shire Football Association's executive committee and management team. I acknowledge Laura Cowell, Russell Marsden, Keith Ward, Cherie Donoghue, Jim Hankins, Chris Lockwood, Marty Manns, Karen Traynor, Mark Williams, Jeff Stewart, Jenny Stephen and Jonathan Dmoch for their efforts. I extend my best wishes to everyone at the Sutherland Shire Football Association and look forward to celebrating its continued success.

FRANK HART

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (13:22): I recognise Frank Hart on his ninetieth birthday. In 1956 Frank was declared outstanding apprentice for Trans Australia Airlines and was presented with the Apprentice Bronze Medallion by the then Governor of Victoria. Frank's career flourished when he joined Honeywell Pty Ltd in 1965 and successfully established its Canberra operations. After 10 years, Frank founded Associated Automatic Control, which later became Control and Electric, a thriving business passed on to sons Kevin and Peter. Frank and his wife, Jean, married in 1955, raised five children and are proud grandparents to 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. After retiring, Frank and Jean settled in Bawley Point and later Ulladulla, where Frank has remained active in community life. Frank has been involved in the local tennis and bridge clubs, served as treasurer of the Bawley sport and recreation club, and was a member of Probus for many years. Happy birthday, Frank Hart.

JO AND DON MCKERRELL

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:23): I ask the House to join me in congratulating Jo and Don McKerrrell, who celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary in October. There is something to be said for 70 years of marriage where, along the way, they built an important foundation for future generations, best exemplified in their daughter Linda. She asked me to share these heartfelt words with the Parliament:

Congratulations to Jo McKerrrell OAM and Don McKerrrell OAM on their 70th wedding anniversary, the 2nd October 2024. They moved into their home at Eastwood on the day of their 10th wedding anniversary in 1964 and have lived there ever since. During this time Jo and Don have worked tirelessly as volunteers for people with an intellectual disability, earning a City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Award in 2001. Jo and Don are a wonderful team who have given a lot of time to their community and are always willing to help in any way they can. Love and congratulations.

Jo and Don's example of a lifetime of partnership and the building of an enriching legacy is one that we can all aspire to. I congratulate them both on this outstanding achievement.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE FESTA

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:24): On 29 September I was delighted to join the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Greystanes for its annual festa. Since 1965 the annual festa has been a celebration of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Originating with the Greystanes Maltese community, the festa is now a truly multicultural festival that connects our diverse Prospect electorate. I was honoured to participate with a reading during the mass before joining reverend fathers and parishioners for the procession of the statue of Our Lady, which is a replica of the Our Lady of Victories statue in Gozo, Malta. After the procession, festivities continued with pastizzis, Italian honey biscuits, live music and a fireworks display. I congratulate parish priests Father Paul and Father Joby, Susanne Hatzis, Lisa Bright and all of the dedicated volunteers at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on a wonderful celebration of faith and community.

JEAN-PIERRE ALEXANDRE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (13:25): I acknowledge Mr Jean-Pierre Alexandre for his devoted work for the local community. Jean-Pierre—or JP, as he is known—is an integral member of multiple community organisations, such as the Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group, known as FLAG, and the Coalition of Glebe Groups, known as COGG. Alongside his wife, Patricia, Mr Alexandre is also a vociferous advocate for the

Friends of Ultimo and Save the Powerhouse. Mr Alexandre runs the Glebe Computer Project. Established in 2005, it is an entirely volunteer-run computer room, open to the public and based out of the Old Fire Station on Mitchell Street, Glebe. The room is open Monday to Friday from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and offers cheap internet, printing, scanning and copying, with friendly volunteers ready to assist anyone who needs it. Recently the Glebe Computer Project collaborated with FLAG to create the Green Plot, a project with a vision of bringing the Forest Lodge and Glebe communities together using sustainable gardening as a common ground. I congratulate JP and thank him for all of the hard work he does every day to make our community a better place.

LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (13:26): The Lebanese Film Festival Australia is a remarkable, 100 per cent volunteer-led not-for-profit founded in 2011. Since the inaugural event in 2012, the film festival has grown from a grassroots event into a nationally recognised arts and cultural festival. Since its establishment 12 successful editions have been hosted, with an average annual audience growth of 16 per cent. It has screened over 360 films to more than 45,000 Australians, showcasing works from both local and international filmmakers. Its work with school students and Australian Lebanese filmmakers is also of note. I commend the executive committee and co-founders Camille Lattouf, Jessica Khoury, Julia Lattouf and Priscilla Fayad. I also commend the volunteers and supporters of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia for their dedication and support. Their efforts contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our community.

GREG FLORIMO

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:27): I congratulate North Sydney Bears legend Greg Florimo on over 35 years of service at the club. Greg, who is more commonly known as Flo, started at the Bears as a player and eventually transitioned into the role of coach and administrator. He is known for his outstanding leadership qualities, both on and off the field, and his fierce loyalty to the red-and-blacks. I am proud to have worked with Greg on a few Bears projects over the years and can say that his passion for the club and for the game is evident in all he does. North Sydney Bears is such a pillar of the North Shore sporting community. Behind the brilliant and talented players is a team of hardworking and dedicated individuals like Greg who keep the club going. It has been so exciting to watch the North Sydney Bears team flourish and to see the club expand into women's rugby league. I know that Flo will keep working on another expansion, that into the National Rugby League. I congratulate Greg Florimo on the fantastic work he has done over the past 35 years and recognise the immense contribution he has made to the club's community. We are not going to let him off lightly; we expect more from him! Well done to Flo.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:28): On 2 October 2015 a group of special constables spent their day going about their duties, making plans for the long weekend and talking about a Cowboys and Broncos grand final. At 4.30 p.m. all was forgotten when a 15-year-old boy carried a 38-millimetre Smith and Wesson revolver to Charles Street, Parramatta. He walked past an unarmed plain-clothes female detective before killing 58-year-old unarmed police civilian accountant Curtis Cheng as he walked out of the NSW Police Force headquarters. The shooter continued to fire into the building. He was shot dead by one of the three special constables. Commissioner of Police Andrew Scipione said:

I don't know that I've seen a greater act of bravery than what I saw last night with these three special constables. These special constables certainly put their lives on the line, knowing they were under fire, probably aware that somebody had been shot ... they still went forward and engaged and probably removed that threat.

...

They then offered immediate assistance to the shooter.

Alpha Cheng acknowledged the trauma for those involved who were not able to prevent someone in their care from losing their life. I ask the House to honour those special constables.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE RESCUE

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (13:29): On a typical Thursday in Bellinger Keys near Urunga, a baby plover found itself in a perilous situation having fallen down a drain and losing its mother. There seemed to be no hope of survival. The community of Bellinger Keys were so concerned that they rallied together to rescue the little bird. The star of the show was a local legend, known only by the number plate "POP". In a moment of true bravery, he barely hesitated to plunge headfirst into the drain, with a kid's net in hand, to rescue the stranded plover. With determination and care, he managed to scoop the tiny bird out and reunite it with its mother. As the baby plover scampered back to its mother, a wave of relief washed over everyone present. The warmth of that reunion illustrates that true Aussie spirit often comes in ordinary forms—people stepping up to help without seeking

recognition. That tradie's willingness to get involved shows that anyone can lend a hand in their own way. Now I have to find a bloke known as "POP" and show him that his actions mattered.

TAYLOR LOCKLEY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (13:30): I acknowledge Taylor Lockley for being awarded the Central Coast Academy of Sport Rising Star Award in the Indigenous program. The Central Coast Academy of Sport awards represent a significant occasion in our community, as they bring together outstanding athletes from across 15 diverse sport programs. This annual ceremony not only highlights the exceptional talent within our region but also fosters a spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition among young athletes. Taylor is a shining example of dedication and talent within the Central Coast Academy of Sport. Their commitment to excellence in the Indigenous program has been evident throughout the season, as they have consistently demonstrated remarkable skill, resilience and a strong work ethic. Whether in practice or competition, Taylor has shown that they are not only a formidable competitor but also a true sportsperson, inspiring their peers and coaches alike with their unwavering dedication. I congratulate Taylor. Their award is truly well-deserved, and I eagerly look forward to witnessing their continued growth in the upcoming season.

KYAH SHIPLEY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (13:31): Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises and congratulates outstanding local surf lifesaver Kyah Shipley. From 4 to 6 January 2025 Kyah will be heading to New Zealand for the 2025 Surf Life Saving Trans Tasman Tri Series. Members may recognise her behind the counter at FoodWorks in Kiama Downs on a Sunday afternoon, but 16-year-old Kyah Shipley is also a surf lifesaving champion. Kyah is one of two girls from the South Coast region who have been chosen to be a part of the New South Wales country team. Kyah currently competes for the Warilla Barrack Point Surf Club; however, she began her career at the Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club. One of her achievements includes winning gold at the 2024 Australian championships. Kyah is extremely excited for the opportunity to go to New Zealand and represent New South Wales country. Her journey is a credit to her commitment to surf lifesaving and she is a terrific example to other young people across our region that anything is possible if they set their mind to it. I acknowledge Kyah's mother, Casey, and the Shipley family and friends in supporting her in this wonderful journey.

WESTFIELD PARRAMATTA LOCAL HEROES

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:32): The Westfield Local Heroes program recognises those who make a difference in their communities, bringing together those who make positive impacts. Community members nominated local heroes, and finalists were selected for each Westfield. A vote is held to decide the hero. Community Construction founder, Hedayat Osyen, is one of three finalists for Parramatta Westfield. He is recognised for his work in providing refugees with training and employment in the construction industry. NSW Powerchair Football mentor Jaxon Taylor is another finalist. Jaxon was born with muscular dystrophy. Through his NSW Powerchair Football group, he strives to inspire resilience and positivity in his fellow players. Professor Jeremy Chapman, AC, is a retired nephrologist, transplant surgeon and renal physician. He volunteers at the Westmead Hospital Foundation and seeks to improve the lives of those with kidney disease. I congratulate all the finalists, who are worthy recipients. Voting has ended, and I cannot wait to see who receives the award.

GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:33): Tomorrow Eastwood will host the thirty-ninth Granny Smith Festival, which is the State's second largest community festival after the Sydney Royal Easter Show. It is an exciting event that brings people together from the Ryde electorate and across the State. For context, more than 200 stallholders will attend to provide a variety of food and various products for sale and sampling. There will be 500 performing artists and up to 1,000 locals who proudly take part in the Grand Street Parade. The festival is attended by local schools, churches and multicultural groups, the mayor and the political leadership of the community, and the various community organisations that make Ryde the wonderful place that it is. Most importantly, we expect to perhaps exceed 100,000 people in Eastwood.

TURTLE ISLAND

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:34): It is my great pleasure to congratulate Glenys Ray from the Springfield Residents Association on the successful launch of the new Turtle Island program at the Springfield Pond Wetland. That remarkable initiative, developed by the 1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program in partnership with Western Sydney University, plays a crucial role in the conservation of Australia's threatened freshwater turtle species. The journey began years ago when I knocked on Glenys's door in Springfield and she took the time to show me the wetlands, which were then overgrown with noxious aquatic weeds. Thanks to

Glenys's vision and persistence, we were able to secure over \$140,000 in funding, with the help of former local government Minister Gabrielle Upton. With help from Central Coast Council, the clean-up of the wetlands began. The new Turtle Island is a vital addition to the wetlands, complete with a nesting box designed to protect turtle eggs from predators like foxes. By securing the future of our freshwater turtles, we are preserving a species essential to our ecosystem. I was proud to support the Springfield Residents Association in securing State Government funding through the Community Building Partnership program to bring that fantastic project to life.

Private Members' Statements

SWANSEA ELECTORATE SURF LIFESAVING

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (13:35): As a member representing a coastal electorate, the start of the surf lifesaving season is always an important event in our community. On Saturday 28 September, the red and yellow flags returned to our beaches and our amazing surf lifesaving volunteers were out on patrol. It is a reminder to all beachgoers to swim between the flags, particularly for those visiting our region who may be unfamiliar with our local waterways. The Swansea electorate is home to five surf lifesaving clubs, including Redhead Surf Life Saving Club, Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club, Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Catherine Hill Bay Surf Life Saving Club and Lakes Surf Life Saving Club.

The clubs are powered by volunteers who give up their time to run the administrative side of the club, organise and run Nippers programs and, critically, patrol our beaches to keep the community safe. Our community is extremely proud of our surf lifesavers for the work they do. We also have a strong tradition—which is being continued by our current crop of surf lifesaving athletes—of performing at surf lifesaving carnivals with great success. As a surf lifesaver, I have been a strong supporter of our surf lifesaving clubs, and so has the Minns Labor Government.

The five surf clubs in the Swansea electorate have received more than \$100,000 in funding from election commitments, including \$16,000 to Catherine Hill Bay Surf Life Saving Club to purchase two motors and a trailer to assist with operation of inflatable rescue boats and \$20,000 for Lakes Surf Club for a new emergency response trailer. I went to see that last week, and it is fabulous. There was \$22,000 for the Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club for the purchase of an inflatable rescue boat and motor. Again, I went to see that a few weeks ago, and it is a great purchase. There was \$24,000 to Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club to purchase an all-terrain vehicle. I have driven that, which was a bit of fun. There was also \$24,000 given to Redhead Surf Life Saving Club for the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle.

The Government has also invested \$5 million in surf clubs across the State in the 2023-24 round of the Surf Club Facility program. In the Swansea electorate, that includes more than \$38,000 for the Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club to upgrade CCTV and security and more than \$31,000 for the Lakes Surf Life Saving Club to improve energy efficiency and provide lighting upgrades and a new garage door. The 2024-25 round of the Surf Club Facility program for categories 2 and 3 is still open, and I encourage all the clubs to apply. There is \$5.4 million available in funding.

The New South Wales Government is also investing in emergency response beacons at locations along the coast, including at Fraser Park in the electorate of Swansea. This is one of the most dangerous pieces of coastline in the State. In my time as the member for Swansea, I have seen too many lives lost at this location. The beach at Fraser Park is not patrolled outside of the holiday period. This beacon will allow surf lifesavers to have visibility over the beach. I am hopeful that fewer deaths will occur with this beacon to assist surf lifesavers and to make the beach safer. I thank all of the surf lifesaving volunteers across the State. I urge everyone to stay safe on our beaches this season and to swim between the flags.

RYDE ELECTORATE EMPLOYMENT

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:40): Ryde's greatest blessing is sometimes also its greatest curse. We have a diverse, compassionate and enterprising community. The people of Ryde are generally well educated and either work professionally or run small businesses, but the cost of living bites particularly hard in an area that is fast growing and where citizens are well aware of the economic pressures they are under. Ryde is not a poor community, but it is not that well off either. This middle road presents a unique policy challenge. Ryde will never be the headline act for the worst statistics in crime, business closures, lack of internet access or school dropouts. This means its issues often fly under the radar.

The everyday challenges faced by the residents of Ryde are crowded out by seemingly more urgent or desperate causes. The problem is that Ryde does not top any of the charts on the metrics I mentioned. It only tops the chart for the number of people working in IT. Ryde is home to more people working in IT than any other community in the country. This is a statistic I am incredibly proud of, but it also means that we do not do better

in areas where we could improve. We opt for dramatic intervention at the fringes, when a small nudge here or there could turn around our fortunes.

This speech is a defence of the middle. The more we do to ensure that places like Ryde thrive and remain self-reliant, the better it will be overall for New South Wales. Recent unemployment and JobSeeker data released this week tells this story. Ryde does not have the best or the worst unemployment rate in the State. It sits somewhere in between. However, there is a gradual slide that must be addressed now. A short-term preventative measure is always better than requiring a systemic and costly response a decade later. The solution to this is simple. There is a direct link between the decisions of the Government's proposed plans for Macquarie Park and the most recent employment data for Ryde.

The unemployment rate across New South Wales sits at 3.5 per cent. In Ryde, it is 3.9 per cent. JobSeeker rates in the northern Sydney region sit at 1.7 per cent. In Ryde, it is 2.4 per cent. Why have both of these figures seen slight increases of 0.8 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively since the last reporting period? Macquarie Park is the sixth largest GDP producing centre in the State and is on track to be the fourth by the end of the decade. It is a generator of employment in Ryde. Our rates of unemployment and JobSeeker applicants should not dwarf those of the State and our region.

Macquarie Park is the golden goose for high quality and high paying science, research and technology jobs, but it is unfortunately under threat from the Minns Government. Rather than invest in the precinct as a driver of innovation and entrepreneurship, the Minns Government has made no secret of its plans to destroy decades of meticulous planning to achieve its short-term political objectives. I remind the House that Ryde was already on track to exceed its housing targets by 300 per cent. This was before the Government proposed any new State-led rezonings, and before it began to bizarrely circumvent its own planning controls through build-to-rent policy.

Build-to-rent housing allows the wealthiest of developers, rather than mums and dads, to build corporate-controlled rental properties in precincts where housing is not ordinarily permitted. The effect of this is the loss of local jobs and the creation of greater demand for the remaining local jobs. This does nothing to actually help the affordability of local housing because nobody can legally buy what is being built. This arrangement is designed to only benefit vested interests. It is an appalling betrayal of a community that has always done the right thing when it comes to helping deliver more housing for New South Wales.

This Government simply does not understand Macquarie Park. It is meddling, with no comprehension of the consequences. I hope this new employment data is the wake-up call it needs to finally get the message. Macquarie Park is the solution to Ryde's declining employment numbers, but it needs the Government to believe in it and to invest in it. That means partnership with council, Macquarie University and the corporate stakeholders on new and expanded job opportunities. It means driving active and public transport investment to ensure more people can get to and from the business park from within the local area.

It also means focusing planning reforms on the development of an innovation State environmental planning policy that would incentivise new businesses in the science, research and technology sectors—such as testing labs, artificial intelligence, data centres and more—and not using the blunt instrument of the planning department to override one vision simply because it does not have one of its own. I am a passionate advocate for better planning and for leaning into the strengths of the Ryde community. Macquarie Park is that strength. I will fight every day to ensure that this Government plays to that strength to create more jobs and educational opportunities, not less, for those who want them locally in Ryde.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (13:45): In Mental Health Month we pay particular attention to and focus on mental health, which we need to do each and every day. Local GP and my constituent Dr Kesteven is active in a whole range of areas. This morning he sent an email to me and others—mainly service providers—attaching the 2021 World Health Organization guidance document entitled *Guidance on community mental health services*, linked in the latest newsletter from the Open Dialogue Centre. He entreated us to take a close look. Like a lot of United Nations types of documents or international documents, the report is 286 pages long, so I have not printed it out. I did print out the executive summary. I have had a quick look at it, and I will speak to that.

In his communication, Dr Kesteven asked us to think about a few things. He said, "This a callout for those who care about the quality of mental health services available in our country. We can and must do better." First of all, though, comes a word of warning that it should not be a one- or two-year project. We have to work at it in a systemic way, which would require strong political support at all levels and built-in review processes to ensure that any new services remain current and doing what they need to—that is, improving the lives of those who need our help and ensuring the staff are included on the journey as active participants.

Dr Kesteven also said it is worth noting that the World Health Organization guidance document does not cite case studies from Australia but highlights Kenya, Brazil and Burma as examples to look at, among others. I have had a cursory glance at a few of them. Dr Kesteven said that the first thing to say is that at present the access for those who desire, need or request mental health support in Australia is wanting in many respects. He said that often there is "a waiting game for help and what is delivered is a biomedical model of support". He talked more about the biomedical model, saying that it is useful for some people but we need to provide more than that.

Dr Kesteven said that the present national approach to mental health is constrained by two significant factors. The first is the plethora of organisations that interact with those needing mental health support. At a recent meeting that Dr Kesteven attended, he noted that over 67 separate groups or institutions either directly deal with mental health or are a significant player in the space. He challenged any of us to name more than 10 and say what they do. I had a challenge to name even 10. Many of us know Beyond Blue and Lifeline, but I think people would struggle to name many more across Australia or even locally. Imagine how hard it makes the lives of those who need support when we do not know what all those groups do. It is harder still when that is combined with the dominance of the biomedical model of diagnosis, drug, and then discharge that Dr Kesteven said he was taught at university and has been the standard approach for those with mental health needs.

I have previously spoken in this place about some of our attitudes to mental health. We see it very much as an individual problem, whereas it is a public health issue and needs to be placed within the public health framework. We know that by 2030 it will be the biggest health issue globally and yet we are not so focused on it. It is left to the individual to manage. It can be very difficult for someone to get the help that is needed. Dr Kesteven says that mental health services must be patient-person centred and although it sounds simple, in the biomedical model it will not happen unless the structure changes. Further, he says services are recovery centred. But often they are not; they are about "maintaining". He talks more about that. But they are the two things that we need at the centre of mental health support for those in our community who need it.

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:50): I acknowledge and celebrate the incredible achievements of local businesses recognised at the recent Central Coast Regional Business Awards, held in beautiful Terrigal. The awards highlight the essential role that businesses play in fostering economic growth, generating jobs and creating a thriving, vibrant community on the Central Coast. Our local businesses are the backbone of our region, and it is important that we take moments like this to honour their contributions, resilience and dedication. I congratulate Wyong-based tech logistics business, 4id Solutions, which was crowned Business of the Year for 2024. This remarkable company not only has demonstrated strong leadership within the local market but also has positioned itself as an international leader, contributing significantly to both the local economy and the global business landscape. Its innovative approaches and forward-thinking vision demonstrate what is possible when businesses commit to pushing boundaries. Each and every business recognised on the night has contributed in its own unique way to the fabric of our community.

I acknowledge and congratulate all of the winners of this year's Central Coast Regional Business Awards: Employer of Choice (21+ Employees), Pacific Link Housing; Employer of Choice (Under 20 Employees), Seton Family Lawyers; Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, Allcare Nursing & Community Services; Excellence in Innovation, Signarama Tuggerah; Excellence in International Business, 4id Solutions; Excellence in Large Business, Central Coast Mariners Football Club; Excellence in Micro Business, Key2 Realty, which is also part of Pacific Link Housing; Excellence in Small Business (Hall of Fame), LEP Digital; Excellence in Sustainability, Signarama Tuggerah; Outstanding Business Leader (20 Employees and Under), Suzy Miller, Suzy Miller Leadership Development Specialists; Outstanding Business Leader (21+ Employees), Paul Chapman, Central Coast Sports College; Outstanding Community Organisation, Allcare Nursing & Community Services; Outstanding Employee (Hall of Fame), Melinda McCrone, LEP Digital; Outstanding Local Chamber, Coastal Towns Business Chamber; Outstanding New Business, Renew Projects; Outstanding Visitor Experience, Australian Reptile Park; Outstanding Young Business Leader, Robert O'Donoghue, from CCTS.

Each of those winners exemplifies the spirit of resilience, creativity and leadership that drives the Central Coast forward. From supporting diversity and inclusion, to fostering sustainable practices, to creating innovative business models that break new ground, all of these business have made our region proud. They are not just businesses but community leaders setting an example for others to follow. The leadership of outstanding business owners and employees, such as Suzy Miller and Paul Chapman, has played a crucial role in nurturing talent, fostering growth and inspiring others. The tireless dedication of those businesses in the Outstanding Community Organisation category, such as Allcare Nursing & Community Services, to bettering the lives of others speaks volumes about the character of our region. As we look to the future, it is clear that the Central Coast is in very good hands with businesses like these leading the charge. Whether it is local companies innovating in new

industries or those ensuring sustainability for the future, we can all take pride in being part of such a dynamic, vibrant community.

A special mention also goes to the Central Coast Mariners Football Club for their win in the Excellence in Large Business category, and the Australian Reptile Park for delivering an exceptional visitor experience. These organisations have become pillars of our community, enriching both the local culture and economy in ways that go far beyond their direct business impacts. I extend my warmest congratulations to all the nominees as well as the winners. It was wonderful to see their efforts and hard work recognised. Every single one of them has contributed significantly to the success of the region. Their continued efforts will ensure that the Central Coast remains a beacon of progress, innovation and resilience.

As the winners prepare to represent our region at the 2024 State Business Awards gala on 30 October, I wish them all the best of luck. They have already achieved so much, and I am confident that they will continue to inspire and lead the way on a broader stage. The Central Coast of course will be cheering them on. Lastly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Central Coast community for its unwavering support of local businesses. It is because of the community's belief in these businesses, its patronage, and its commitment to the region that we can continue to grow and thrive together. Once again, congratulations to all of the winners. I thank them for the incredible contributions they make, every single day, to the Central Coast. I look forward to witnessing the continued success of these businesses in the years to come. I acknowledge that small business is the backbone of the Central Coast community. I also acknowledge Business NSW for hosting this outstanding event in Terrigal.

ST CHARBEL'S MONASTERY

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (13:55): I acknowledge and congratulate St Charbel's Monastery for holding its blessed A Saint in the Neighbourhood Light Show event, which was part of its Jubilee Celebration. The lightshow transformed the monastery's grounds into a breathtaking display of art, faith and community spirit. It illuminated the life and legacy of St Charbel, who is one of the most powerful and beloved saints in the world. St Charbel is known for his miracles and deep devotion. St Charbel's sanctuary in Punchbowl serves as a spiritual beacon for the thriving Maronite Catholic community. I was honoured to attend the mass presided over by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Eparch of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. The theme of the celebration is "Honouring the past, celebrating the present, inspiring the future", a beautiful reminder that we should always remember the work and dedication of those who came before us and inspire future generations to continue this important work.

St Charbel Makhlof was a Maronite Catholic priest, monk and hermit, who is remembered for working miracles both during his life and after his death. St Charbel dedicated his life to being a servant of God and, through his example and his intercession, is enriching Christians around the world. St Charbel's tomb has been a site for pilgrimages since his death. I congratulate His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Reverend Father Assaad Lahhoud, Superior of St Charbel's parish, and the congregation of monks on reaching the Jubilee Celebration of St Charbel's Monastery. I acknowledge the many thousands of Maronite Catholics I represent in my community. I thank them for the contribution they make to our local community and to those in need. I acknowledge the many charitable works that our Maronite Catholic community performs, particularly the Maronites on Mission, who provide great support, care and compassion to many people. I also acknowledge the deep devotion of members of that community and thank them for advancing New South Wales and Australia.

NORTHERN BEACHES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (13:58): I acknowledge and reflect on the need for youth mental health services on the northern beaches. Over recent years, this has been a topic of considerable concern locally. It has been raised with me by many distressed parents of struggling kids and adolescents. Some parents have been at their wits' end in the middle of a crisis. Some have suffered the unimaginable loss of a child to suicide, and some are on the other side of a crisis, reflecting on how services could have been better. These are deeply personal stories.

Any parent knows the feeling of everything else fading to insignificance when the wellbeing of their child is at stake. When a young person is in severe and prolonged distress, the anguish experienced by them and those who love them is obviously profound, whether it is a mental health emergency such as a suicide attempt, or a chronic mental health condition such as depression, anxiety or eating disorders. The intangible nature of those conditions can make the problems even more confounding. Unfortunately, they can also be surrounded by social stigma. I thank all who have shared their experiences and stories with my office.

Those individual stories point to a structural problem that we desperately need to better understand and address. Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in October last year found that, in the previous

12 months, more than one-third of young Australians had experienced a mental health disorder and that mental health problems among young people have increased by almost 50 per cent in the past 15 years. The Premier is right to highlight the relationship between the increase in social media use in young people and that concerning trend. Prevention is always better than cure. I am encouraged by the consensus and policy options that are emerging to better regulate access to social media for kids.

In relation to youth mental health on the Northern Beaches, in June 2022 the former Government announced \$11.4 million for enhanced services following some tragic and high-profile incidents. The funding was allocated to provide additional acute paediatric specialist mental health beds at Northern Beaches Hospital and more community-based services. Soon after I was elected, I began asking questions about the status of that funding, including in this Chamber. I quickly learnt that funding for the beds had not been spent and that the private Northern Beaches Hospital had not taken any steps to deliver them. Unfortunately, that was a case of policy by press release by the former Government. The initial proposal was not based on robust feasibility studies, and the cost of creating additional dedicated beds exceeded the allocated funding.

I thank Minister Jackson and her staff for working with me, my office and local Federal MPs on the issue and on how to use the remaining funds to best effect. A round table was held in May this year, and in September a stakeholder meeting was held at Northern Beaches Hospital. I support their evidence-based approach to investing more funding into community-based mental health youth services, including establishing the Brookvale Safe Haven, which is now open. Comparatively, the Northern Beaches is well resourced. We are very grateful for that. However, I still have serious concerns about the situation for youth mental health patients at Northern Beaches Hospital. I want to see a decision made about the remaining \$4.5 million capital expenditure as soon as possible, because it has been over two years since the initial announcement and we need to get that money out the door.

I support using the funds to create an integrated, co-located hub for the State and for not-for-profit youth mental health service providers in Brookvale so there is a one-stop shop for young people seeking help. We must keep working to improve services for youth mental health patients at Northern Beaches Hospital. We must investigate potential solutions to separate vulnerable young people from adults with mental health conditions in the mental health short stay unit. We must also make sure that all young people who are admitted have a dedicated nurse-special with them at all times. Those who present but are not admitted must have clear guidance and be supported to connect with services outside the hospital. We need improved communication about the full suite of enhanced community-based youth mental health services on the Northern Beaches, including a visual map.

We need ongoing monitoring, evaluation and communication about how community and hospital-based services are meeting the youth mental health needs of the community. We also need a dedicated stakeholder briefing in 12 months. Many State and Federal service providers and not-for-profits at the round table did not know of each other, including those from our region. They said, "You do what? You do the same thing? My goodness, we need to talk." That was in front of me, Minister Jackson and other Federal MPs. It was also said in front of victims whose stories were just horrific, to say the least. To them, I say thank you. We must keep going and find a solution because it may affect everyone in our State, across all regions. We all wish that every young person is filled with a joyful sense of possibility and a zest for life. To see young people robbed of that, whether it is partly or wholly due to factors outside their control, is a tragedy in every single circumstance. We must do more. I will stay on the case.

ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH SMITHFIELD

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (14:03): Today we celebrate a remarkable milestone for the faith community in Prospect. For 75 years St Gertrude's Parish has offered a safe and welcoming place of worship for our community in Smithfield and across Western Sydney. The encompassing role of the parish is supported by the Pauline Fathers, who have been a pillar of faith for parishioners at St Gertrude's and St Therese's Church in Fairfield West for over 20 years. As true disciples, leaders, teachers and friends, they stand as an example of what it means to actively embody the gospel values. St Gertrude's has been a pillar in our community for three-quarters of a century, and it is much more than just a parish.

St Gertrude's has offered a place of worship, refuge, hope, faith and service to our community for generations. Before 1875, when Archbishop Polding purchased land to develop a church, school and presbytery, the growing Catholic community of Smithfield and Western Sydney had to travel to Parramatta, Blacktown or Baulkham Hills to attend mass and engage with the faith community. A temporary church was built, with the first mass taking place on Christmas Day 1875. Father Dean Rigney established the church in 1895 and dedicated it to St Gertrude, who was a true example of faith, humility, passion and devotion to our Lord and the Sacred Heart. To this day the parish carries forward her legacy of mission, care and worship. By the 1950s, the Catholic community in Smithfield had grown to over 1,500 people. That encouraged the opening of St Gertrude's school in 1952, which then had 80 children enrolled. The school continues to offer a welcoming, inclusive and authentic Catholic education to students in Smithfield.

The Pauline Fathers' history, origins and journey towards supporting the local Prospect electorate community are also notable. The Order of St Paul the First Hermit was founded in Hungary in 1250, no less than 774 years ago. Since 1382 the Pauline Fathers have been custodians of the original icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora in Poland, also known as the Black Madonna. The essence of the Pauline Fathers is the contemplation of God in solitude, the love of liturgical prayer, the leading of a poor and industrious life, the spreading of devotion to Our Lady, and the imitation of her virtues and apostolic activity.

The order is named after St Paul of Thebes, an Egyptian saint regarded as the first Christian hermit, who was canonised in 491 AD. The Australian province of the order has its origins with Father Augustine Lazur, who arrived in Australia in 1981. Since 2004 the parish has been under the guidance of the Pauline Fathers, and it is right to take this moment to acknowledge their contribution to the local Prospect community. Father Albert, who I met again last night upon his return to the parish after some time away, was the first parish priest and served a five-year term, together with assistant priests Father Marek and Father Damian. Father Michael then followed as parish priest, with assistant priests Father Oskar and Father Mark. Father Jarek became parish priest in 2015, with assistant priests Father Richard, Father Peter James and Father Wojciech. In 2023 Father Peter James became parish priest, and he still is today.

I congratulate the Pauline Fathers and St Gertrude's parish. I thank them for their years of dedication and service in Smithfield and their enduring commitment to strive for the good of all people. I thank everyone who has contributed to the life of the parish in the past and present, and those who will in the future. I particularly thank parish priest Father Peter James and assistant parish priest Father Casimir for their guidance and leadership. May the Holy Mother bless the most holy work of the Pauline Fathers and the next 75 years of faith, fellowship and growth at St Gertrude's parish.

TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE RETAIL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (14:08): An issue that increasingly affects communities across New South Wales, including my own community on the North Shore, is the proliferation of illegal vaping and unregulated tobacco stores. It is not only a matter of public health but also a challenge to law and order, consumer protection and the wellbeing of our local community. Illegal vaping products, often sold in tobacco stores, are flooding the market and attracting young people and adults alike into a web of nicotine addiction, deceptive advertising and unregulated products.

Over the past few years we have witnessed a worrying trend of unlicensed stores, convenience outlets and even online platforms selling illegal vaping devices and unregulated tobacco products with little or no accountability. That is having a detrimental impact on our local communities and undermines the efforts that have been made to combat smoking and to promote public health over the past few years. I recognise that the Government has made some efforts to address the issue, particularly this week with the Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment Bill 2024. But as I said during my contribution to the debate on that bill, I want to ensure that this Government and this Parliament do a lot more.

One of the key issues that needs to be addressed is the explosion of tobacco stores that have appeared in our local communities. As I have mentioned previously in this place, and to my colleagues ad nauseam, within 300 metres of my electorate office—which is just across the road from a public school—there are five tobacco stores. The signage is bright and loud, and most, if not all, are poorly fitted out inside. They boast a limited range of products to purchase. The inference is that they are not legitimate convenience stores for the community but, in fact, could be considered a front for illegal vapes and tobacco products.

Data from NSW Health indicates that approximately 19,500 tobacco stores are registered across New South Wales, which is an increase of 14,500 compared with just four years ago. That is an absolutely staggering amount. Illegal tobacco and vaping products can be purchased for as little as \$13, compared to a regulated commercial product with a minimum value of \$40. People I know who smoke say that is more likely to be around \$60. Moreover, the proliferation of illegal vape products is often linked to other criminal activities. As we have seen in other States, in particular Victoria and, increasingly in recent weeks, South Australia, many tobacco stores are involved in the sale of counterfeit goods and even in organised crime. There have even been firebombings in our own communities.

The lack of regulation of those stores makes them a magnet for illicit activity. As we have seen in Victoria, more than 100 tobacco stores have been subject to arson attacks as a direct result of gang activity and organised crime. Considering that there are 19,500 tobacco stores across New South Wales, how many of those are a target for firebombing attacks like in Victoria? The presence of those stores, unregulated vape sales and illegal tobacco has a broader social impact on our communities. As vaping becomes more prevalent, particularly among young people, we are seeing a rise in nicotine addiction. Nicotine addiction can lead to a range of social and

economic problems, including decreased productivity, mental health issues and increased burden on our health system. It is also an incredible economic drain on the individuals themselves.

The use of vapes by younger generations is of particular concern. I have talked about the number of tobacconists near my office, which is across the road from a public school and down the road from the major bus interchange where students from across the North Shore electorate change buses. That means that most, if not all, of those students walk past those stores on a regular basis and are exposed to vaping products in some form. I would go so far as to say that many such stores across New South Wales are placed to target young people, particularly students. Data from NSW Health indicates that in 2023 19 per cent of people aged 16 years and over had used a vape or e-cigarette at least once and 8.5 per cent currently use vapes and e-cigarettes, whether daily or occasionally. That is a significant increase from 2020, when 9.7 per cent of people aged 16 years and over had ever used a vape or e-cigarette and only 2.1 per cent of people aged 16 years and over were currently using vapes or e-cigarettes.

While daily smoking has decreased among adults, with fewer than one in 10 adults smoking daily in 2023, there are concerns from health experts, including the Australian Medical Association, that the increased use of vaping or e-cigarettes will lead to an increase in cigarette use. We need to look at ways to address the issue. We have increased penalties for the unauthorised supply and possession of vapes. That is an important step, but we need to ensure that we are looking at further changes. I am keen to work with local councils on requiring development applications for tobacconists in the same way that we do for other prescribed premises. There is much more to do, and one of the key things we can do is ensure that there are tougher regulations on tobacconist stores where they can be readily accessed.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (14:13): I reinforce the message of the member for North Shore in expressing concern around the proliferation of stores that sell vapes and vaping equipment, especially around primary schools. A constituent of mine inquired about the opening of a store that sells vapes across the road from Green Valley Public School. I acknowledge the response of the member. It is interesting that there is a degree of outrage about having sex stores and the like close to primary schools, yet there is not the same level of outrage about the easy access to and the sight of vapes so close to primary schools. In my previous career in mental health, and before the new laws came into effect, I remember being shocked at the number of 12- and 13-year-olds who were standing on the sidelines at sporting games and vaping very openly. It causes concern for the health and wellbeing of those young people. I acknowledge that we must work together to minimise the health impacts on young people.

MENOPAUSE SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (14:14): Today is World Menopause Day. If I was not in Parliament today, I would be attending the launch of the Southern NSW Local Health District menopause referral service at Mogo women's group. I congratulate the Southern NSW Local Health District and the Minns Government on this initiative in the Bega electorate. The New South Wales Menopause Services Initiative is supported with \$37.35 million in funding over four years from 2023-24. The referral service will provide an outpatient service led by a care coordinator and women's health nurses to support local women with severe and/or complex symptoms of menopause. They will coordinate access to care via the specialist menopause hub in South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, including supporting virtual care and connection to local services.

Through effective communication and evidence-based education about menopause, women can be empowered to make informed, personalised choices aligned with their individual goals. The natural biological process marking the end of menstruation and reproductive capacity in women can have wideranging social, economic and clinical consequences. The impacts can vary based on factors like socio-economic status, healthcare access and cultural attitudes toward ageing. We know that about one in five women experiences severe or prolonged symptoms associated with menopause but not enough are able to access targeted health support. Socially, women can experience stigma and marginalisation, workplace impacts and changes in family dynamics.

The economic consequences include healthcare costs, and loss of employment and income, with personal and societal economic impacts. The clinical consequences, about which I could speak at length, affect physical health, with vasomotor symptoms, reduced bone density leading to bone fractures, lower genital and urinary tract complications and sexual problems. As a consequence, the rates of depression and anxiety increase. Particularly in regional and rural areas, women lack access to treatment. Those social, economic and clinical consequences of menopause are interconnected and multifaceted. Addressing those challenges requires a more supportive societal framework, including better workplace accommodations, improved healthcare access and greater awareness of the impact of menopause on women's lives.

After many years of neglect, we have finally seen long-overdue unprecedented attention given to menopause in the popular media, empowering women to seek care for menopause symptoms. Yet the media and

even academic literature present polarised views on its management. Those contrasting views often leave women feeling confused or disempowered rather than supported through their menopausal transition and susceptible to unproven marketed products. Very few therapeutic medical interventions have generated as much controversy, and few have waxed and waned in popularity, as much as menopausal hormonal therapy. Opinions about menopausal hormonal therapy appear to be driven as much by the sociocultural climate as they are by the emerging evidence from clinical trials. Women in New South Wales deserve the most accurate and individualised advice on perimenopause and menopause.

The statewide network of specialist menopause services complements a range of other investments to enhance women's health services, including a \$34.3 million, four-year funding enhancement for 20 women's health centres across New South Wales and \$18.6 million to fund 29 new and eight existing McGrath breast care nurses across the State. In addition, thousands of women across New South Wales will have easier and more affordable access to the oral contraceptive pill as a 12-month trial is made permanent by the Minns Labor Government. The New South Wales Government will make the existing scheme more accessible by expanding patient age eligibility criteria from 18 to 35 years to 18 to 49 years. Women aged between 40 and 49 will now be able to access extended supply for up to three months without having to visit their doctor for a prescription, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. That is particularly important for perimenopausal women.

The NSW Pharmacy Trial saw more than 3,300 pharmacists provide more than 18,000 consultations for women aged 18 to 65 with symptoms of uncomplicated urinary tract infection. The service transitioned to usual pharmacy care from 1 June. Along with specialist menopause services, NSW Health provides services and programs targeted to the health needs of women, including reproductive and sexual health and screening for breast and cervical cancer.

NORTHERN TABLELANDS BIOSECURITY

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands) (14:19): I address two serious biosecurity issues in my electorate of Northern Tablelands. Firstly, the tomato rugose virus, which originated in the Middle East and arrived in Australia in August 2024, poses a real threat to the tomato industry in my electorate. The virus can infect 100 per cent of a crop and cause year losses of anywhere up to 70 per cent. It does not pose any health issues but it does make the tomatoes look brown. Accordingly, Coles and Woolworths do not want to buy them. It is a threat to the vegetable industry, which is worth around \$5.8 billion. It is also a threat to Australia's nursery industry, which is worth around \$3 billion.

To the Minns Labor Government's credit, a control order was put in place almost immediately, in August, and I thank the Government for taking that step. My electorate contains a very large tomato manufacturer and growing facility in Guyra. It comprises 40 hectares, north of Guyra, and is owned by the Costa Group. That facility employs around 800 people, predominantly from Guyra but also from Armidale. If the tomato rugose virus gets into New South Wales, there will be serious job losses from Costa, which will result in a significant downturn in the local economy of both Armidale and Guyra. With 800 people working there, it is a real threat and of great concern to the people of my electorate. It is a difficult virus to contain. Again, credit goes to the State Government for the immediate control order that was put in place. I thank the member for Liverpool, who is at the table, for the Government's control order. I urge the Government to keep that order in place to protect our State's nursery and vegetable industries.

The second biosecurity threat to my electorate of Northern Tablelands is tropical soda apple. That sounds like a drink we would order on a nice Saturday afternoon in the sun, but it is a very nasty plant. It somehow came to Australia from South America, where it has decimated both farmland and native vegetation across Argentina. The plant can replace one hectare of native pasture within six months. It is currently in the Macleay Valley, and the member for Oxley and I had a series of community meetings at the boundary of our electorates last week, to meet with landholders and community members so we can get a better idea of the threat. Unfortunately, it would appear that this weed has come out of the riparian areas, where it is very prevalent. It is changing the vegetation along our riparian areas and is now coming out of Crown land onto private land.

During those meetings, all of the landholders told the member for Oxley and me that they are losing the battle. Unfortunately, it appears we must accept that we have lost the war in terms of tropical soda apple control. We need to switch from an attempt at eradication to a control order because, at this stage, the New England Weeds Authority and councils in my electorate and the Oxley electorate do not have the ability or funding to control the weed. We are at the point where those councils and weeds authorities are fining individual landholders, which is very unfair, given that it is coming out of Crown land onto their properties. They are doing their best. One landholder told me that she spends 12 days every month purely trying to control the weed. We have lost control of it; we need to accept that.

The weed needs to be placed on the Weeds of National Significance list so that we can get some Federal funding for the impacted communities. We need to try to control them because we cannot eradicate them. Again, hearing a speech about weeds is probably very boring to my Sydney colleagues. But it is important to talk about weeds, particularly the tropical soda apple, which is decimating native vegetation along our waterways. Again, I thank the State Government for the control order for the tomato brown rugose fruit virus. I look forward to working with the Government to control the tropical soda apple.

PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (14:24): Granville boasts two railway lines. The western line and south line provide passenger transport from the Sydney CBD to Penrith, Parramatta, Richmond, Liverpool and beyond. In 2013 the former Liberal-Nationals Government carried out one of the biggest rewrites of public transport timetables in New South Wales history that included buses, trains and ferries. As a result, Granville train station, which services part of the Parramatta electorate, was downgraded, with 100 services cut per week. A new timetable released in 2017 further downgraded Granville station, resulting in trains on the T1 North Shore and Western line no longer stopping at Granville from 6.00 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays. The Sydney Trains review initiated by the Minns Labor Government found that since the 2017 timetable was introduced, the resilience of the train network has significantly deteriorated. Passengers have not been able to travel further west than Parramatta without needing to change at Parramatta for trains to Westmead and beyond. Travel times have increased significantly, and the flow-on effect has been immense.

When in opposition the member for Granville consistently advocated for improved services at Granville station. With the redrawing of the electoral boundaries, both the member for Granville and I now represent the suburb of Granville and the residents of neighbouring suburbs who also rely on Granville station as their key form of public transport. We know firsthand how, as a direct result of the reduced train services ordered by the former Government, the shops at Granville station and the livelihoods of the families that depend on them have been neglected. We know how the timetable changes have impacted the low-income and marginalised communities in our electorates. They represent a significantly higher percentage of those with low private car ownership so they rely on public transport, which makes it more difficult for them to access employment and essential services such as hospitals and schools.

At the same time the train services were cut, the former Liberal-Nationals Government identified Granville land to be part of the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy. However, that same Government neglected to support this renewal with the necessary infrastructure. It opted to put the cart before the horse. As the population in this part of the Parramatta electorate has tripled, the public transport infrastructure to support it has gone backwards. The member for Granville and I know that improved services as part of a supportive infrastructure network is needed in this area. The Minns Labor Government is working towards solutions for those who rely on Granville station for their daily commute and for them to go about their everyday business. Unlike Opposition members, we on this side of the Chamber know that to progress we must put the horse before the cart, not the other way around. We are doing this by making record investments in public transport infrastructure that will upgrade and support the entire public transport network.

Parramatta Light Rail stage two is a \$2.5 billion investment that will connect local communities from Parramatta to the Sydney Olympic peninsula, bringing the vision of a "30-minute city" closer to reality. The line will have 14 stops over a new 10-kilometre two-way track with connections to Sydney Ferries, Parramatta Light Rail stage one and Sydney Metro West, as well as shared pedestrian zones and three new bridges. Travel times will be around 31 minutes from Carter Street via Sydney Olympic Park to Camellia, and a further seven minutes to the Parramatta CBD. The contract for the construction of the new light rail bridge from Melrose Park to Wentworth Point has been signed, with construction set to start by the end of the year.

What the previous Government did to the people of Wentworth Point was a disgrace. Members opposite signed off on thousands upon thousands of apartments to make it the highest density suburb in Australia. But they failed to provide road upgrades and public transport. They failed to even deliver a public park. In 18 months our Government has changed all of that with \$50 million to upgrade Hill Road, \$8 million for new pedestrian and cycleway connections and a roundabout on Bennelong Parkway, and \$2.5 billion to build the Parramatta Light Rail. Diggers are on the ground and construction has started at the peninsula park. We are building a better New South Wales. People living in every suburb in Parramatta should have access to reliable and efficient public transport, public schools, public hospitals, good roads, public parks and open spaces. That includes the growing populations of Wentworth Point and Granville, and I will stand with my communities to represent their needs and work for continual improvement, ensuring Parramatta is a great place to live.

COST OF LIVING

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (14:29): Along with many members of this place, I am in despair at the cost of living and the impact it is having on our communities. I fear that low-income families and those living below the poverty line are going to be doing it even tougher in the very near future. The New South Wales Government has numerous rebates, voucher schemes and cards on offer to help ease the financial burden, but those measures are nowhere near enough to make a real difference to many households. The NSW Council of Social Service released a report this September entitled *Impossible Choices: Decisions NSW communities shouldn't have to make*. The report looks at the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on low-income households. The CEO's message simply states:

The relentless surge in living expenses has pushed countless people in New South Wales to the brink. From soaring interest rates to increased rents and the escalating costs of essentials, the financial strain is becoming unbearable for many.

The report's regional snapshot of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie over the past 12 months paints a grim picture for low-income households in the area. The following are just some of the statistics. Eighty-one per cent of low-income households are under housing stress, spending more than 30 per cent of their income on housing. That is an extraordinarily high number, and it is higher than the New South Wales average of 68 per cent. In fact, it is the highest level of housing stress of any region in New South Wales over the past 12 months. Fifty-five per cent of low-income households experience food insecurity, meaning they went without meals because they were short of money; 53 per cent of low-income households could not afford their prescription medication or health care; 60 per cent of low-income households could not afford the cost of essential travel, for example, going to work or getting an education—again, that is higher than the New South Wales average of 44 per cent; and 60 per cent of low-income households were late paying their utility bills at least once, compared to the New South Wales average of 50 per cent. Those figures are scary and show that low-income households are under incredible pressure.

As previous data has shown, single parents, First Nations people, carers and households with disability are the hardest hit in this cost-of-living crisis. Children are also feeling the impact. Their parents are unable to afford, among other things, nutritious meals, essential hygiene items such as nappies, extracurricular activities or educational resources. That is obviously having a negative impact on their wellbeing, including their physical and mental health, social inclusion and education. In Lake Macquarie we are lucky to have some amazing charities and not-for-profit organisations that provide literally lifesaving services to so many in need, but even our largest charities are feeling the pressure of the rising cost of living. Southlake's Incorporated has helped over 1.5 million people over the past decade by providing various services, including emergency food relief, a food bank, Christmas hampers and a few items for kids aged up to 16. The founder, Christine Mastello, has said they are having to scale back some essential services, such as the number of bags of food they are able to give away, due to the increased cost of grocery items. Southlake's Incorporated also has had to say no to some public schools that have requested food for their school breakfast programs.

Another great local charity, Survivor's R Us, has recorded a 400 per cent increase in the number of people asking for help this year. Founder and CEO, Maria Martin, says last year Survivor's R Us helped a total of 17,000 people. This year it has already helped 23,000 people, and the year is not over yet. The following is a snapshot of what Survivor's R Us is dealing with. It is seeing around 100 people each month who are in utter crisis. Over just two days, 25 people experiencing homelessness and domestic violence came to the charity for help. Volunteers did what they could for them but, with a shortage of crisis accommodation, they had to be told to continue to sleep in their cars—that is, if they had cars. Those who were not fortunate enough to have cars were faced with rough sleeping or other insecure accommodation options. As part of the greater demand for services, Survivor's R Us is also seeing an increase in people seeking help who have severe mental health conditions. They see people recently released from hospital with no medication, no help and nowhere to go. Remember, there is currently a shortage of crisis accommodation.

Volunteers have also experienced recent threats to their safety, highlighting the stress of those working at the coalface of the cost-of-living crisis. I do not know where to go from here. Frontline services report being unable to keep up with the demand for help and having to scale back food provision services. It is just terrible. As I have previously stated, while there is no easy solution for this huge problem, the New South Wales Government is better placed to help more people than the charities themselves, and it must do more to help those organisations that give so much to so many. Lives are quite literally depending on it.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:34): On behalf of the people of Newtown who have contacted me consistently over many years, I speak about the ongoing injustices occurring in Palestine and the escalating situation in Lebanon. We had a meeting this week with Chris Sidoti, a member of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel. I put on

record significant United Nations and human rights findings in relation to that, which will have particular relevance to members in this place. The good people in the electorate of Newtown have long raised concerns with us that international human rights law is not protected in our own State. Indeed, respect for human rights, humanitarian laws and international conventions plays out in the way our governments respond to global crises.

I highlight that the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel has a large mandate. One task is to make recommendations on measures to be taken by third States to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. In accordance with Common Article 1 to the Geneva Conventions, and in fulfilment of their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the fourth Geneva Convention, parties must ensure that they do not aid or assist in the commission of internationally wrong acts. I think we will need to come back to "aid or assist" as we see the ongoing violation of human rights occurring inside occupied the Palestinian territory and, indeed, East Jerusalem.

Community outrage has been strong on the streets and in public forums. Just this week the foreign Minister was walked off the stage a total of 10 times while addressing a University of Tasmania humanitarian launch event. Pro-Palestinian activists continued to shout and ask the foreign Minister to listen. In that context, while I know the foreign Minister might not appreciate being heckled, a lot of people have tried to make contact with their local Federal representative and been unable to do so. That includes people in my electorate of Newtown. Half the electorate is represented by the Prime Minister in the Federal electorate of Grayndler. People have been blocked from communicating with Federal members, including calling them. In some cases, the police have been called to stop people from going to their local Federal member's office.

If we believe social cohesion is critical, we must realise that if we do not want to see conflict come to this country, we need to stand against it and not be complicit in it. We know full well that there are ongoing concerns about the Albanese Government approving military export permits to Israel in the past year and beyond, as exposed by my Federal Greens colleagues, and also about the role played by the NSW Police Force. This Government is using the NSW Police Force to over police peaceful protests on our streets. I march, as I have on a number weekends in the past year, with community members who are impacted by the ongoing escalation of the crisis and disaster unfolding in Lebanon and in protest at the genocide in Gaza.

Traumatised families and individuals are marching on the streets of Sydney. It would help the Lebanese, Palestinian and all other Middle Eastern communities in New South Wales if the Government resourced frontline health support workers, community outreach workers and other State Government agencies instead of using public money to resource 20 or 30 police officers to block off CBD roads each weekend and over police the protests. I highlight that both the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as well as UNICEF are warning of the ongoing devastation in Lebanon and saying we need to do much more to stand against the continuing genocide and for justice for the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

NORTHBRIDGE BATHS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (14:39): I speak about the 100th anniversary of the Northbridge Baths. I had intended to have the following speech read at the Northbridge Baths centenary celebrations this past Saturday, and I have promised to read it into *Hansard*. It is a great honour to congratulate the Northbridge Baths on the celebration of the centenary of this local icon. Since opening in 1924, the famous Northbridge Baths have been a much-loved local institution, attracting visitors from all over Sydney to swim in the saltwater ocean pool.

I am very proud of my own family connection to Northbridge Baths. My great-grandfather Harry James of Tunks Street was a keen swimmer and a founding member of the Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club. Eager to help build a new swimming facility, he donated his plumbing skills to the construction of the 1924 bathhouse building, working with other skilled local tradesmen to bring that project to completion. Harry was the coach of the club's men's swimming team that won the 1930-31 EL Sanders Cup, as recorded in my family history. On the day I commenced work in the Northbridge electorate office, my parents presented me with my grandfather Jack's trophy for winning the Sunday Points Score in the 1931-32 season at Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club. They said, "This cup is coming home to Northbridge." It now sits above my desk, and I am so proud of that personal connection.

In its 100-year history, the Northbridge Baths has proved to be a popular pool of choice for local swimming squads, recreational swimmers and family days out. Surrounded by lush bushland and calm waters, the baths is one of the most beautiful spots on Sydney's North Shore. I look forward to the baths continuing over the next 25, 50 and 100 years to be an important part of our lives and the lives of future generations. I warmly congratulate Northbridge Baths on reaching the great milestone of one century, and I thank all those who have served the baths over time. This remarkable community facility will always have my support. The Northbridge Baths is more than just a swimming facility; it has been a place where families, friends and the community come together to enjoy

the beauty of the natural surroundings and the unique saltwater ocean pool. The baths has become a treasured institution within the Willoughby community, providing not just a recreational space but a place that holds cherished memories for many, myself included.

That was the speech that was to have been given at the event last weekend, but I will make a few further remarks while I have some time. My connection to the Northbridge Baths is deeply personal for me, from my great-grandfather Harry James to my grandfather Jack, to my wife and I taking our kids down for a swim on a hot summer day. I am incredibly proud of that family legacy. It is a reminder of the deep roots that many families like mine have in our community. I am also proud to highlight the role of the former Coalition Government, which contributed \$150,000 under the Places to Swim program to assist in the much-needed upgrades to the Northbridge Baths. Those funds allowed for improvements such as new street furniture, a new barbeque area, upgraded stairs to enhance accessibility and vital maintenance to the concourse. It is through such investments that we can ensure future generations enjoy what so many of us have cherished for years.

One of my favourite childhood memories is visiting the Northbridge Baths on a warm, sunny day and going to the kiosk for an ice cream. Sadly, there is no longer a functioning kiosk there. In my view, there ought to be one. The reintroduction of the kiosk or a cafe would be a great addition to the local community. While we reflect on the legacy of the baths, it is also important to look to the future. I have growing concerns about the end of free water-quality testing under the Minns Labor Government. It has ceased funding for the Beachwatch program, which is a matter that affects the safety of swimmers and the long-term sustainability of facilities like the baths. Increasing development in the area and the resulting water run-off means that we need to monitor water quality constantly and carefully. Additionally, I am proud to have helped facilitate the installation of an automated external defibrillator at the baths. This is a crucial safety measure that could one day save a life, but which also needs to be more readily accessible.

More still needs to be done, including getting the security cameras working. More broadly, we should look at opportunities down the track for other potential swimming spots in the Willoughby area and along the Middle Harbour foreshore. I thank the leaders and members of the Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club, Rotary Club of Northbridge, Northbridge Progress Association and Willoughby City Council for all their efforts to date and to come. As we celebrate 100 years of the Northbridge Baths, I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has been part of this remarkable journey. I remain committed to advocating for the Northbridge Baths to continue to be a beloved local institution for generations to come.

JAMBEROO ROAD SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (14:44): I love Jamberoo. Its natural beauty is only matched by the depth and warmth of its local people. However, I am deeply concerned that New South Wales Labor is neglecting the Jamberoo community, and I highlight two examples of where Labor has demonstrated that it does not care about Jamberoo locals. I will not stand by and let our community be ignored by this Sydney-centric Labor Government. The first issue I raise is the decision by Transport for NSW to drop the speed limit from 80 kilometres per hour to 60 kilometres per hour on Jamberoo Road from Jamberoo Mountain Road to Terry Street in Albion Park. I call on Transport for NSW to reverse this change. The consultation on this change was minimal and inadequate. If there had been genuine efforts to find out the views of locals, Transport for NSW would be in no doubt about how they feel.

I travel this road frequently, and I can attest that dropping the speed limit on the road has made it more dangerous. Clearly, the decision to cut the speed limit was made by someone who does not live in our community. Based on community outrage, I started a petition to convey the views of locals to the department and the Government. To date, I have received 1,625 signatures from people opposing this change. Rarely do I receive so many signatures on a petition in such a short time. For the benefit of the House, I will read the petition onto the record. It states:

We the undersigned call on Transport for NSW and the NSW Government to reverse the speed limit reduction on Jamberoo Road from Jamberoo Mountain Road at Jamberoo to Terry Street at Albion Park. We call for road works, maintenance, and design improvements, including a review of overtaking options, vegetation removal, and increased police presence, to address safety concerns, rather than a reduction in the speed limit. We note a reduction in speed limit will not deter visitors and frustrated drivers wanting to overtake slower vehicles and this reduction will potentially result in more speeding fines for locals who use this road daily.

Whilst no-one wants to see anyone injured on our roads, this speed change appears to have come about through a lackadaisical approach to road safety. Rather than invest funds in improving the road, the Government has opted for the lazy option of taking a punitive approach to the overwhelming majority of local motorists who are competent and drive safely. Like many locals, I am concerned that this speed zone change will be used as a government revenue raiser rather than a genuine attempt to keep road users safe.

As a lawyer by profession, I respect evidence, but this has been sadly lacking. The Government has offered no explanation as to why this change was necessary. I do not know who requested the change and, although crash data is available, it is impossible to work out how many crashes could be attributed to speed. I have been inundated with emails from locals, and I will share some of their comments. Wayne said:

This change defies logic as its not in a built-up area and the road condition is very acceptable. I don't believe that accident statistics would be able to justify such a change either as I can hardly remember an accident there since the North Kiama bypass was opened. The only reason I could think of is revenue raising as it's a popular haunt for the mobile speed camera and with a speed reduction it may prove even more fruitful for them.

John said:

I have been driving from Jamberoo to Kiama and Albion Park since 1959. The roads are basically in the same place as they were then, with the same bends, similar vegetation but now with a better road surface.

...

No one asked me and quite a few local residents said they hadn't been contacted either. With the majority of the road prohibiting overtaking, and with traffic travelling at an even slower speed, drivers are going to take risks to overtake a slower vehicle. Reducing the speed limit to 60 kph both sides of Jamberoo for 10 km is not going to make the road safer. It is a typical "band aid" solution.

Tony said:

Whilst I have no objection to some reductions in speed limits (when absolutely necessary) I fail to understand why 60km/h or 80km/h seem to be the only options. Could you please seek advice from the minister as to why there is no option to adopt an intermediate speed, of say 70km/h, in situations such as those above?

In the short time I have left, I also raise the need for Jamberoo Mountain Road to be made a State road. It was a State Road until the Carr Labor Government dropped it on Kiama Council without a cent of compensation. I note that NSW Labor raised the issue at the last election but has done absolutely nothing since coming to government to honour that commitment to our community.

The road is of great significance. It links Kiama to the Tablelands and is a critical artery for workers, students and tourists. The road is too important and too complex to be the responsibility of a local council. I call on the Labor Government to honour its campaign pledge and return the road to the New South Wales road network. Jamberoo residents have been treated very badly by the Government, and that treatment cannot continue. Let me assure members that Jamberoo residents will certainly not forget the way that they have been treated by the Government. They are constantly reminded by the changes that have been made without consultation or adequate feedback from them. I will continue to raise the issue in this House and with the responsible Minister.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (14:49): I correct the record about a media release from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmer Party and the blatant lies it saw fit to distribute in order to garner a scrap of attention. I do not seek to repeat the statement. Instead, I point out the irony surrounding the party's actions. The media release, distributed on the letterhead of Ashfield resident representative of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Robert Borsak—undoubtedly at the behest of his parliamentary staffer, my constituent and a failed candidate for the Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Andy Wood—was a statement criticising my actions surrounding the Plasrefine and Tarago waste incinerator proposals. The statement rests not only on a complete fabrication but also a flawed premise and an oversimplification of the issues that each community faces, ultimately diminishing the important debate surrounding each facility.

While I believe that Mr Borsak's parliamentary position would be better suited to calling out the Labor Party for moving a motion to ban waste incinerators during its conference but failing to support the same rhetoric in government, his central criticism of me is indicative of his understanding of each issue, which is evidently minimal. I have opposed every proposal for waste incineration in the Goulburn electorate since Jerrara Power's in 2021. I have spoken against those proposals in this place on many occasions. I have asked numerous questions on notice, submitted notices of motions, written and met with Ministers and community members, and even challenged Matt Kean's decisions in the party room. *Hansard* records the single question on those projects in Mr Borsak's 14-year career, which was asked yesterday.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Borsak has equated two very different projects—a recycling plant and a garbage incinerator—as if they present identical risks and benefits for the communities in which they operate. That comparison ignores the nuanced differences between the two. Recycling facilities such as Plasrefine, while generally beneficial, can still raise legitimate concerns regarding logistics, traffic, pollution and community impacts, particularly when located near residential or agricultural areas as the Plasrefine proposal is. My opposition to Plasrefine stems from valid community concerns that are specific to the proposed site, 200 metres from residential homes. My offer to the proponent of the facility still stands—I will gladly help them locate an

appropriate site. I do not have a blanket opposition to waste management solutions, as Mr Borsak suggests. My blanket opposition is to waste incineration.

I stand by my opposition to waste incineration across the Goulburn electorate, and I suggest that Mr Borsak's statement oversimplifies the reality of the issues that residents are facing. Moreover, Mr Borsak's argument contrasting Moss Vale as affluent and Tarago as not affluent is an emotionally charged argument, and it is false. As a party claiming to represent farmers, Mr Borsak should know the substantial economic contribution that farmers make to the region, the State and the nation. I suggest to the office of Mr Borsak that the use of class-based rhetoric undermines the credibility of an argument, especially when it is wrong. I believe that not only does Borsak's most recent grasp for publicity undermine the issues through oversimplification, but his reliance on the flawed rhetoric that Moss Vale is wealthy and Tarago is not is also a plain fabrication in his pursuit of airtime and relevance.

While I certainly represent my constituents no matter their class, employment or location in the electorate, yesterday I investigated Mr Borsak's claims, and the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas [SEIFA] also prove his claims of bias false. Moss Vale's SEIFA score in 2021—the most recently published data—was 1,020.4, a percentile ranking of 54; Goulburn Mulwaree's rural south, in which Tarago will fall, was 1,022.8, a percentile ranking of 55. A more balanced and fact-based approach would consider the unique challenges of each project and the reasons that I am opposed to the location of Plasrefine but vehemently opposed to all waste incineration in the electorate of Goulburn. Perhaps it is time for Mr Borsak to seek a media officer and adviser who can assist him to be an effective member of this Parliament, instead of a failed local council representative who is clearly trying to maintain some relevance and has provided a media statement reliant on oversimplifications, flawed rhetoric and just plain fabrication.

GENDER EQUALITY

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:54): This week saw the passage of reforms to deliver significant changes that will move us closer to full equality for LGBTIQ+ people and sex workers in New South Wales, including that trans and gender diverse adults can change their sex on State documents without undergoing surgery. This is a significant reform, but the original version of the equality bill included many other reforms and the people of the Newtown electorate are concerned that the reforms that were passed do not end the discriminatory exceptions in the Anti-Discrimination Act for people who are bisexual, asexual, non-binary, intersex, or sex workers and others. They are also concerned that protections for LGBTIQ+ students and staff in non-government schools were removed from the equality bill. The push for these reforms for so many years by so many in the queer and rainbow communities, and the allies who walk alongside them, must be recognised.

No one person, one group or one organisation is responsible for what reforms have been won this week. Indeed, no one person, one group or one organisation will be able to deliver on the outstanding reforms that are still required. Collective action and coordinated community organising is key to ensuring the legislative reforms won and the legislative reforms needed actually result in real change in people's lives. We know that communities lead and parliaments follow. We know that changes we make in this place will have little effect without adequate resources and education taking priority in government policy directions and funding decisions, and being accompanied by cultural and societal shifts. The transphobic and discriminatory rhetoric exhibited in the parliamentary debate on the equality bill, as well as the ongoing obsessions of some in our community with the genitalia and bathroom use of others, shows there is, sadly, no shortage of challenges in this space.

And so, while we absolutely must celebrate the achievements that have been made, we must also recognise that the changes that were dropped—which has resulted in some people being left behind—will have real consequences. The Anti-Discrimination Act protects people on the basis of homosexuality, but we know that the rainbow community is so much more diverse than gay or straight. Our laws must reflect this diversity and ensure that every member of the queer community—and indeed the broader community—is protected from discrimination. We must amend the Act to extend protections to people who are bisexual, asexual, non-binary or have variations of sex characteristics. We must also make amendments to ensure that nobody can be discriminated against or vilified on the basis of their occupation, including sex workers.

The Greens agree that the Act requires wholesale review but reject the idea that members of the queer community, sex workers and people with disability need to wait indefinitely for completion of the review before they can get the same protections as everyone else, while protections for people with religious beliefs were treated as being so urgent that they were introduced by the Government while the review was being undertaken. Queer activists have been fighting for many of these changes for decades. The decision to gut the bill is not one that has been asked for or driven by the community; it is a capitulation to the powerful homophobes and transphobes who, sadly, sit in this place and beyond. We have heard a lot about compromise over this decision, but we need to be clear that not everyone was involved in this compromise. The compromise took place during negotiations behind

closed doors, without input from the communities and individuals who will be directly impacted. This is a serious concern for our democracy.

We know that right-wing bigots love a scapegoat. Following the overwhelmingly positive community response to the 2017 marriage equality plebiscite, bigots and queerphobes realised that a blatantly homophobic agenda and overt attacks against same-sex couples would not be tolerated, so they instead turned their attention to other parts of the community. Now they are focusing their energy on scaremongering about the trans women who might play in their local football clubs, or spreading lies about the gender of a woman competing in the Olympic Games. The queer community has always known how to fight this kind of scapegoating, and that is through staunch solidarity with each other and coordinated collective action that leaves no-one behind.

No politician should get to decide which sections of a community are deserving of equality. No law should define that. Everybody has the right to be treated equally. Over the past year, our office—and no doubt it is the same for other members—has received hundreds of emails from local residents calling for this bill to be passed urgently. We heard from parents of trans kids, who were working tirelessly to make it happen. I recognise that bringing this reform has taken a personal toll on the member for Sydney. I extend solidarity and respect to all those who are going to endure ongoing hostilities as a result of what has been lost.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 14:59 until
Tuesday 22 October at 15:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

DR DONNA SCHOFIELD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I would like to acknowledge Dr. Donna Schofield, a Guildford West local in my electorate, for her outstanding contributions to animal welfare and rescue work. Dr. Donna Schofield has dedicated nearly 40 years to veterinary practice, earning widespread recognition across NSW for her compassionate and selfless approach to animal welfare. Whether it's late at night, on a weekend, or a public holiday, Dr. Schofield has made it her mission to assist animals in need, offering her expertise with a deep sense of responsibility and care. Her motto 'every life matters' extends beyond her clinic. Inspired by her work, other community groups have taken up her cause, vaccinating stray cats and giving them the treatment they deserve. Beyond her dedication to her patients, Dr. Schofield is equally well regarded in the way she treats her staff. She has created a nurturing and inclusive workplace, providing valuable work experience for those with special needs and empowering them with skills and sense of belonging. We wholeheartedly salute you for your many years of selfless service.

WOLLONDILLY NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2024 AWARDS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—A heartfelt congratulations to all the dedicated players, teams, coaches, officials, and volunteers recognised at the Wollondilly Netball Association's 2024 Awards Presentation. Special commendations go out to the clubs of Bargo, Buxton, Picton, St. Anthony's, Tahmoor, and Thirlmere for their incredible contributions to this netball season. The passion, commitment, and teamwork shown by everyone involved strengthens our local netball community. With the Netball World Cup coming to Sydney in 2027, there's a real sense of excitement building within our region. Wollondilly's netball scene is thriving, with a growing number of players and teams joining each season, reflecting the rising popularity and support for the sport. It's inspiring to see so many talented individuals and clubs pushing boundaries and striving for excellence. The future of netball in Wollondilly looks incredibly bright, and as we gear up for this world-class event, we can expect our local community to continue to flourish. Here's to many more successful seasons, and to fostering the next generation of netball champions.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL'S DISASTER RECOVERY VOLUNTEER DATABASE

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Wollondilly Shire Council has introduced its Disaster Recovery Volunteer Database, a new initiative focused on enhancing the community's preparedness for future emergencies by connecting local volunteers with agencies and organisations that require support during disaster recovery efforts. Backed by funding from the NSW Government through the 'Unsung Heroes' Social Cohesion grant, the database will help organise and coordinate volunteer efforts, ensuring a smooth and effective response when crises like bushfires, floods, or storms occur. By simplifying the process of matching volunteers with recovery opportunities, it allows more people to step up and contribute meaningfully when needed. The Disaster Recovery Volunteer Database welcomes both individuals and community organisations to participate. I encourage anyone

who is able to sign up to assist in rebuilding and recovery efforts. We know that following disasters, our community's willingness to support each other is our greatest strength.

TERENCE AND JOAN IRVINE CELEBRATE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—It was a great honour to present Mr. Terence and Mrs. Joan Irvine of Bowral with one of my special Parliamentary certificates in recognition of their remarkable 70th wedding anniversary. I was also there to deliver letters of congratulations from the Governor of New South Wales, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Greg Piper MP, and the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns. Seventy years of marriage is an incredible milestone, a true testament to their enduring love, commitment, and partnership. I extend my warmest wishes for their upcoming celebration with family and friends, and I wish them many more years filled with joy, love, and continued good health. May they also enjoy countless rounds of golf together, a hobby they both cherish. It was a pleasure visiting with them, and we were all especially impressed by the stunning bearded Irises blooming in the Irvine's beautiful garden. Their green thumb and passion for gardening are just as inspiring as their lifelong bond. Here's to many more years of happiness and wonderful moments together.

PETER WILEY JOHNSTONE AWARDED AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Rural Fire Service Group Captain, Peter Wiley Johnstone, was recently awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal in recognition of more than fifty years of duty in the RFS. I worked closely with Peter during my time as Minister for Emergency Services, and deeply appreciate his insights into our region, managing risks and finding new opportunities to keep our communities safe. While Peter continues to serve as Group Captain of the Canobolas Zone, based in Orange, he has always supported those in the large Cootamundra electorate with determination and dedication. In 1990, Mr Johnstone was appointed as the incident controller of a major bushfire in the Cowra Shire, controlling the blaze in two days. In 2013, Mr Johnstone helped save homes, stock, and lives during the Shiel fire, near Woodstock, a dangerous grass and scrub fire, contained to about 430 hectares. During the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires, Mr Johnstone rallied members of RFS Districts in Walli, Chifley, Lithgow and Cudgegong to fight the Gosper's Mountain mega blaze. Peter established 24-hour strike teams in a relentless defence of homes. I thank Mr Johnstone for his continued service in our region.

NORTHERN JETS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Arianah Park Memorial Hall was filled to capacity, with 270 past and present players and supporters, at the recently held grand reunion ball. This momentous occasion, marking the 20-year journey of the Northern Jets Football and Netball Club, which came about after a merger between the Ardlethan Stars and the Arianah Park Mirrool Bombers, providing playing opportunities for both junior and senior teams. The Northern Jets Football and Netball Club's success has been nothing short of remarkable. The overwhelming support from the local community, has been a driving force, leading to the club's significant growth. The exceptional talent and dedication of the players across both football and netball have led to a remarkable outcome for the 2024 season. Their commitment and hard work should serve as an inspiration to all, showing what can be achieved with passion and dedication. The Clubs success has expanded with its inaugural women's football team, introduced this year which has seen the grounds bursting with energy as with spectators providing overwhelming support for females in sport. I commend the committee members for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Your efforts have been instrumental in the club's success.

GUNDAGAI BUSINESS AWARDS NIGHT SUCCESS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Congratulations to Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council who hosted the Gundagai Business Awards recently. The night was an outstanding success and I wish to recognise the winners from over 100 nominations received. The winners were: Outstanding Employee: Anthea Cooper – Riss & Co. Hair, Outstanding Young Business Leader: Josey Potter - Moreewool Shearing, Outstanding Business Leader: Bonita Taylor - Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre, Excellence in Innovation: Gundagai Lamb, Excellence in Sustainability: Highfield Farm and Woodland, Outstanding Community Organisation: CanAssist Gundagai, Outstanding New Business: Defiance Co, Excellence in Business: Smarts Butchery, Outstanding Tradie: Gus Pollack - Eccleston's Plumbing, Outstanding Individual Customer Service: Amy Turner - Turner Accounting & Taxation, The Super Star Customer Service Award: Wren Store & Styling. Having been a small business owner myself, I know Gundagai's businesses take great pride in giving 100% every day to provide fast and friendly service to every customer who calls. We're so fortunate to have so many small businesses right across the "seat of small communities" keeping our local economy thriving. The awards bring us all together to celebrate and acknowledge achievements within our business community.

ILLAWARRA REGIONAL ROSE SOCIETY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises and congratulates the Illawarra Regional Rose Society. I acknowledge the Chair Kristin Dawson, Secretary Jill Millburn and Treasurer Peter Goodger. The Illawarra Regional Rose Society had its Rosy Day Display on Saturday 5th October 2024 at Burnetts on Barney in Kiama between 7:30am and 9:30am with lots of excellent roses on display. It was a great success. Members and visitors enjoyed activities including information sessions on arranging roses in pots, deadheading and mulching looking after roses in summer, companion planting with roses and heritage roses. There was also a café open with some food and rose themes along with a photographic display of various roses one can grow in their garden or backyard. I also acknowledge once again the Chair Kristin Dawson and Secretary Jill Millburn who coordinated the logistics to make it a success. As the Member for Kiama, I have been fortunate to attend many Illawarra Regional Rose Society events from the Jamberoo School of Arts Hall to Kiama area and I know how hard these volunteers work to ensure our community is involved and engaged in their activities and display days.

ACTIVE MINDSTEPS INITIATIVES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises a new program in Gerringong, Active Mindsteps, which aims to keep seniors active and better connected. This initiative was launched to combat loneliness and promote the well-being of senior citizens through a combination of cognitive, physical and social activities. Active Mindsteps, founded by Dr Christa Wood, aims to help senior community members stay younger for longer. I also acknowledge Sandra Ruecroft. Taster sessions for the program were held in Gerringong during August and September 2024. Dr Victoria Traynor, a Professor of Aged Care and Dementia at the University of Wollongong, also highlighted that this program is valuable in reducing the stigma surrounding dementia as well as moderating its symptoms. The inspiration for the organisation stems from an Austrian non-profit called SelbA, which likewise encourages people aged 55 and over to be independent and active. The course, which began 22 years ago, has amassed over 40,000 participants across a range of locations in Austria. SelbA is providing group leader training for Active Mindsteps later in the year. Congratulations and well done to everybody involved with the Active Mindsteps initiative and its growing success.

KIAMA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Kiama High School student leaders who are excelling in a number of areas from junior sport to building resilience. Kiama High Year 12 students recently had their graduation ceremony at the Kiama Pavilion. A group of Year 10 boys have been participating in the Building Young Men program over the last two terms during sport time. In September, a group of Year 10 students were able to enjoy two days away, building upon all the important teachings of mateship, resilience and empathy. Thank you to Mr Mark Burns from Gerringong who is CEO of The Man Walk who coordinated the event. Congratulations to Kiama High School student Sage Laird for taking out the 15 years girls nett division at the Jack Newton International Junior Golf Classic. Sage competed against players from the United States of America, Japan, Korea, France and New Zealand over four rounds at Cypress Lakes. Well done Sage! I acknowledge Kiama High School Principal Catherine Glover and all of the amazing teachers, office administration staff and parents who are always on hand to help these gifted students to reach their full potential.

JACK PHILIPSON

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the rising career trajectory of Jack Philipson, a young man from Yeoval who is fulfilling his enormous potential in a tough but crucial rural industry. Jack is pursuing a career in shearing where his commitment and talent have been endorsed by his appointment as NSW's representative in the Australian Wool Innovation's wool ambassadors' program. Jack began working in shearing sheds during school holidays, eventually being taken under the wing of the Ralph Blue Shearing team which led to him leaving school in 2022 to pursue a career in wool. That interest has led to Jack exploring New Zealand's wool industry, working in sheds, taking part in shearing competitions and classing shows and generally absorbing as much knowledge and skill possible. He has also been mentored by some of NSW's most experienced shearers – all good experience of towards his goal of being a part of New Zealand's Golden Shears, the world championship of shearing. Mr Speaker, shearing is a specialised, essential trade in rural NSW yet recruitment is slow. To have such a motivated young man join the ranks is heartening and I wish him well.

ELLEN DOLBEL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I congratulate Ellen Dolbel on being presented the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement, part of the NSW Public Education Awards for 2024. Hosted by the Public Education Foundation, the awards recognise the work being carried out in our public

schools and the progressive initiatives being undertaken to improve the educational outcomes for our kids. A student at Orange High School, Ellen Dolbel represents its motto, always do your best in everything you do. A school captain, Ellen participates in all educational and co-curricular activities, representing the school with pride and distinction. Ellen's impressive academic achievements reflect her love for learning and excellent communication skills. She is also a gifted sportswoman, excelling in a diverse range of sports at regional and state level, while representing OHS with pride and distinction. Ellen embodies the values that OHS cherishes and is a wonderful role model for her peers and younger students. I congratulate Ellen Dolbel on the recognition she has received and wish her every success in future academic and sporting pursuits.

ZOE TALLERSALL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I congratulate Zoe Tattersall on being presented the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement, part of the NSW Public Education Awards for 2024. Hosted by the Public Education Foundation, the awards recognise the work being carried out in our public schools and the progressive initiatives being undertaken to improve the educational outcomes for our kids. A student at Orange High School, Zoe is committed to excellence in every aspect of her education. According to her school, Zoe represents its values of safety and respect, a commitment which is evident in her academic results and her athletic pursuits. She is comfortable in a leadership role and goes out of her way to make others feel valued and supported. Zoe's academic achievements showcase her pursuit of improvement, approaching every task with determination and as an opportunity to experience and learn. In doing so, Zoe sets a wonderful example for her peers and is a great ambassador for Orange High School and public education. I congratulate Zoe Tattersall on the recognition she has received and wish her every success in future academic pursuits.

LINDA SOARS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recognise the dedicated service of Burraneer's Linda Soars to the community through the 1st Lilli Pilli Scout group. Linda has been involved as a volunteer at Lilli Pilli for more than 20 years and the group leader for most of that time. Her role as group leader has her overseeing and organising almost everything for the group and she devotes countless hours to getting kids involved in scouting. Linda can usually be found at the scout hall three nights per week leading three different age groups, as well as spending time on weekend camping and activities. On top of that Linda spends many hours behind the scenes organising and working on the group's administration. Linda's hard work and leadership has been central to helping many young people develop outdoor skills, resilience, and leadership as they enjoy a range of land and water-based activities. Linda has continued to give her time well after her own children have grown up and moved on from scouts and I'm told that at times she has been the only person holding the group together. I acknowledge Linda's enthusiastic efforts that have been appreciated by many families in our community.

KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL 2025 STUDENT LEADERS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Kirrawee High School's incoming 2025 student leadership team on their appointment. Taylor Harding and Luka Ford were elected as school captains, to serve alongside vice-captains Mika Faass and Audrey Lenzo. The captains and vice captains will be very capably supported by Amie Morton, acting as the principal's representative. Ava Beasley, Olivia Mustapic, and Angus Jarolimek were elected as wellbeing prefects, while Zoe Bruce, Xavier De Frenza and Tiago Olival were elected as environment prefects. The social justice prefects for 2025 are Norah Davis and Tiana Koreneos. Being elected to student leadership is a fantastic opportunity for those fortunate enough to be given the chance. Being a student leader can ingrain listening and communication skills, teamwork, and the value of leadership. These skills are vital not just in a school environment, but also in the workplace and in life generally. I wish the new leadership team the best of luck in their new leadership roles, as well as in their Year 12 studies next year.

DR FIONA BENYON

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Dr Fiona Benyon on the work she has done in advocating for the local environment. Dr Benyon has dedicated herself to the education of children about the natural world and used her role as Assistant Scout Leader with the NSW Scouts to further this advocacy and education. She has been assisting with scouts since 2010 and is well known for her leadership on camps and hikes. Her advocacy doesn't stop there. In July 2020 she founded The Young Naturalist, which operated until this year and which aimed to "bring biodiversity to life and connect children with nature through hands-on, science-based, nature school holiday workshops, innovative STEM education programs, and experiences". Recently Dr Benyon has begun pursuing her ambition to write a wilderness adventure novel for 11 to 16-year-olds, to help connect children with nature and further the cause of environmental education. Dr Benyon's devotion is an inspiration to those around here, as she encourages others to make a positive difference to Australian wildlife and their habitat.

FRANK AND CLARA DE MASI, FRANCHISEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Frank and Clara De Masi on receiving the prestigious Franchisee of the Year Award at the recent Australian Retailers Awards, 2024. Frank and Clara received the award for the Stanhope Gardens Post Office. The Awards recognise outstanding organisations individuals who have demonstrated exceptional performance, innovation, and dedication, setting new benchmarks for retail success. Frank and Clara opened the Stanhope Gardens Post Office 18 years ago with only a few employees. They expanded their business by purchasing the Kellyville Post Office in 2013. Frank stated, "We now have a team of 20 people working for us and our high standards of customer service is one of the main reasons for our expansion and success." The Stanhope Gardens Post Office is one of the busiest Passport Processing outlets in Australia. Frank and Clara received the award recently at a Glittering ceremony in the Conference Hall, Crown Promenade, Melbourne. Apart from running the successful Post Office Frank is a Councillor and was recently elected as the Deputy Mayor of the Hills Shire Council. Congratulations to Frank and Clara on receiving the Franchisee of the Year Award.

DAY AT THE PUMP TRACK

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—As the sun shone brightly over South Kempsey, the joyful laughter of children filled the air, with the celebration of "Day at the Pump Track" in full swing. Excited squeals echoed through the high jumps and low dips as kids zipped around the track, their faces beaming with delight. The sounds of fun created a lively backdrop for the families and friends gathered at the newly opened pump track, a vibrant space that quickly became a favourite, offering trails suitable for all levels. The event showcased a wonderful collaboration between the Dhina Durriti Aboriginal Corporation, Durri ACMS, Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, Marrungbuya, and Learning the Macleay, highlighting the strength of our community spirit. With Recycle Bicycle on-site, over 20 bikes were repaired, allowing some lucky kids to ride home on their newly refurbished bikes. The joy on their faces was infectious, reflecting the sense of community that filled the day. As the event ended, the laughter and excitement lingered, reminding us of the importance of connection and shared moments. The pump track had become a beloved asset and a cherished space for creating lasting memories in South Kempsey.

LOCAL STUDENTS SUPPORT HOSPITAL RENOVATIONS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Local students have made a meaningful impact on the lives of patients at Kempsey District Hospital by raising funds to enhance their experience. A generous donation of \$1,000 from the students at Kempsey Adventist School has been directed to the Kempsey United Hospital Auxiliary and Pink Ladies. This contribution plays a crucial role in the ongoing refurbishment of the hospital's rehabilitation courtyard, with the goal of creating a more welcoming and therapeutic space for those recovering from stroke, injury, or illness. The funds were raised through a unique school project in which students developed small business ventures, channelling their creativity and hard work into supporting the UHA's efforts. This initiative not only demonstrates the students' innovative spirit but also highlights their compassion for others in their community. The impact of this contribution extends beyond financial support; it embodies the students' dedication to improving patient comfort and recovery. The refurbishment of the courtyard is an important initiative that will enhance the healing environment for patients during a challenging time in their lives. This heartfelt effort from the students inspires everyone to support one another in times of need.

NOWRA WATERDRAGONS

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the Nowra Waterdragons for their continued success and commitment to growing the sport of dragon boating in our community. This November, the club is offering an exciting four-week new paddler training program designed for those interested in learning the sport. This program will give newcomers the opportunity to develop their paddling skills, focusing on core strength and technique, while introducing them to the fun and camaraderie that dragon boating offers. The Nowra Waterdragons, a small but accomplished club, have a remarkable track record, winning multiple medals at the National Dragonboat Championships in Perth earlier this year. With less than sixty members, the club consistently competes at state, national, and even international levels, proving their passion and dedication to the sport. The program is perfect for those looking to stay active, get fit, or simply enjoy a social sport, regardless of whether they wish to compete. The club welcomes everyone, from competitive racers to social paddlers. Well done Nowra Waterdragons and I look forward to paddling with you soon.

MARINE RESCUE NSW - SUSSEX INLET

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and sincerely thank the dedicated team from Marine Rescue NSW for their outstanding work during the recent rescue near Bream Beach on Saturday, October 5. Thanks to their quick and professional response, three people in distress were rescued after their runabout became swamped by large waves while trying to get off a sandbar. Sussex Inlet

20 [SI20] was deployed promptly after a request from NSW Police Marine Area Command, and the crew's swift action made all the difference. Despite challenging conditions, with shallow waters preventing the vessel from approaching closely, a courageous volunteer waded ashore to secure a tow rope and assist in making the stranded vessel seaworthy. The skill and determination of the Marine Rescue crew ensured the boat could be safely towed to Erawal Bay. We are all deeply grateful for the crew's efforts, which ensured the safety of the three individuals, with two remaining aboard their vessel and one safely taken aboard SI20. The dedication and commitment of our Marine Rescue Volunteers to protecting our community on the water deserves our heartfelt thanks.

HUME BANK ALBURY GENEROUS DONATION TO QUIRKY TURKEY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to thank Albury's Hume Bank for its generous donation of computer equipment (laptops) to Quirky Turkey. The unused laptops have been repurposed and given a new and meaningful use through this thoughtful initiative, instead of contributing to electronic waste. Quirky Turkey provides hands on experience to those individuals with disabilities. In just six months, the organisation has created an incredible environment where the participants dismantle and rebuild technology, whilst also acquiring real workplace skills. I thank Jen Tait and her dedicated team at Quirky Turkey for creating a safe space, that empowers individuals with autism and neurodiverse conditions and gives them an opportunity to thrive. Their commitment to skill development and empowerment is truly commendable. Thank you, Hume Bank, for your contribution to the success of such an important project, helping to reduce waste, promote sustainability, and support an important community project that is changing lives for the better. Well done, Quirky Turkey, I look forward to witnessing your continued positive impact in our community.

HAZEL MCGRATH - ALBURY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Hazel McGrath from Albury who has been selected to join the Australian Raptors Rugby Academy, with an exciting opportunity to embark on an international tour of Japan in January 2025. This is a remarkable event in Hazel's rugby journey and is a dream come true, not only for Hazel but for her dedicated teammates as well. Hazel's selection is the result of years of hard work, perseverance, and passion for rugby. The Australian Raptors Rugby Academy, known for its commitment to nurturing rising rugby talent, offers its players the chance to develop their skills, experience new cultures, and represent Australia on the world stage. In addition to the international tour, Hazel will be involved in a comprehensive program including community events, intensive training sessions, a resilience camp, and personal development workshops throughout the rugby season. Hazel, may this experience in Japan not only shape you as an athlete but also enrich your life in ways beyond the game. I along with our community stand behind you, and cheer for you every step of the way. Well done!

ROCKET MAN ARTHUR HITS HEIGHTS - ARTHUR HULL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Arthur Hull, a talented graduate of Albury's Flying Fruit Circus, whose artistic contributions have significantly enriched our local arts scene. Arthur's participation in the 2024 season of 'The Voice Australia', highlights his remarkable vocal and musical talent and his commitment to creative exploration. What truly sets Arthur apart, is his unique gift and the ability to blend circus skills, with music artistry, a rare and remarkable combination that makes him stand out in our community. Whilst looking sharp, he took part in a memorable showdown battle, performing his version of 'Stay' by artist Rihanna, whilst playing the piano. A powerful display of musical and performance skills. Well done Arthur, thank you for representing our Border community and what an incredible voice!

DANIEL COLLINS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Daniel Collins, who has been proudly named Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive time at the Surf Life Saving NSW's 2024 Awards of Excellence. Starting his journey in surf lifesaving at the age of six, Dan, also known as 'Dan the Man', has become an invaluable member of the Redhead Surf Life Saving Club. His fierce competitive spirit and unwavering dedication have made him a standout athlete and a role model for aspiring lifesavers. In the 2023/24 season, Dan achieved an incredible milestone by becoming the first Hunter-based athlete and the fourth from a NSW club to win the Open Ironman race at the Aussies. This remarkable feat showcases not only his athletic prowess but also his relentless work ethic and perseverance throughout the year. In addition to his impressive surf sport accomplishments, Dan juggles a busy schedule as a patrolling member and full-time lifeguard, exemplifying his commitment to both sport and community service. Congratulations Dan. You are a tremendous asset to the Redhead SLSC and the broader Hunter Surf Life Saving commitment. I eagerly anticipate your continued success and look forward to what the 2024/25 season holds for you.

95TH BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I recognise the celebration of the 95th Birthday of two respected members of our community, Mr Quang Lam Vo and Mr Bien Nguyen, at the Vietnamese Family Day hosted by the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association. On this day, we also celebrate the incredible milestone of other elder members of the association, who have or will soon reach the significant age of 90 and above. Their wonderful journeys remind us that wisdom, resilience, and the nurturing of body, mind, and spirit are important factors to a fulfilling life. Their longevity inspires us to appreciate every moment, grow from the experiences learnt, and cultivate positive energy that enriches our lives. As we celebrate this remarkable occasion, I wish Mr Vo and Mr Nguyen continued joy, good health, and the comforting presence of their family and friends. I also wish them a joyous celebration surrounded by loved ones as we come together to recognise the significance of the Vietnamese Family Day - a special annual event dedicated to cherishing and preserving Vietnamese traditions and heritage across generations.

FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OFFICIAL ORGANISATION DAY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 1 June 2024 I had the pleasure of attending the Traditional Day of the former Republic of Vietnam Official Organisation of NSW. This organisation played a pivotal role in maintaining public order and national security under the Republic of South Vietnam until the Fall of Saigon in 1975. Former police officers, their families, descendants, and the broader Vietnamese communities commemorate this day annually to honour and pay tribute to the servicemen and women, who dedicated their lives during the Vietnam War in protecting and defending freedom and democracy. This commemoration serves as a tradition to remember the history and contributions of the organisation to South Vietnam, reflecting their connection to the legacy of the past and their shared experiences as refugees. It is also an effort to preserve the community's heritage to pass on to younger generations. The event features a myriad of commemorative ceremonies and traditions, complemented by vibrant cultural performances, which embody a vivid tapestry of our diverse multiculturalism. I thank Mr Song Van Huynh and the former Republic of Vietnam Official Organisation for their kind invitation and commend their ongoing efforts in preserving their rich traditions.

96TH BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—It is my privilege to acknowledge the celebration of the 96th Birthday of two respected members of our community, Mr Xuong Toan Do and Mr Van Than Bui, at the Vietnamese Family Day hosted by the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association. On this day, we also celebrate the incredible milestone of other elder members of the association, who have or will soon reach the significant age of 90 and above. Their wonderful journeys remind us that wisdom, resilience, and the nurturing of body, mind, and spirit are important factors to a fulfilling life. Their longevity inspires us to appreciate every moment, grow from the experiences learnt, and cultivate positive energy that enriches our lives. As we celebrate this remarkable occasion, I wish Mr Do and Mr Bui continued joy, good health, and the comforting presence of their family and friends. I also wish them a joyous celebration surrounded by loved ones as we come together to recognise the significance of the Vietnamese Family Day - a special annual event dedicated to cherishing and preserving Vietnamese traditions and heritage across generations.

PALLY SPEED SHEAR

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Jordan and Heather Bearman on staging the inaugural Pally Speed Shear, held at the village of Pallamallawa to the east of Moree. The shearing competition saw 80 shearers compete, using a mobile two-stand shed. I congratulate Jordan and Heather on the huge success of this event and for taking the opportunity to raise valuable funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This was not only through the competition, but also by selling raffle tickets and merchandise, along with running a Calcutta style auction, where the six open finalists were sold off to the highest bidder(s). Prizemoney was a noteworthy \$35,000 cross three categories, with the overall winner being Delungra Shearer, Tom Retallack. I commend Jordan and Heather for their initiative and hard work in putting the competition together for the enjoyment of the community and for raising vital funds for National Breast Cancer Foundation. The people of the Northern Tablelands thanks you.

APPRENTICE RYAN HUNT

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Moree local Ryan Hunt for winning gold at the regional Worldskills competition held at Tamworth recently, with the competition designed to test the skills and knowledge of the competitors. Ryan entered as an Apprentice Boilermaker, being midway through a four-year Certificate III Engineering and Fabrication Apprenticeship. I congratulate Ryan on this impressive win and for taking the opportunity to showcase his skills amongst his peers, going up against 12 fellow competitors over two days. Special thanks to TAFE NSW, Worldskills and to Ryan's employer Blake

Tidmarsh for their support, guidance and expertise given to Ryan throughout this journey. I commend Ryan on his hard work and commitment given to developing his career and we wish Ryan all the best at the upcoming Australian National WorldSkills Championships being held at Brisbane. The Moree community is very proud to call you one of their own and Northern Tablelands Electorate wish you every success.

MUSTER UP DELUNGRA

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise a group of women from Delungra who have banded together to stage Muster Up Delungra, aimed at raising the spirits of their local community. The event includes live entertainment by nationally loved comedian Peter Rowsthorn, along with a three dinner, at the Delungra Multi-purpose Hall. I congratulate all involved in this wonderful achievement, for the initiative and for taking the opportunity to give back to the local community. The group is a not-for-profit organisation raising funds for local causes. Special thanks to those working tirelessly behind the scenes, including committee members Leah Bennett, Tammy Taylor, Mandy Mephram and Felicity Menchin. Thank you to Topper's Mountain Wines and Smo-king Barbeque for ably catering for this event. Special thanks to Ladybug Projects of Inverell, for obtaining funding to supplement the group's valuable fundraising activities. I commend all involved, for their hard work in hosting this successful event and commitment to the people of Delungra. The community spirit in Delungra is inspirational!

QUAKERS HILL TIGERS

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to the Quakers Hill Tigers on what has been another great season of local soccer. It has been incredible to witness the dedication, teamwork, and passion that every player, coach, and supporter brought to the field and I look seeing that again next year. I especially congratulate their teams success in the Champions of Champions which the under 16s boys are playing in the Grand Final this weekend. I know each of our players have put in hard work and training, honing their skills and learning the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. It's not just about winning; it's about the friendships forged and the lessons learned along the way. The camaraderie and support amongst the Tigers teammates is to be admired and with this attitude I'm sure theirs will continue to be an incredible club. I also thank and congratulate the dedicated coaching team and volunteers - your guidance, support, and commitment to developing our young athletes is invaluable. I extend this to the loyal supporters, standing by our teams and fuelling the team spirit the Tigers are known for. Enjoy the off season, keeping fit and ready to go again next year! Go Tigers!

BRAD BALLINGER

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Brad Ballinger, from Corpus Christi Catholic High School, for an exciting opportunity in his Basketball career. Year 12 student Brad has been announced as a Development and Injury replacement player for the upcoming NBL Season for the Illawarra Hawks. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Brad on this wonderful achievement and wish him well in his future sporting endeavours.

MICHAEL PFEFFER

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Michael Pfeffer, Dapto High School Hospitality Teacher, for being awarded VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year at the 2024 NSW Training Awards in September this year. Michael's teaching style is grounded in practical applications at Dapto High, establishing a cafe within the school for his students to learn in, and incorporating excursions, industry speakers and interactive components. During the past nine years at Dapto High, he helped establish an onsite cafe with fellow hospitality teacher Krisharna Leighton and created opportunities for students to cater for functions, such as swimming carnivals, a 'women in trade' event and Red Cross high tea. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Michael on this wonderful achievement and wish him well in his future teaching endeavours.

OAK FLATS FALCONS FC

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the outstanding achievement of the Oak Flats Falcons Football Club Men's teams. Both the First and Second Grade Men's teams won The Fraternity Club District League Premierships in September 2024. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate the Oak Flats Falcons FC and their players and wish them well next season. I would also like to thank the coaching staff and volunteers at the Falcons for contributing to the success of the team.

BIRTHDAY - FR PATRICK KEVIN CANTWELL

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Fr Patrick Kevin Cantwell a happy 97th Birthday! It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday in a community like Ryde, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Fr Kevin's day a little extra special. Fr Kevin, born on 14th October 1927

in Tully, Queensland, has dedicated over seven decades of his life to serving the community. Ordained in 1959, his unwavering dedication as a member of the Society of the Divine Word has seen him serve in various leadership roles across Australia and Papua New Guinea. 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, Fr Kevin!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - BUN LEE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Bun Lee a joyous 71st birthday! Bun's spouse, Nuriah, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy Birthday Bun! God bless you!" 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 Bun'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 Bun!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - BERNICE TESARA

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Bernice Tesara a joyous 24th birthday! Bernice's dad, Bennett, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday Bernice. May you have the best of health and have many good birthdays to come." 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 Bernice'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 Bernice!

HSC CLASS OF 2024

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I wish all Year 12 students across my electorate of Badgerys Creek the very best as they continue sitting their HSC exams which commenced on Tuesday 15 October 2024. These students are undertaking a significant chapter in their lives and I trust this milestone brings the results and rewards that will be a reflection of the many years of effort and hard work they have put into their studies. I commend the staff and parents for their role in the students' learning and I wish them the best as they assist the students in completing this important part of their educational journey.

BYRON CLIMA - SYDNEY DRAFTING CONCEPTS AND DESIGNS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate Cobbitty local Mr Byron Clima, Founder and Director of local Oran Park business Sydney Drafting Concepts & Design, whose business won the Architect Category Award of the 2024 Australian Trades Small Business Champion Awards held at The Star Sydney recently. The prestigious awards program recognises outstanding, trades-based, small business operators nationwide and Mr Clima's victory is testament to his position as an industry leader. An independent expert panel judged Mr Clima's business to have scored the highest result in the Architect category, through consideration of a variety of aspects of small business operations. Small businesses are the backbone of our Badgerys Creek community and the economy and we are grateful for people like Mr Clima who put in long hours, along with the pressures of running a small business. I congratulate Mr Clima for this achievement and wish him continued success.

THE SHEPHERD CENTRE GRADUATION

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I commend and congratulate the ten outstanding children from The Shepherd Centre's NSW graduating class of 2024 as they prepare to commence kindergarten. I was pleased to celebrate this outstanding graduation milestone in the lives of the children and their families at The Shepherd Centre's special Graduation Showcase event that was held in NSW Parliament this week. It was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of the graduates and their families and to witness the graduates sharing their inspiring stories of resilience, achievement and growth. I thank and commend CEO Dr Aleisha Davis, Director Community Engagement Mr David Brady and the whole team at The Shepherd Centre for their vital work in helping children with hearing loss learn to listen and speak and for celebrating the achievements of the children. I wish the graduating children of 2024 the very best as they proceed to kindergarten.

SYDNEY CHILDRENS HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I just want to say a huge congratulations to the Sydney Childrens Hospitals Foundation for an incredible milestone. Thanks to the incredible supporters, donors and partners - 33,000 people in the past year – who came together to help SCHF become the first Australian children's health charity to raise more than \$100 million in the last financial year. For the 159,000 kids who visit Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick and for those transported by the Newborn and Pediatric Transport Service or benefit

from the work of Kids Research, this remarkable achievement means new equipment, training and education for their clinicians, groundbreaking research and state-of-the-art facilities. A massive thank you to all the donors whose unwavering support is making a real difference for sick and injured kids across New South Wales.

PUBLIC SPEAKING ST BRIGID'S COOGEE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—What an incredible time I had at St Brigid's Coogee last month as I aided their students in Public Speaking. It was such a joy to see so many bright young faces eager to learn and grow. Public Speaking improves presentation skills, teaching children how to arrange their ideas, organise their thoughts, and develop captivating presentations. Encouraging students to enjoy public speaking was a true honour. Remember, your voice has power- never be afraid to use it and have fun.

RANDWICK DISTRICT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I would like to take this opportunity today to congratulate the Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club for everyone's efforts across another long season and particularly those who were recognised at the annual award night at Crowne Place, Coogee Beach recently. It was great to see the following players win the major club awards: Andrew Deegan – Randwick Rugby Trophy for the Best and Fairest Player. Amelia Whitaker – Women's Best and Fairest Player. Ky Willoughby – CJ Windon Award for Rookie of the Year. Ethan McGuiggan – Wally Meagher Award for Outstanding Clubman. Lewis Taie – Jeffery Sayle Heart & Soul Award. Olly Morahan – Aiden Wilson Award for Colts Clubman of the Year. Mitch Chen - CH Towers Award for the Club's Leading Try-Scorer. After a stellar season in 2023 the club naturally headed into 2024 with high expectations, but with an understanding of the additional pressure that comes from being Club Champions and First Grade Premiers. A huge congratulations to the Grade team that played and ended up third in the Club Championship well behind easts.

YAMBA GOLFER WINS 2024 PAMPLING PLATE

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations goes to Yamba Golf and Country Club member Reilly Wunderlich, who achieved the biggest win of his career so far when he defeated Conor Whitelock 2 and 1 in the 36-hole Pampling Plate. Reilly completed a marathon week at Caboolture Golf Club where he played a total of 137 holes in four days. This gave him a strong start in building an early lead against Whitelock, with his lead never dropping below two holes until midway through the afternoon round. Whitelock won the 29th hole to get back down to 1, however Wunderlich managed to win the next hole to return to a 2-up advantage. The pair halved the next five holes and Wunderlich pulled off a 2 and 1 victory. This is his second major title within a month, after winning the Queensland Foursomes Championship. Well done on your outstanding efforts Reilly, I'm sure we will hear of many more winnings in the future.

CLOVELLY FASHIONS 49 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Bev Anderson on an absolutely remarkable 49 years in business at Clovelly Fashions in River Street, Maclean. Bev was born and raised on the Clarence River. Bev purchased Clovelly Fashions in 1975 as a small store and has used her fashion and styling expertise to grow and evolve the boutique over the years into one of the most established fashion locations in the area. The store supplies a variety of fashions, including casual, special occasion wear and swimwear. Bev and her wonderful staff have always worked hard in the boutique to provide outstanding personal customer service while catering to the fashion needs of the Clarence Valley and beyond. Offering hand-selected fashion pieces from across Australia and abroad, Bev truly does like to make sure everyone's needs are met. I would like to offer my best wishes to Bev and the staff at Clovelly Fashions. I hope the boutique continues to thrive for many years ahead. Well done, and I look forward to being able to celebrate the 50-year milestone soon.

MOTORFEST 2024

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to acknowledge the Grafton Vintage Motor Vehicle Club on the success of the 2024 Motorfest event. Held at Jabour Park in South Grafton, Motorfest saw thousands of spectators turn up and featured a massive display of 250 classic cars and 26 motorcycles. The event celebrated Ford cars this year, including the 60th anniversary of the Ford Mustang, the 55th anniversary of the Mark 1 Capri and the 35th anniversary of the Australian built Capri convertible. The Motorfest event has been running since 2018 and this year raised a whopping \$2000 for the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter. The event would not have been such a roaring success without the many volunteers and contributors that made it happen, including Benny's Grafton Smash Repairs as the major sponsor. Congratulations and well done to all involved. I look forward to next years event, it is sure to be yet again bigger and better.

WINGHAM RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to acknowledge the Wingham RSL Sub-Branch for their successful community Nutbush event held in Wingham Central Park on October 13. This event brought together over 500 people - members, families, and friends for a day of fun and community connection, perfectly aligned with the 2024 Veterans' Health Week theme, "Keep Connected." The event not only celebrated the 50th anniversary of the iconic Nutbush dance but also showed the invaluable work of RSL volunteers in supporting veterans and their families. I congratulate the Wingham RSL Sub-Branch, president Brian Willey, and all those involved for making it such a memorable day. This event really captured the essence of Veterans' Health Week and I loved being a part of it.

WINGHAM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Robyn Laurenson and the Wingham Spinners and Weavers for brightening up Wingham with a special display during Stillborn Awareness Week – October 9-16. The town's main street gardens were decorated with crocheted and knitted flowers and butterflies. The blooms appeared as a surprise on October 11 and remained on display until October 19. Robyn is a mother who has experienced the loss of a child, and this project raises awareness of the emotional pain associated with stillbirth. The loss of a child can lead to deep trauma, and it's often kept silent. This display is a way to lift spirits and bring joy to the community. The handcrafted blooms were sold, with proceeds supporting charities such as Stillbirth Awareness Foundation and Beyond Blue. I thank Robyn and the Wingham Spinners and Weavers for raising awareness and creating a beautiful tribute to those affected by stillbirth.

MOORAL CREEK HALL AND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise the Mooral Creek Hall & Progress Association for bringing the community together for 75 years. Established in 1949, Mooral Creek Hall has long been a place where locals gather, celebrate, and create memories. This year, the Diamond Jubilee was a wonderful event that featured displays, music, dancing, and the official opening of the new 'Deck the Hall' upgrades. Thanks to a \$142,960 Stronger Country Communities Grant, the hall now has a new deck, upgraded accessible toilets, and a refreshed playground. The nostalgia of 1949 dress codes and old photos added a special touch to the celebrations, reminding everyone of the connections created by the association over the decades. I congratulate Mooral Creek Hall & Progress Association on 75 years and wish them many more to come.

BE ACTIVE PHYSIOTHERAPY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Ensuring that cutting edge technology is at the forefront of transforming the way physiotherapy care is delivered to the community to ensure equitable access to care has proved a winner for a small business in Bathurst. Be Active Physiotherapy has been triumphant in the Carillon Business Awards and taken home the award for Excellence in Innovation. This is a great result for the founder and practice principal Rebecca Plummer and her dedicated team at Be Active Physiotherapy. They certainly deserve to be congratulated on their success which is recognition of how they combined personalised treatment with innovative approaches to reach a broader community by being focussed on empowering clients through evidence-based practices. Be Active Physiotherapy offers a range of services tailored to individual needs, from injury rehabilitation to preventative care, and by leveraging cutting edge technology and commitment to ongoing professional development, the business is able to ensure that each client receives the highest standard of care. Congratulations to everyone involved in winning this prestigious award and I hope the success you are having continues.

AYME STAFFING

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—What a wonderful result for the team at Ayme Staffing who have taken out the award for Outstanding New Business at the 2024 Bathurst Carillon Business Awards. The business provides premium talent solutions to regional New South Wales and has a goal of connecting employers with the right candidates by offering recruitment solutions across multiple industries. This ensures a smooth hiring process that ensures the best possible match for every role. Ayme uses industry experience and knowledge, coupled with innovation to deliver great outcomes, helping businesses succeed in today's competitive talent market. It's great to see this new business in Bathurst receiving accolades for the work they do and I hope their success story continues for decades to come.

STUDIO DUCHESS

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—When you win a People's Choice award the recognition that comes with the honour is a clear indicator that you must be doing something right. This was certainly the case for Justice from Studio Duchess who was one of the major winners in the 2024 Carillon Business Awards, taking out the title of "People's Choice – Bathurst's Favourite Business". I know that winning this accolade means the world to Justice

as it justified all her hard work and the belief her customers have in the service that Studio Duchess provides. Studio Duchess is a renowned beauty and makeup studio dedicated to making clients feel beautiful and confident. The studio specialises in personalised beauty services, including bridal make up and special occasion transformations, ensuring that each look enhances a person's natural features. With a focus on empowering women, Studio Duchess has become a trusted name in the community, earning this successful nomination as Bathurst's favourite business. Congratulations Justice on a job well done and best of luck for all your future endeavours.

RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL ELECTED FOR 2024-2028 TERM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate Richmond Valley Mayor Cr Robert Mustow on his re-election by popular vote in the recent local government elections in September. Mayor Mustow will lead the Council for a four-year term, building on two previous terms in that role. Cr Stephen Morrissey was re-elected as Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the new Council and will serve in this role for two years. The Indy Northern Rivers noted that there was no changing of the guard as the Mustow-Morrissey leadership team is a well-established one. I have always enjoyed a good working relationship with Richmond Valley Council's elected body and senior staff, dating back to when I was an Upper House MLC and as a former Federal Member for Page. I see this continuing, particularly in my role as NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery. I congratulate the following councillors on their re-election in 2024 – Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Stephen Morrissey, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Sam Cornish and Cr Robert Hayes. I welcome newly elected councillors -- Cr Lyndall Murray and Cr John Walker. I pay tribute to retiring councillor Patrick Deegan and outgoing councillor Debra McGillan, for their community service.

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTED FOR 2024-2028 TERM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate Ballina Shire Mayor Cr Sharon Cadwallader on her re-election by popular vote in the recent local government elections in September. Mayor Cadwallader will lead the Council for a four-year term, building on her first term in that role. She is highly experienced, having been in local government for 20 years. Ballina Shire's Deputy Mayor will be voted in at the first meeting of the new Council on Thursday 24 October. I have always enjoyed a good working relationship with Ballina Shire Council's elected body and senior staff, dating back to when I was an Upper House MLC and as a former Federal Member for Page. I see this continuing, particularly in my role as NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery. I congratulate councillors on their election in the following wards: A Ward – Damian Loone, Erin Karsten, Phil Meehan. B Ward – Kiri Dicker, Michelle Bailey, Eva Ramsey. C Ward – Simon Kinny, Simon Chate, Therese Crollick. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to retiring councillors Jeff Johnson, Rod Bruem, Eoin Johnston and Nigel Buchanan, and outgoing councillor Stephen McCarthy, for their community service. Jeff served on Ballina Shire Council for 16 years.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTED FOR 2024-2028 TERM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—New Byron Shire Mayor Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Cr Janet Swain and members of Big Song Choir sang The Bridge to usher in the next four-year term of council, which is a nice way of doing things. Cr Asren Pugh said the song filled his heart with joy; "To bring music and positivity to the very first meeting – a song about coming together and building bridges, I think is a really exciting way to start this council." I congratulate Cr Ndiaye, the former Deputy Mayor, on winning the popular election for Mayor and look forward to continuing my good working relationship with the elected body and senior staff. I am most interested in issues affecting local communities in the Byron hinterland within my Electorate of Lismore. I congratulate the new team – Cr Ndiaye, Deputy Mayor Cr Jack Dods, Cr Elia Hauge, Cr Delta Kay, Cr Michelle Low, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Asren Pugh, Cr Janet Swain and Cr David Warth – and wish them well. I also wish to pay tribute to retiring councillors Duncan Dey, Cate Coorey, Sama Balson, Peter Westheimer and Alan Hunter, and to outgoing councillor Mark Swivel, for their community service.

TONY CICCIA - LEETON

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I recognise Councillor Tony Ciccia for his significant contributions to the Leeton community. Tony's passion for public service was fostered by his father, Sam, a long-serving councillor, who encouraged him to continue the family legacy within the Leeton Shire Council. Tony has honoured that legacy, dedicating himself to the betterment of the community through years of service. In addition to his work on the Council, Tony actively participates in several local initiatives, including the Leeton Men's Shed, the Murrumbidgee Community Hall Committee, Gogelderie Weir Recreational Facilities, the Leeton Local Traffic Committee, and the Leeton Shire Heritage Committee. His 20-year involvement with the Leeton District Citrus Association reflects his deep commitment to supporting local industry. With his experience and business insight, Tony has provided valuable guidance across community projects and local enterprises, helping to shape a thriving Leeton. I commend Tony for his dedication to public service and thank him for his

contributions as a councillor. His efforts have left a lasting impact on the community, and I wish him continued success in all his endeavours.

HILLSTON CREATIVE ARTS COUNCIL

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I recognise the Hillston Creative Arts Council, a non-profit organisation established in 2005 and run entirely by dedicated volunteers, including the community gallery Red Dust and Paddymelons. The Council aims to inspire and engage the Hillston community and visitors by promoting local paintings, sculptures, and crafts. Their work can be seen throughout the town, with members contributing vibrant murals and maps. In April, the Council encouraged Wiradjuri artists living in the Riverina to participate in the River Country competition and exhibition, fostering local talent. A standout contribution includes the Emu Public Art sculptures, three distinct emus beautifully decorated by the Council as part of the Outdoor Riverina Art Trail, now proudly displayed in Hillston's gardens. In addition to their artistic efforts, the Council supports vital community projects, such as their recent gift of a defibrillator to the Hillston community. The Hillston Creative Arts Council was deservedly recognised with the Australia Day Award for Group of the Year. I commend their volunteer members for their ongoing contributions and tireless commitment to enriching the Hillston community.

MCCI SENIORS WELLBEING HUB

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—Congratulations to the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Ltd (MCCI) on the relaunch of their Multicultural Seniors Wellbeing Hub, located in Kenny Street, Wollongong. MCCI has a decades long history in supporting migrant communities in the Illawarra. It is a highly respected local organisation because of its track record of successfully delivering services that represent the interests of people from diverse backgrounds in the Illawarra, and implementing a range of community engagement activities and programs from empowering youth to providing vital aged care services. On Friday, I visited MCCI's Seniors Wellbeing Hub, to celebrate its reopening and to check out the newly renovated and expanded gym. This project was funded by the NSW Government, thanks to a \$152, 250 grant under the 2022 round of Club Grants Category 3 Fund Infrastructure Grants Program. Thank you to MCCI's CEO, Chris Lacey for inviting me to come along to this event. I'm not embarrassed to admit that I was shown up in the gym session by some of the wonderful clients who were on hand, enjoying a seniors strength and mobility group session with MCCI's accredited physiologists, Kylie and Wayne.

RETIREMENT OF CHRIS CHRISTODOULOU

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—Last night family, Greenacres employees and supported employees, business and community leaders gathered to thank outgoing Greenacres Disability Services CEO Chris Christodoulou for his eleven years of service to the organisation. Under Chris' leadership the 71 year-old Greenacres has grown and thrives. Chris will be remembered by many for his transformative leadership which, among many achievements during his time, opened three independent enterprises – Brewing up a storm – that provide great coffee and employment opportunities for people with disability. But more importantly Chris will be remembered by the Greenacres supported employees as a friend to all of them. The stories told by employees last night was evidence of the personally transformative nature of his leadership. He recognised people's talents, nurtured their abilities and provided opportunities that others would have dismissed as not possible. Chris' advocacy for people with disability through the My Jobs Counts campaign put the people impacted by proposed changes to supported employment in front of political and legal decision makers. He let their stories of achievement and self-worth do the talking – giving voice to those who even today are often voiceless. From a grateful community I wish Chris the very best for the future.

ST JAMES PRESCHOOL 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge St James Preschool at Balgowlah Heights, who this month are celebrating 40 years of delivering care and quality education to preschool children in the electorate of Manly. St James Preschool was established by All Saints Anglican Church, Balgowlah to support the local community. Over the past 40 years, St James has consistently fostered a nurturing and supportive educational environment to prepare their students as they transition to the next stage of school life. The preschool has consistently maintained a strong focus on emotional and social maturity, encouraging children to be active participants in a wide variety of learning experiences. This success and the wonderful reputation St James has built is undoubtedly owed to the passionate and committed educators who make St James what it is today. In particular, I wish to pay tribute to Director Debbie Atkinson, as well as Tristan, Ali, Mandy, Emma, Ann, Heidi, Chloe, Debbie Blunden, Trish and Annie. Congratulations St James Preschool on reaching this fantastic milestone and thank you for all you do for so many families in our community. I wish you every success for another 40 years.

SHRI DWARKESHLALJI MAHARAJ

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Mr Speaker It is a great privilege to welcome H.H. Shri Dwarkeshlalji Maharaj to Sydney for his 50th year celebrations. His extraordinary love, compassion, and service journey across 50 countries demonstrates his unwavering dedication to peace and global well-being. A highlight of his tour is the Pruthvi Parikrama Mahotsav, to spread his message of peace, love, and service. The event emphasises our connection to the Earth and promotes environmental sustainability. We are deeply blessed to receive his divine guidance and teachings as we celebrate. Maharaj's message transcends borders and brings us closer to the values of kindness, unity, and selfless service. It is an honour to witness this momentous occasion and to welcome him into our community here in Sydney. His visit is an opportunity for us to reflect on our role as stewards of the planet and to renew our commitment to spiritual and social causes that benefit all. His example symbolises the power of love, service, and giving, values that unite us all. Let us embrace the divine teachings and inspiration that H.H. Shri Dwarkeshlalji brings to us. May his love and compassion message guide us towards a more harmonious world.

RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Riverwood Community Centre for organising and hosting yet another amazing Seasonal Spring Festival. This year's festival was especially significant as it celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Riverwood Community Centre. For five decades, the Centre has been a cornerstone of the local community, offering a wide array of valuable and high-quality programs for individuals, families, and community groups in a nurturing and inclusive setting. The festival itself was a lively and vibrant affair, drawing in families and visitors who enthusiastically perused the market stalls, indulged in the live entertainment, and savoured the diverse range of multicultural cuisines. The children, in particular, had a blast with the exciting rides and the opportunity to interact with adorable pets. It was truly heartwarming to witness the community coming together to revel in this special occasion. I commend the Riverwood Community Centre for their remarkable achievements over the past 50 years and for orchestrating an unforgettable celebration that has left a lasting impact on the local community.

SHUBHAM KELKAR

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I am pleased to take this opportunity to acknowledge an outstanding young student, Shubham Kelkar, who is currently in Year 6 at Hurstville Public School. Shubham has distinguished himself as a finalist in the Premier's Spelling Bee, a competition that showcases the spelling talents of students across New South Wales. His achievement is a testament to his dedication, hard work and passion for learning. Shubham's success not only brings pride to his school and community but also serves as an inspiration to his peers. The State final will be contested by 30 students from year 5 to 6 from across the State just under 200,000 students this year participating in the challenge. I commend Shubham for his remarkable accomplishment and wish him the very best in the final stages of the competition and all his future endeavours.

STELIOS THEODORELOS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Stelios on his exceptional service to the St George and wider community. Mr Theodorelos migrated from Greece in 1966 at the age of 24. Dedicated to his heritage and culture, Mr Theodorelos has contributed immensely to the local community, especially through his involvement in church parishes that promote the Greek Orthodox faith. He has also been a significant contributor to Greek afternoon schools, sporting associations and has participated as the President of the Pan Arcadian Association of NSW, which he has supported in its various efforts to assist many charitable associations. Providing unqualified help, Mr Theodorelos has been instrumental in assisting Greek Migrants to Australia. He has also been a philanthropic driving force behind many community fundraising projects, such as benefitting language programmes in public schools and supporting the financial needs of hospitals and nursing homes by acquiring essential equipment for various wards across Sydney. Remarkably, all his endeavours have been on a voluntary basis. His selfless dedication and commitment to the community is an inspiration to all, especially as he has enhanced the wellbeing of countless individuals. Congratulations Stelios Theodorelos for your outstanding service.

BLACKTOWN AND DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Saturday 12th October, I was delighted to join officials, players, volunteers and supporters at the Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association Annual Dinner celebrations at West HQ, Rooty Hill. Established in 1979, BDSFA is an historic Football Association and today it features 24 Football Clubs and more than 10,000 players from across our local Prospect Electorate and nearby Western Sydney football community. BDSFA provides opportunities for players with amateur football, development and elite pathways from Under 6s through to All Age and Premier League. This year, the Annual

Dinner was an opportunity to acknowledge a number of Major Awards, including a double for our local Prospect Electorate side, Prospect United Soccer Club, who won both Junior Club and Senior Club Champions honours. Eastern Creek Pioneer Soccer Club shared this year's Chairmans Award, alongside Riverstone Schofields Juniors. Congratulations to the outstanding players, coaches and volunteers, whose skills and sportsmanship were recognised at the Presentation. I extend my warm congratulations to Bill Owen, Chairperson, Alex Hanna, Office Manager, and all our hardworking administrators and club volunteers at the Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association on adding another wonderful chapter to our Western Sydney football community.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE - GRANVILLE DIVISION 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 16th September, I was delighted to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of St John Ambulance Granville Combined Division in the Parliament of NSW. For over a century, the Auburn and Granville Divisions have provided vital ambulance and nursing services to our Western Sydney community. Established in 1914, The Auburn Ambulance Division was established in 1914, and was shortly followed by establishment of the Granville Ambulance Division in 1927. In 1994, these divisions combined to create the Granville Division. The Granville Division has grown to become the biggest Division in Australia, with 175 members, including 12 Juniors, 71 Cadets and 92 Adults. On the 110th Anniversary, we celebrated the Division's, and the ongoing role it plays in providing outstanding care to our community, when we need it most. St John Ambulance is not defined by its buildings, vehicles, or equipment, but by the incredible dedication of its volunteers. For the past 110 years, these volunteers worked through fire, flood and even pandemic for the safety and wellbeing of our community. Congratulations to Commissioner Ilan Lowbeer OStJ, Superintendent Isabelle Moutia OStJ and the dedicated Granville Division volunteers for your life-saving service across Western Sydney.

BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE - ANDREW SAAB

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Andrew Saab on receiving a Bishop of Parramatta Award for Student Excellence on 6th September 2024, presented by the Rev. Bishop Vincent Long OFM at St Patrick's Cathedral. Andrew is an exceptional student at St Pauls Catholic College, Greystanes. As College Captain, Andrew's focus has been founded on the quality and sincerity of his actions. His generous nature extends to his volunteering for numerous charitable and volunteer events at the College and throughout our wider community. Through his dedication to Catholic life, gentleness of heart and humility, Andrew is truly following in the footsteps of St Paul. The Bishop of Parramatta Awards celebrate all-rounded excellence, acknowledging the empathy, courage, generosity and service students offer their schools and our Western Sydney community. The awards recognise Catholic Education's legacy to champion every person for the common good. Thank you, Jack de Groot, Executive Director Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, Bishop Vincent and the Catholic Education community for facilitating this showcase. Thank you as well to Brian Edmonds, Acting College Principal, and the school community for developing high calibre, compassionate students. Congratulations again, Andrew, on this prestigious Award.

CAROL AND JOHN MOSES

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I would like to recognise two special members of our community, Carol and John Moses of Milperra, for their remarkable dedication to caring for Frank Moulang Reserve. For decades Carol and John have nurtured the park and its wildlife, tending to the grounds. Every morning and evening, they can be found caring for the birds, planting grevilleas, and providing water and seeds for the lorikeets that greet Carol. Even as Carol has become frailer, John continues to ensure her safe passage by mowing a strip for her to enter the reserve and carrying her water container. Their contributions extend beyond the park, as neighbours know they can always rely on John and Carol for a helping hand. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and caring neighbours in our community, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Their efforts are deeply appreciated. Thank you John and Carol. Thank you also to Haylee and Jill Wild for letting me know about the work of these special community members. It's people like Carol and John that make our area a lovely place to live.

ESHPREET KAUR

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I would like to recognise an outstanding young leader from our community, Eshpreet Kaur, a Year 12 student at East Hills Girls Technology High School. Eshpreet has been selected as the only candidate from New South Wales to represent Australia's youth on the United Nations Youth Australia Young Diplomats Tour in January 2025. She will join a delegation of 15 high school students from across Australia on a month-long study tour focused on the evolution of diplomacy. Eshpreet will be meeting with diplomats, non-government organisations, academics, politicians and UN personnel in locations across Europe. Born and raised in Panania, Eshpreet is community-minded and has several leadership positions under her belt including as School Captain at Tower Street Public School and Cultural Ambassador of East Hills Girls. She

believes that young people are at the forefront of driving necessary change in gender equality, opportunity, and equity. I want to wish Eshpreet all the very best on her tour, and also in her future endeavours. Well done for all your achievements so far. You have a bright future ahead of you.

MICHAEL MAFFEY MAITLAND BUSINESS CHAMBER

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Thank you Michael Maffey for your service to the Maitland community in your role as President of the Maitland Business Chamber. Michael is a long-standing member of the Chamber Executive Committee having served as Vice President in 2020-2022 and then President in 2022-2024, two of the most difficult periods in recent business history. In 2020 Maitland had many shops already under stress when local construction, natural disasters and COVID pushed many more to the brink. During the rebuilding phase from 2022-24, Michael was a tireless and vocal champion for local business in Maitland. Michael presided over the 75th anniversary of the incorporated Business Chamber earlier this year, an important milestone during his tenure as president. Michael will remain an active on the committee and is also Chairman of Early Links support and inclusion services. Thank you Michael, for your service to the Maitland Business Chamber.

NADINE STATHAM FAMILY DAY CARE AWARD

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to Nadine Statham who has been named the winner of the Newcastle, Maitland and Hunter Educator in the 13th annual Excellence in Family Day Care Awards. When Nadine, a financial planner, gave birth to her first child and it was time to return to work childcare options were limited. Initially Nadine tried to source centre-based care for her eldest daughter before discovering a family daycare service. Nadine decided to start her business Sweet Little Wildlings thirteen years ago. The venture is part of many centres across the Hunter Valley under the banner of Five Star Family Day Care. Nadine is now in the running to be named as a national finalist for the 2024 Educator of the Year Award, to be announced soon at the Excellence in Family Day Care Awards. These awards showcase the contribution that family day care educators make to more than 74,000 children across the country each day. Congratulations Nadine and good luck in the national awards.

EDGEWORTH EAGLES FC FOOTBALLERS COMPETE IN DANA CUP

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The DANA Cup is one of the largest international youth football tournaments in Europe, involving 1,018 teams from 50 nations, both boys and girls, from ages 11–19. It was held July 22-27, in Hjørring, Denmark. This is Denmark's largest sports event. Every team begins with an all-play-all tournament, while second and later rounds are knock-out. This year, a team hand-picked by ex-National League coach Lee Sterrey entered the tournament from the Northern NSW region. Four players from Edgeworth FC qualified to be part of this squad: Ben Conway (20), a goalkeeper and a local player who has been at the club for six years; Connor Halpin (18), who has been at the club since U-13s; Tyler Beric (18), who joined Edgeworth this year from the Newcastle Jets Academy; and Ty Stoker (16) from Kurri, now in his 4th year at the club. What a wonderful opportunity for these young players. Congratulations to all of you on the team's 3rd place finish. You did us proud and I hope you will treasure this experience.

CVETA ZALOVSKI

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—For over 25 years, Cveta Zalovski, affectionately known as 'Susie', has been a much-loved member of the Glendore Public School community, ensuring that all classrooms, the playground and other school areas are clean and welcoming for students, staff and community members alike. Cveta arrived in Australia from Macedonia with her family in 1974, settling in the Wallsend area, her two children attending Plattsburg Public and Wallsend High School. She is a proud grandmother of four and great-grandmother of two. Cveta enjoys spending time with her family, cooking and keeping busy around her house. Cveta's favourite moments are being welcomed by students and teachers into their classrooms. Working split morning and afternoon shifts, she is literally the first to arrive at 5:30am and the last to leave at 6pm. We recognise and appreciate your long-term contributions, care, efforts, dedication, and loyalty, Cveta. Your community recognises that every day you go above and beyond to ensure that the school is spotless and that classrooms are ready for learning. Your attention to detail, commitment and consistent work ethic are to be commended. Thankyou for all that you do, Cveta.

GLENDORE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—For a special school assembly on 24 September, Glendore Public School invited Callaghan College Wallsend Campus representatives to present certificates and the winning prize for the Wallsend 150 Writing and Art Competition. Stage 3 students celebrated the richness of Wallsend, with the theme of 'Celebrating Wallsend's Heritage and Community'. They were encouraged to explore the post-colonial history of Wallsend, as well as the suburb's emergence as a strong multicultural community, by choosing to create

an artwork (painting, drawing, or digital art) or by composing a piece of writing (story, poem or script) inspired by the history and community of Wallsend. Students selected one of the historical images provided in the Wallsend 150 Years booklet as inspiration for their entry. The images depict significant moments in Wallsend's history, showcasing its evolution over the years. All participants received a certificate of participation and judging criteria included creativity and originality around the historical theme. Congratulations to Highly Commended participants Hailey, Zac and Peyton and, in first place, congratulations to Damon. Thankyou to all students and teachers who helped to celebrate Wallsend's 150th!

2024 KOREA DAY FESTIVAL

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—It was an immense pleasure to attend the 2024 Korea Day Festival at Burwood Park on 28 September 2024. The Korea Day Festival is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and immerse ourselves in the rich culture, music, dance, food and traditions of our wonderful Korean community in Sydney. I would like to acknowledge the NSW President of the Australian Korean Association of Sydney, Councillor Esther Kim, Vice-President Gawng Ei Park, Treasurer Sook Hyun Choi, Secretary Connie Hyun-ok Chang and all members of the Korean Society of Sydney committee for their dedication and hard work. I would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who gave their time to make this event possible. Your commitment to our community is truly commendable. Thank you once again to the Australian Korean Association of Sydney for organising a fantastic 2024 Korea Day Festival. It was a great success and I look forward to next year's celebrations.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN SERVICES SOCIETY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge the Chinese Australian Services Society, also known as CASS. CASS was founded with a vision to provide "high quality services for people of all ages". Their work includes supporting our community through residential aged care, disability support, childcare and health services. I would like to acknowledge CASS Chairperson Professor Stephen Li, Foundation Chairperson and Honorary Executive Director Henry Pan OAM, Emeritus Chairperson Dr. Leng Tan, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary Anthony Pang OAM, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer Sean Zhang, Vice-Chairperson Tica Lee, Directors Dr. Bei Lu Shun Cheng and Stephen Yang and all members of the CASS Board of Directors for their contributions to our community. I also acknowledge CASS leadership including Kitty Leong, Ivan Wong and Brian Guo. I sincerely thank the dedicated team of over 1,000 staff and volunteers. The work of CASS would not be possible without their efforts and the success of the charity is a testament to their hard work and selfless commitment. Thank you to everyone at CASS who has dedicated their time to bettering the lives of others. I look forward to working together for the best outcomes for our multicultural community.

DESTRO'S PHARMACY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate local family business, Destro's Pharmacy on their 35th anniversary serving the Drummoyne community. Destro's Pharmacy was first opened in 1989 by Hector Destro Senior. He worked alongside his son Hector Destro Junior and it is still family owned and operated today by Hector and his wife Silvi. At the core of Destro's Pharmacy is a commitment to providing the highest level of customer service, quality medical care, advice and support. I sincerely congratulate Hector and Silvi on this milestone. 35 years serving our community is truly a proud achievement and a testament to the quality customer service you continue to provide. I also extend my congratulations to the staff of Destro's Pharmacy. The entire team works tremendously hard, and did so during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their work is truly commendable and has had a lasting impact on countless members of our community. I thank Hector & Silvi Desto, their entire family, and staff for the level of care they provide to our community. Local pharmacists and pharmacies are in many ways a key part of the community. I wish Destro's Pharmacy all the best in the years to come.

VALE RON LOVATT

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Ronald "Ron" Lovatt, who passed away peacefully on 18 September 2024. Ron was a beloved husband to Debra and a cherished member of his community, leaving behind a lasting legacy through his compassion and dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Ron was well-known for his advocacy, particularly in raising awareness for men's health and supporting causes like Dry July and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Ron was a long time and much-loved volunteer at the Australian Museum as well. His legacy will continue to inspire generosity and compassion, as he consistently encouraged others to give back and support important causes. Ron's passion for helping others extended beyond his own life, and his contributions to the community will be remembered and appreciated for years to come. Ron was also a friend who I came to know and value when I lived in the Kimberley Building in Cremorne where he was Chair of the Owners Corporation. Our thoughts are with Debra, his family and friends as we remember Ron and the great legacy he leaves behind.

SUPPORTING WORLD RETINA DAY AND EYE HEALTH ADVOCACY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was proud and pleased to join Vision 2020 Australia and Guide Dogs Australia in NSW Parliament to mark World Retina Day - World Sight Day early, which falls on October 10. It was wonderful to catch up with Carly, Dale and their teams, including the adorable guide dog puppies Wallace, Wenona, and Wilbur! We also helped launch an important report on inherited retinal diseases (IRDs), which are a leading cause of blindness in working-age adults and the second leading cause for children, affecting 1 in 1,000 people. A special thank you to Kate Hetherington and Claire Wakefield from UNSW, who is a Willoughby local and Dr Anai Gonzalez-Cordero from the Children's Medical Research Institute, for their exceptional work. Eye health is an issue close to my heart, and it was inspiring to hear personal stories, like Emily's journey with her son's IRD. Thank you to all who attended, shared their stories, and supported this vital cause. Together we're making a difference.

SALUDA MEDICAL VISIT

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I had the privilege of touring the Saluda Medical site in Macquarie Park, where I had the opportunity to learn about one of Sydney's most remarkable success stories in medical innovation. Chronic pain is a debilitating condition that affects 1 in 5 people in our community over the age of 45, severely impacting their quality of life. It was inspiring to witness firsthand the potential of Saluda Medical's EVOKE Spinal Cord Stimulation System, an advanced device designed to improve the lives of those suffering from chronic neuropathic pain. Developed and built right here in Sydney, the EVOKE System represents a groundbreaking solution for those enduring this condition. I was particularly impressed by the company's commitment to improving patient outcomes and the dedication of the team behind this pioneering technology. A heartfelt thank you to Ms Georgina Clare, a Willoughby local and head of HR, for her warm hospitality, Mr Greg Plamondon for his detailed insights and Mr Dean Karantonis for guiding us through the development process and sharing the impressive results achieved. Saluda Medical's work is not only a testament to the innovative spirit of Sydney but also a beacon of hope for those living with chronic pain.

CHARLESTOWN CARING GROUP

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—One of the privileges of being a Member for Parliament is meeting the truly remarkable people in our communities making a difference in the lives of others. Many of these people would regard themselves as just ordinary women and men who are doing their bit to make the world a better place, but because of their generosity and giving, they make an extraordinary contribution to their communities. When I met with the staff and volunteers at the Charlestown Caring Group recently, I witnessed first-hand what this extraordinary contribution looks like. The Group provides a range of services and supports to seniors and people with disability and their families and carers. Their dedicated staff embody compassion and professionalism, and they have a cohort of volunteers, many of whom are retired but still want to make a contribution to their communities. To all the marvellous team at Charlestown Caring Group, thank you for all that you do for the people of Charlestown.

NEWCASTLE NORTHSTARS JUNIOR DIVISIONS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I'm thrilled to be able to recognise the junior divisions of the Newcastle Northstars Ice Hockey Club, who have recently finished their competitions for the year, and all grades can be so very proud of the great results achieved. Congratulations to the Under-17s team who came in fourth place in New South Wales, the Under-15s who are the 2024 Winter State Champions, the Under-13s and Under-11s also came fourth in the state and finally the Under-9s were third place in all of New South Wales. I also sincerely congratulate Dawn Watt from the Northstars who was awarded the Hunter Adult Volunteer of the Year, as a result of her amazing contribution to the Club, and to the growth and development of ice hockey throughout Australia. The Northstars are indeed truly fortunate to have Dawn, and I know that all who are associated with the Club are so admiring of the stellar work Dawn does. Good luck to all the Northstars teams for the next season.

GERALDINES VISWANATHAN

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I'm so very pleased to recognise the achievements of Geraldine Viswanathan, who grew up at Whitebridge and is going from strength to strength pursuing an acting career in Hollywood. After being shortlisted for the prestigious Heath Ledger Scholarship, Geraldine's breakout role was in 2018's Blockers. She has since starred in the Stan series Miracle Workers alongside Daniel Radcliffe of Harry Potter fame, Bad Education, Cat Person and The Beanie Bubble, and in very exciting news she is

currently working on the next Marvel movie, The Thunderbolts. Marvel movies are international blockbusters and so this is another wonderful achievement for Geraldine. When asked in an interview about working with Hollywood stars, Geraldine responded, "I think my biggest take away from working with big names is that the 'real deal' people are truly kind and good people". That's good advice for us all. I have every confidence that Geraldine will continue to shine in Hollywood, and I send her, and her family, who still live at Whitebridge, my very best wishes on her successes to date with a lot more to come.

PETER SCAYSBROOK

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise the exceptional service of Peter Scaysbrook of Bonnet Bay who recently retired from Sutherland Shire Council after 12 years as an elected councillor. An engineer by trade, Peter operated an engineering business at Taren Point for many years before first being elected to Sutherland Shire Council in 2012 to represent C ward, covering the area between Caringbah and Como. In 2016, Peter sought election in E ward as it covered his home of Bonnet Bay and in doing so, became the first Labor councillor west of the Woronora River since 2000. Peter was subsequently re-elected in 2021. Peter is a gentleman and much-loved by all, being elected to serve as Deputy Mayor between 2016 and 2018 and making an incredible contribution to our community through his committee work. As a member of the Georges Riverkeeper, Peter worked with neighbouring councils to improve the environmental condition of the Georges River. Additionally, as chair of the Floodplain Management Committee, Peter was passionate about minimising the flooding risks across the Sutherland Shire. I thank Peter for his distinguished service to the people of the Sutherland Shire during his time on council and wish him well in retirement.

HASSAN AWADA

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise former Councillor Hassan Awada's incredible service to our community during his 7 years on Sutherland Shire Council. A stalwart of the Liberal Party, Hassan was first elected to Sutherland Shire Council in 2012, serving two years as Deputy Mayor before stepping down in 2016. After a brief hiatus, he returned to council in 2021 and served until last month's local government elections representing the residents of C ward. Amongst Hassan's achievements whilst on council were his work in introducing a new tree replacement policy, the upgrade of Sylvania Shopping Centre at Tom Ugly's Bridge and contributing as part the team that delivered synthetic playing fields at Kareela. However, a particular passion of his was ensuring residents had access to proper recycling facilities. In 2022, he advocated for the trial of a pop-up recycling service to cater for extra waste over the Christmas-New Year period and throughout his time on Council, advocated passionately to establish a permanent recycling facility for a range of products that were hard to dispose of at Kareela. I thank Hassan Awada for his efforts on behalf of our community whilst serving on Sutherland Shire Council and wish him every success for the future.

PENRITH SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I congratulate the team at Penrith CBD Corporation on another successful event for Small Business Month. In early October we saw a significant number of small businesses come together for breakfast and hear from guest speakers. Minister Steve Kamper the keynote speaker and gave an insight into what the Minns Government was doing to support our valuable small businesses across the state. The event was MC'd by local business owner Debbie O'Connor. We also heard Council plans from Cllr Todd Carney on supporting local businesses. We were treated to a little balance of breath from Steve Squassoni from The Jade Healing Centre. John Tonkins gave us some insights on 'Brains in a Box System'. We heard expert AI tips from Hanna at WSBC. It's always informative to hear Simon Gould from Orbit Marketing about 'why social media planning, the key timesaver for your business'. Another great presentation from Gabby at Judges Accountants on 'Productivity and Clarity for small business success'. Jane Tweedy advised us how to 'Power up your Productivity Hacks to help save time. We finished with Emma from One Point Health Nutritionist presenting on physical and mental health. Congratulations to all involved.
