

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 15 May 2025

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge our guests in the gallery, who are unusually early at this hour of the day: Maida Vugdalic, principal of Bosnian Ethnic School; Amir Sahinovic, Honorary Consul of Bosnia; Rudi Duratovic and members of the Bosnian community; and some friends from the Central Coast. I applaud their enthusiasm for democracy. Welcome to Australia's first Parliament and the only House truly representing democracy.

[*Notices of motion given.*]

Bills

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS AMENDMENT (E-WASTE) BILL 2025

Second Reading Speech

Debate resumed from 28 March 2025.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:17): I continue my second reading speech on the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (e-Waste) Bill 2025. Previously, I was comparing the thresholds of New South Wales and Victoria and considering new section 76A, which provides for e-waste receiving and processing. It is a condition of a licence to carry out activities specified in schedule 1, clause 41A that e-waste, including components of e-waste, must be recycled. I also outlined the creation of new section 41A, which would apply to premises-based activities, with exemptions by way of a threshold for operators under 100 tonnes of e-waste and noted activities are further declared as scheduled activities. I was noting the importance of this threshold to omit small operators that act in good faith.

This brings me to the observation that it is, sadly, unsurprising that instances of irresponsible behaviour have been brought to my attention, where e-waste may be collected but not necessarily recycled or repurposed, simply being sent into landfill. This week the environment Minister talked about the shortage of landfill in New South Wales. The bill seeks to address this issue by ensuring proper oversight and accountability in the e-waste processing industry. Schedule 1 [4] to the bill inserts the following definition into the schedule:

[4] **Schedule 6 Dictionary**

Insert in alphabetical order—

e-waste means an item of waste with a cord, battery or switch and includes a component of the item.

Examples—computers, fridges, household appliances, lamps, medical devices, mobile phones, photovoltaic panels, televisions

That particular definition is arrived at through the consideration of other jurisdictions that have introduced similar e-waste bans and heavily leans on the South Australian provisions, which, as I mentioned, have been in place since 2013.

The bill also aligns with the Commonwealth's sustainable procurement policy, facilitating the operation of new markets for responsible industry and relieving the growing pressures on Sydney's landfills, which are expected to reach capacity by 2030. Other States have already recognised the urgency of the issue and taken action. South Australia imposed a landfill ban for discarded electronics in 2013, and Victoria followed suit in 2019. Western Australia has announced that it will do so. While e-waste recycling is increasing, our rates require significant improvement, and New South Wales needs to catch up.

I refer members to my private member's statement of 10 February 2025 and encourage them to read that in conjunction with this second reading speech. In that statement I provide further context regarding the issue and

outline how the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is a key driver of e-waste recycling and how South Australian law on recycling e-waste has undergone significant changes in recent years. Since 2013 all e-waste has been banned from landfills in South Australia. That ban was implemented as part of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 and made it illegal to dispose of electronic waste items in landfills. To comply with the law, South Australians must recycle their e-waste through approved methods, and businesses in South Australia must also adhere to those regulations, with noncompliance resulting in a maximum fine of \$5 million for wilful offences.

There are only upsides to the bill. The long-term economic benefits of a robust e-waste recycling industry, the reduced healthcare costs associated with environmental pollution caused by e-waste and the preservation of valuable resources for future use will generate substantial returns for New South Wales—not to mention the benefits to the circular economy. I am old enough to remember the generous solar rebate schemes offered by a previous New South Wales Government. Those rebates drove people's decisions to place solar panels on their roofs. That was about 15 years ago, which is the exact period of the life cycle of the panels. I do not want to see those panels dumped into landfill and their precious resources wasted. Those resources, which would ordinarily have a finite life, could be recycled and become infinite. My discussions in November last year with Caroline McDaid, CEO of WorkVentures, a leading IT social enterprise, highlighted the important link between digital inclusion and poverty in Australia. WorkVentures' collaboration with Australia's largest companies to refurbish and re-use technology demonstrates the core principles of a circular economy, ensuring products and materials are circulated at their highest value.

The bill is not only about waste management; fundamentally it is about public policy, public health, economic opportunity and our State being environmentally responsible—not following but leading, in this instance. It is about creating a truly circular economy, where resources are valued and re-used to their maximum potential rather than buried in the ground. It is about ensuring that New South Wales positions itself as a leader in sustainability and responsible resource management, setting a positive example for other jurisdictions to follow. As has been noted, "Whilst there are other bills on foot dealing with other waste issues, no bill has explicitly regulated the processing of e-waste, and industry is ready to act on these changes now.

The bill is strongly supported by consumers who are increasingly concerned about the environmental impacts of their consumption habits and the ultimate fate of the products they purchase. It is supported by responsible industry participants who recognise the economic opportunities inherent in a circular economy and are ready to invest in and drive innovation in this sector. It is also supported by our national leaders, who have called upon the States to take decisive action to address the growing e-waste crisis. I acknowledge the important role of journalists and media outlets, including Petra Stock from *The Guardian*, Declan Bowring from the ABC, Cameron England from *The Australian*, and other climate and environmental reporters, who have played a crucial role in raising public awareness of these critical issues.

Clean Up Australia observes that e-waste made its way into the top 10 forms of waste last year. Its 2024 litter report observed that e-waste was comprised of vapes, 54 per cent; batteries, 37 per cent; appliances, 4 per cent; white goods, 1 per cent; and mobile devices, 0.6 per cent. However, that litter count does not tell us how much e-waste is sitting in our landfills, which are due to be full in the next decade, as reported by this Government.

This bill is overdue. I thank the many people from all sides of politics who have discussed these important issues with me. Let us seize this opportunity to not only create a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous New South Wales but also position our State as a leader in sustainable innovation and responsible resource management for generations to come. This bill is about the triple bottom line, but it is also about leaving our community and planet in better shape and treading lightly as custodians of our global village. I urge all members to support this critical legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

**SUMMARY OFFENCES AMENDMENT (WAR MEMORIALS AND OTHER PROTECTED PLACES)
BILL 2025**

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Robyn Preston, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (10:26): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I begin by acknowledging any veterans who may be present in the Chamber and those veterans and serving members who are not present. I thank them for their service. I also acknowledge those who made the ultimate sacrifice and fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy today. The Opposition is honoured to introduce the Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025. This bill is the Opposition's second attempt to introduce legislative changes to the Summary Offences Act 1988, after 48 members of Parliament in this place, including all Labor members present at the time, all Greens members and some Independents, rejected the Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2024.

Memorials have been established to recognise the ongoing fortitude and mateship that our defence personnel show during wars, peacekeeping operations, conflicts and natural disasters. There is a serious problem with individuals and groups using our war memorials and sacred places as locations for protesting. I object to that, as do RSL sub-branches. I speak to people throughout New South Wales, and I know our community expects much better. This bill, which amends the Summary Offences Act, makes clear that all war memorials are included as protected places for the offences of damaging and desecrating protected places, and increases the penalty for the offence of damaging or desecrating protected places. This bill also provides that a court that convicts a person or finds a person guilty of an offence of damaging or desecrating a protected place must, unless satisfied that special circumstances exist, order the offender to pay costs and expenses incurred in connection with the harm caused by the commission of the offence or in making good any resulting damage, or for the compensation for loss or damage suffered.

As I stated in my second reading speech to the Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2024 in August last year, the Opposition is committed to honouring the contribution of veterans and current and past serving defence personnel. It genuinely concerns me that those opposite see this as anything other than a bipartisan approach. If the current legislation does not cause change, we must, as elected leaders, review the legislation to ensure that we deter criminals who disrespect the memorials that honour our veterans. Schedule 1 [1] substitutes the Act's definition of "war memorial" in section 8 (1) (b) to provide that the definition includes all war shrines, monuments, statues or other similar structures or places, unless excluded by the regulations. The substituted provision provides that it includes things or areas in the vicinity of and that form part of the site of shrines, monuments, statues or other similar structures or places, and gives examples of gardens, pools and other integrated designs.

This section is subject to section 8 (4). Schedule 1 [5] substitutes section 8 (4) of the Act and inserts new section 8 (5) to allow regulations to be made to exclude a war shrine, monument, statue or other similar structure or place from the definition of "war memorial". The bill seeks to ensure all war memorials are automatically covered by this legislation unless otherwise opted out. We cannot allow offenders a gateway to even remotely argue that the place in which they caused damage or desecration is not a shrine, monument or statue, or that the shrine, monument or statue is not in a public place. It is important that no memorial dedicated to our war veterans is tarnished by acts of vandalism and that those who maintain the memorials do not feel at a loss when criminals destroy their sanctity.

Schedule 1 [2] amends section 8 (2) of the Act to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of wilfully damaging or defacing a protected place from 40 penalty units to 200 penalty units or imprisonment for two years, or both. The Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025 proposes an increase to maximum penalties for the offence of wilfully damaging or defacing a protected place to align with the New South Wales Government's Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025. During his second reading speech for the Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill on 11 February 2025, the Attorney General stated:

... our Government announced that we would consider law reform to address activities outside places of worship that aim to intimidate people trying to attend those places to express their faith, or that prevent people from practising their faith ...

He then goes on to say:

Targeting places where people congregate to share and express their faith is unacceptable, and the overwhelming majority of people in New South Wales reject this type of appalling behaviour.

How, then, is it any less important for war memorials and other protected places to not carry the same penalties? In creating that new section of the Crimes Act 1900, the New South Wales Government demonstrated its commitment to supporting faith-based issues, and my hope is that the values it enforces with respect to places of worship can be emulated in the changes proposed in this bill. The Summary Offences (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025 proposes an increase to penalties under section 8 (2) of the Summary Offences Act 1988 which would align with the Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025.

Furthermore, the New South Wales Government introduced the Crimes Amendment (Inciting Racial Hatred) Bill 2025 and the Crimes Amendment (Racial and Religious Hatred) Bill 2025, which both passed the New South Wales Parliament and were assented. In his speeches on 18 February 2025 and 11 February 2025 the Attorney General made note of the New South Wales Government responding to "instances of antisemitic behaviour" which have sought to "specifically target the Jewish community and to create division within our multicultural community". The Attorney General also mentioned that the New South Wales Government was taking strong action to make sure our laws address graffiti such as the Nazi symbol.

In August 2016 at Nowra War Cemetery, nine marble headstones—almost a third of the gravestones—were defaced with swastikas, along with the words "die Jews" scribbled in white marker on the pavement. The Summary Offences (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025 increases the penalties in section 8 (2) of the Act to send a clear message that disgusting and despicable acts towards our veterans and current and past serving defence personnel need to be fittingly punished. The Opposition believes that any action which maliciously or callously targets our war memorials is abhorrent and offenders must reap the consequences that befit the crime.

Through the Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025 it has been made clear in the New South Wales Parliament that there is zero tolerance for those who cross the boundaries and balance of political freedoms. Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Australia is a party, the right to freedom of expression, as per article 19 (3), carries with it special duties and responsibilities. Certain restrictions have therefore been deemed necessary by law for respect of the rights or reputation of others and the protection of public morals.

Schedule 1 [3] to the bill amends section 8 (3) of the Act to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of committing any nuisance or any offensive or indecent act in, or in connection with, any war memorial or interment site from 20 penalty units to 200 penalty units. On 29 May 2021, five men were caught on CCTV indecently climbing on top of the Sydney Cenotaph statues in Martin Place. They were found guilty of bending a bronze bayonet. The then RSL NSW president, veteran Ray James, was quoted in the *Daily Mail* as saying, "It's a personal attack on all members of the community. Not just veterans, but all Australians." In 2013 this same memorial was subject to disrespect by a tourist who was caught on CCTV swinging on the bayonet. During debate on the Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2024, the Attorney General spoke of the Government's support for war memorials. He said:

Our Government also recognises the important role that war memorials play in acknowledging and commemorating the sacrifice of our veterans. That is reflected in the New South Wales Government announcement just this month of funding for war memorials that will support their appropriate conservation and upkeep.

When the veterans in the gallery heard that comment, they told me they were insulted. They felt as though the Attorney General did not understand the intention of the bill and the message it was trying to send to perpetrators. I cannot, in good conscience, agree with the Attorney General's statement, as the Community War Memorials Fund that he referred to is not intended to be used for repairs of vandalised memorials; rather, it is used for the refurbishment of aged memorials. It should not be left to the custodians of desecrated war memorials, such as local councils, RSL sub-branches and not-for-profit organisations to foot the bill for the repair of such sacred sites.

The Summary Offences Amendment (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025 seeks to direct the penalty imposed towards the cost of repairs of the war memorial. Schedule 1 [4] substitutes the Act's section 8 (3A) and inserts new section 8 (3B) to (3D), to provide that the court must, unless satisfied that special circumstances exist, order an offender it convicts or finds guilty of an offence against the Act to pay certain costs and expenses incurred or compensation for loss or damage suffered if it appears to the court:

- (a) a public authority has incurred costs and expenses in connection with the harm caused by the commission of the offence or making good any resulting damage, or
- (b) a person, including a public authority, has, because of the commission of the offence, suffered loss of or damage to property or has incurred costs and expenses in preventing or mitigating, or in attempting to prevent or mitigate, the loss or damage.

It is hard to believe that there are people who would even consider partaking in such appalling activity, but it happens. However, we have a duty of responsibility to change the existing laws. I think they fail to protect our war memorials. In April 2015 Corrimal War Memorial was desecrated when a chunk of the granite pillar was knocked out and graffiti was sprayed to read "scab eater ... no tears for dead soldiers". As the Summary Offences Act 1988 currently stands, the memorial at the Legacy Garden of Remembrance, a war memorial site at the Queanbeyan information centre, would not be captured. The Summary Offences (War Memorials and Other Protected Places) Bill 2025, if passed, would incorporate this site, which makes sense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The time for debate has expired. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (HOSPITAL HELIPADS) BILL 2024**Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 22 November 2024.**

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (10:37): I rise on behalf of the Government to oppose the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. I do so not because I dispute the importance of timely emergency care or the value of aeromedical retrieval but because this bill does not reflect how patient-centred health infrastructure is actually delivered in New South Wales. Let us be clear: Helipads are considered during planning. They are assessed carefully, methodically and on the advice of health experts. When a helipad is required, it is included. When it is not clinically necessary, funds are better directed to frontline services that actually save lives every day, such as nurses, paramedics and providing intensive care beds. For the cost of a helipad that may not even be used, we could fund 10 full-time intensive care unit nurses for a year.

The Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach. But hospital planning does not work like that, and it should not work like that. Hospitals serve different roles in the New South Wales health system. They are designed based on their function in trauma networks, their emergency role delineation and the needs of the broader health system. Tertiary hospitals like Westmead or John Hunter play a central role in the statewide trauma system, and they receive large volumes of helicopter retrievals. For those hospitals, helipads are essential and rightly prioritised in redevelopment.

Every hospital in New South Wales plays a critical role in our health system but not every hospital is the same. They play different roles within our health system to ensure that the healthcare services provided across the State deliver the best health outcomes for the people of New South Wales. The member for Kiama fails to acknowledge that while Shellharbour Hospital is a critical asset for its community, it is not a trauma referral centre. Patients requiring trauma retrieval will be taken to Wollongong Hospital or further to Westmead, St George, or other major facilities within the trauma network. The system is designed on clinical needs, not politics.

This bill undermines that system, legislating inflexible mandates that override expert advice. It ignores the fact that each hospital is embedded in a local and statewide clinical network that ensures the right patient is taken to the right facility in the right time frame, while using the right mode of transport. It is also worth pointing out that many hospitals include provision for future helipads, and that includes Shellharbour. The site has been designed with potential future helicopter access in mind, but there is a difference between planning for a future need and mandating an expensive facility that may not be used and that would ultimately divert funds from other vital services. The bill ignores aviation safety and operational costs. It also ignores that a helipad without a retrieval team, landing clearance, air traffic conditions and clinical need is just a slab of concrete.

I spoke yesterday on the abortion amendment bill and referenced the original Health Service Act 1997, which regulates the public health system of New South Wales. It states that, to a maximum practical extent, a State will ensure provision of public hospital services equitably to all eligible services regardless of their geographic location. That principle does not require a local hospital to be equipped to provide eligible persons with every hospital service they may need. In rural and remote areas, the State should provide reasonable public access to a basic range of hospital services that are in accord with clinical practices.

As I referred to yesterday, I have seen a lot in my career. I will tell members a story of the importance of aeromedical retrieval, other than the long nights that I spent at the back door of Moruya Hospital waiting for the lights of a helicopter to appear over the Great Dividing Range for a retrieval. One summer day—40 degrees, in fact; I remember it well—my wife and I were on our way home from Canberra. I made the mistake of commenting at Braidwood, "It's been a great trip so far, hasn't it?"

Ms Charishma Kaliyanda: Famous last words.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: Famous last words! We were only five kilometres out of Nelligen, which is not far from Batemans Bay hospital. We came around a bend to see a car overturned. Someone was trapped inside and injured people were strewn on the side of the road. There was one ambulance. I and one ambulance officer had to triage from person to person. It was one of those experiences where your life flashes before your eyes. We had done our bit and suddenly a helicopter landed at one end of the highway and another helicopter landed at the other end. Skilled paramedics and doctors jumped out of the out of the helicopters and started treatment on those patients. When the helicopters took off, they did not land at Batemans Bay hospital or Moruya hospital; they went to Canberra or Sydney. I praise the aeromedical retrieval system that we have in New South Wales.

However, we must remember that helicopters are not the only form of aeromedical retrieval; we have fixed-wing aircraft. We also have road transport. I have also experienced that climate change and the increasing

number of extreme weather events preclude the use of helicopters. We need to look at the bigger picture to say, "That patient may need to be retrieved or transferred, but helicopters are out of the system." We experienced that with not only storms and floods but also the bushfire catastrophe of 2019-20. In my previous incarnation, I was also on the site selection committee and the project users' group of the new level 4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, which is being developed. I witnessed the difficulties with planning the helipads. I acknowledge that there will be a helipad at the site of the new level 4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, which will open in 2027.

When choosing sites for the helipads, access to emergency departments is critical. Emergency physicians and specialists have the greatest need for the shortest access. A local example is Batemans Bay hospital. The hospital's helipad is about a mile away at the marina, which does nothing for patient safety. I have also witnessed the planning involving aviation safety and aeronautical issues because of the influence of our neighbours in the area. We owe it to the people of New South Wales to build a health system that is based on evidence and not theatrics. The member for Kiama stated in his speech that legislators often say that they cannot legislate for common sense. Yesterday I also pointed out the logical fallacies in the debate on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill. The appeal to common sense, once again, is a populist logical fallacy that is not based on evidence or sound reasoning. I oppose the bill, and I urge the House to do the same.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (10:45): On behalf of the Opposition, I support the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2025. The bill seeks to introduce a new proposed section 132A into the Health Services Act that requires the Minister to ensure that any new public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad or that, when any redevelopment is undertaken, a helipad is added. Following conversations with the member for Kiama, he has indicated that he will be moving amendments to build helipads at hospitals that have an emergency medicine service of level 3 and above, as described by the Role Delineation Levels of Emergency Medicine by NSW Health. This is a good amendment, and the Opposition supports it.

Hospital helipads ensure that services are accessible even from remote or congested areas, offering an alternative and faster route for patient transport. We know that in an emergency, seconds and minutes matter and sometimes helicopter transport can be the best way to ensure that a patient receives the care that they need in an emergency. That can also be vitally important for urgent organ transportation for transplants. Helipads are lifesaving infrastructure. The bill is necessary because, currently, the decision around hospital helicopter landing sites in New South Wales is underpinned by a set of unenforceable guidelines published in 2020. Those guidelines are important and have inputs from both NSW Ambulance helicopter retrieval services and Health Infrastructure, but they provide only guidance and not certainty. Section 2 of the guidelines, requirements for a helicopter landing site, states:

When hospitals are first built or redeveloped, it is essential that requirements for a HLS are considered. This may involve:

- inclusion of a HLS where not previously provided, either on-site or nearby
- relocating a HLS from a nearby site or on-site location
- retro-fitting an existing HLS.

The guidelines include other considerations as well. The original version of the bill would have required a helipad at any new hospital build with an emergency department or any hospital with an emergency department undergoing a significant upgrade. I understand that would have been unworkable and potentially costly, given the number of hospitals in New South Wales with emergency departments. It makes sense to limit this to a level 3 and above hospital that has access to a wider range of specialists and services and the ability to handle more serious conditions. The member for Kiama has introduced the bill after his local community raised concerns about the need to have a helipad built at Shellharbour Hospital. A petition on that issue has attracted thousands of signatures. The community is calling for this infrastructure, and the Government should listen.

The Minister for Health and the builders have said publicly that Shellharbour Hospital is being designed to enable the construction of a future rooftop helipad. Surely it would make more sense for them to build it now rather than down the track when it could cost more. The member for Bega pointed out that it is not a trauma hospital, and the clinical needs should be considered first. But why was a helipad designed in the build if it is not required? The member for Bega talked about politics playing a role in the debate instead of clinical needs. He said that we should not be talking about common sense. I think talking about common sense is exactly what we should do in this place. It is common sense to build the helipad at Shellharbour Hospital now rather than waiting until later when the cost will have increased.

The new hospital will have expanded emergency services and increased surgical capacity. The member for Bega said that the costs of the helipad would be prohibitive and could instead fund 10 intensive care nurses in that hospital. That is an unfair comparison. Is the member suggesting that it is either/or? Will he commit to an additional 10 intensive care nurses at the hospital instead of the helipad? I would like to hear more about that. The need for the new hospital is due to population growth and people living longer. By 2031, the Shoalhaven

catchment is forecast to grow 12 per cent, with significantly faster population growth in the 70-plus age group. To provide high-quality, accessible health care for the growing population, a significantly larger hospital in both size and capability is required. That is why the former Coalition Government made the investment and started the process of building the new hospital.

The Minns Government should listen to the community and the healthcare staff who are saying they require a helipad at the new Shellharbour Hospital. However, this Government has a tin ear and a poor track record when it comes to listening to the Illawarra and South Coast. This is a government that has ignored the concerns of the Batemans Bay community and is closing their emergency department. The Labor member for South Coast promised her community that babies would be born at Milton Ulladulla Hospital. Now Labor is in government and that promise has not been delivered. There are no babies at Milton Ulladulla, no emergency department at Batemans Bay and no helipad at Shellharbour Hospital. This is a sensible bill. It will give certainty to communities when level 3 and above hospitals are built or redeveloped. It will ensure that communities have the world-class health care and accessibility they need. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (10:52): I am delighted to speak on behalf of the Government, joining the Parliamentary Secretary and the member for Bega in contributing to debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. As members opposite are aware, the Government opposes the bill. The member for Kiama has introduced another bill, but I am advised that he has again undertaken little consultation with key people. That said, from the outset I acknowledge the importance of investing in the health system. I draw attention to the reference the member for Vaucluse made to Milton hospital. The House should be aware that when members opposite were in government, they closed that hospital. They cared so much about Milton hospital and health services that, as a first step, before building helipads, they shut down hospitals. It is impossible to build a helipad on a hospital once it has been closed. I might be silly—I do not know.

I note that the member for Shellharbour is in the Chamber and I acknowledge her longstanding and steadfast advocacy on Shellharbour Hospital. A lot of work has been done at that hospital, and the member for Shellharbour has been a formidable advocate. She understands that we should not be shutting down hospitals; we should be future-proofing hospitals. That is exactly what this Government is doing at Shellharbour Hospital. Why is that happening? It is because the Minister for Health and his team, like the member for Shellharbour and other members of this Government, understand the importance of investing in health services. Why? Because there are not too many more important things that we do in this place than put people's health first. We have been in government for a couple of years, and, yes, we have had some challenges. I could go through them. I am not going to politicise the subject because I do believe in the importance of making sure we have a well-funded health system.

I note that the bill is not just about Shellharbour Hospital; it is about every public hospital in New South Wales. My health and regional health Parliamentary Secretary colleague the member for Bega is right to draw attention to the monetary facts of funding such an initiative. The reality is it would cost an absolute bomb. So, as a government, we be sensible. The Minister is sensible. I have referred to my good mate the member for Keira as the patron saint of health care. But, jokes aside, the Minister is passionate about health care in New South Wales. He is not just passionate about it; he is sensible and honest. He will call things out when they need to be called out.

The Minister will be happy to scrutinise and criticise where needed, but he will also give credit where it is due, and he has done that on multiple occasions. Even yesterday in question time, when the Minister was asked a question about midwifery and nursing numbers, some members opposite tried to drag him and the question into the gutter. They said, "Oh, are you going to blame us?" The Minister, in his honourable way, said, "No, I'm not going to blame you." He gave credit to former Ministers Jillian Skinner and Brad Hazzard for the things they did at certain times. Why? Because it is not about politics; it is about good policy.

That is why the Government has had some good policy initiatives, even as a new government, and now as we head towards the third year of this term. With the House's indulgence, I will give some examples. Those initiatives include a record high health budget of \$35.1 billion in 2024-25, comprising of \$31.9 billion recurrent and \$3.4 billion in capital works. That reflects underlying expense growth of 5 per cent on the previous year and 12.1 per cent above 2022-23, which was the former Government's budget. In dollar terms, it is \$1.4 billion more than the previous year and \$3.2 billion more than 2022-23. On top of this, in December the Government announced that we would invest a further \$200 million into local health districts, including towards fast-tracking planned surgeries and boosting capacity.

Some \$480 million has been invested into emergency department relief packaging, helping over 290,000 people avoid a visit to the emergency department, saving 76,000 hours of waiting and 8,900 bed days every year. There is a \$188 million bulk-billing support initiative to clean up the mess of payroll tax created by those opposite and to protect the bulk-billing rates of seeing a GP for families across New South Wales. It would

be remiss of me at this time not to refer to the Federal election. I congratulate the Albanese Government on its return and also acknowledge its commitment to not only save Medicare but also invest in Medicare.

Mr Justin Clancy: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The member for Albury rises on a point of order. Members will remain silent so that I can hear it.

Mr Justin Clancy: I ask that you direct the member for Campbelltown to return to the leave of the bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): I did not realise that the member had strayed from the leave of the bill as I could not hear him. The member for Campbelltown will speak to the bill.

Mr GREG WARREN: That comes as no surprise because Medicare is relevant not only to members on this side of the House but to every man, woman and child in New South Wales and the rest of Australia. It complements this Government's position to work with the Federal Government to not only save Medicare but also enhance Medicare. If members want an indication of the flawed policies of those opposite, they do not need to reflect on the 12 years of incompetence that those opposite provided the people of New South Wales; they just need to refer to that comment from the member for Albury. I will hold him to that, because the relevance is that Medicare matters to local patients, carers, health workers, nurses and doctors. What an ignorant point of order to take. That said, the Government will not be distracted from what matters most in our health system, and that is our patients and health workers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): It being 11.00 a.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for question time. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Members

MEMBER FOR TERRIGAL

The SPEAKER: The member for Terrigal gets an honourable mention at the start of proceedings today. I wish him all the best for his upcoming birthday. I am sure the member's behaviour will be exemplary today— for a change. So I look forward to that.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the gallery Mr Peter Nagy, the Head of Post of the Consulate of Hungary, and Mrs Katalin Ilosvay, President of the Hungarian Council of NSW, guests of the member for Blacktown. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly and to question time. I welcome staff and students of Westfield Sports High School, guests of the member for Fairfield. I welcome Mel Wise, a guest of the member for Kiama. I acknowledge Jane Ewing, Tony Finneran, Oliver Moreton and Eshpreet Kaur, guests of the member for East Hills. I also welcome a guest of the member for Albury, Shay Stern. Finally, I acknowledge students from Maitland High School in the public gallery, guests of the member for Maitland. We might hear from the member for Maitland later. We can only hope.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I advise the House that the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice will answer questions today in the absence of the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism.

Question Time

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:05): My question is directed to the Minister for Women. Section 39 of the Workers Compensation Act stops weekly compensation payments after five years unless a worker has more than 20 per cent permanent impairment. In 2018 the Minister spoke and voted in favour of a Labor amendment to remove section 39 altogether. As the Minister for Women, is that still her position?

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Why don't you put your submission in to the inquiry tomorrow?

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time. I will not tolerate that behaviour from a member of the Government front bench.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (11:06): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the first question of question time today. Government members were not quite sure what the strategy of the Opposition would be today. It is an interesting strategy. I will not divulge any position that I am going to take in future legislation. That will be subject to Cabinet discussions. As the Minister for Industrial Relations just said, everybody is welcome to put in a submission to the inquiry that is currently being undertaken.

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

TEACHER WORKFORCE

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (11:07): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to ensure there are more teachers at the front of classrooms across New South Wales?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (11:08): I thank the member for Mount Druitt for that important question. We know that the single biggest thing the Government can do to ensure the future success of our students in academic, wellbeing and general life outcomes is to ensure they have a qualified, well-supported and valued teacher in front of them in the classroom. We have achieved that by ending the wage suppression of 12 years of government by members opposite, which had teachers leaving in droves. That is why we gave teachers the biggest pay rise in a generation and made 16,000 temporary teachers and support staff permanent. It is why we have ensured that teachers in New South Wales are valued once again. As a result, teacher vacancies are at a four-year low. For the first time in 13 years, resignations are actually falling. Under those opposite—

Ms Eleni Petinos: Where are the numbers?

Ms PRUE CAR: I am about to get to that point, and it is going to be highly embarrassing for those opposite. Teacher vacancies hit a record high of 3,300 under those opposite. Under the Minns Labor Government, there were 1,290 vacancies at the start of the year. The brains trust on the other side of the Chamber are the ones who brought us yesterday's question time strategy.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: They have decided that it might be wise to attack this Government about teacher vacancies.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: Every member opposite has got a question about teacher vacancies in their electorate except for the member for Lane Cove.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: The member for Lane Cove probably had the wisdom to suggest that this might not be the best issue to attack the Government on.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lane Cove will cease assisting the Minister.

Ms PRUE CAR: When this Opposition was in government, the responsible Minister said teacher vacancies were a beat-up and did not keep her awake at night. She ignored that they even existed. I am happy to give the Opposition the numbers that they seek. In fact, I am even happy to organise the social media for them if they would like our help with it. I will highlight a few electorates for the House. In Hornsby, vacancies have gone down from 25 to six. That is good. In Castle Hill, vacancies have gone down from 35 to three.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Oatley indicated to me that he was not going to be thrown out of the Chamber today.

Mr Edmond Atalla: I seek further information.

The SPEAKER: An additional two minutes is granted.

Ms PRUE CAR: I thank the member for Mount Druitt. There is plenty of additional information to review. Teacher vacancies have gone down from 30 to six in the North Shore, from 27 to three in Drummoyne, from 14 to seven in Manly and from 21 to three in Terrigal. In Ryde it is down from 30 to 15, which is hard. In Miranda it is down from 27 to 14. Maybe next time those opposite might want to think about what happens when a government is elected and it stops the suppression of teacher wages. What actually happens? More teachers stay, and more year 12 students want to enrol in education degrees. The members opposite have asked, and I have answered. Under this Government, teacher vacancies are at record lows.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: The Opposition ignored this crisis when it was in government. What credibility does it have to even talk about teacher vacancies in this place? This Government was elected to do something about it.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order. Opposition members will cease interjecting.

Ms PRUE CAR: Those opposite hate hearing the truth. They ask a question, but they do not want to hear the answer. The truth is that teacher vacancies are at a four-year low across the board, and we are continuing to drive them down through every possible method. We are recruiting more young people into education degrees, while those opposite continue to oppose a pay rise for teachers.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Point of order—

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

Mr Anthony Roberts: My understanding is that the questions from me have arrived by mail and are downstairs in the mailroom in a box.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I call the member for Lane Cove to order for the first time.

Ms PRUE CAR: I am giving him the answer now. I thank the member for Lane Cove for his sudden interest in teacher vacancies. This Government will continue to drive numbers down because we believe in public education.

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

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:14): My question is directed to the Minister for Building. Section 39 of the Workers Compensation Act stops weekly compensation payments after five years unless the worker has more than 20 per cent permanent impairment. In October 2018 the Minister voted in favour of a Labor amendment to remove section 39 altogether. Is that still the Minister's position?

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (11:14): Mr Speaker—

[Interruption]

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The Minister is ready to answer the question.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: I thank the member for Wahroonga for the repeat question, which was also asked of my colleague the Minister for Women. It seems that the lazy Susan has gone around the practice room with the same question. I predict the next question to a Labor member will also be about workers compensation. Firstly, the Government is committed to workers compensation reform. It is an important part of our economy. Secondly, there is an exposure draft on the table. I encourage members of the Opposition to make their submission and tell us what their position is on workers compensation. The draft has plenty of pages for them to devour. They can think about what their position is on workers' rights. As we know, there is only one—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: I remind the Minister that the question was about what his position is, not what our position is.

The SPEAKER: It is not unreasonable to ask the Minister to be more directly relevant. I uphold the point of order.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: The exposure draft is out for consultation for a reason. The Government will not form a position until it gets all the feedback from the stakeholders.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order: The question was not about the Government's position. It was specifically about the Minister's position and whether it has changed since 2018.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order under Standing Order 129. The Minister has been directly relevant.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: I will tell members of the Opposition a secret. My position was the same as the Government's position. How about that? There is a secret for them to run a campaign on.

Mr Jordan Lane: That's like Bill Shorten: I haven't seen the comment, but I support what it is they've said. Look at him now. He's gone. What a shocker!

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: The breaking news is that my position, when I form it, after consultation, will be the same position as the Government's position.

Mr Jordan Lane: He's got to wait to be told!

Ms Eleni Petinos: Wait to be told!

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

[*Interruption*]

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order or they will be removed from the Chamber. I acknowledge the interjection by the member for Ryde, who took interjections today to a new level. Interjections will not be tolerated. The member for Miranda will come to order. The behaviour of Opposition members was totally out of control. The only thing that ameliorated it was that Government frontbench members were also interjecting and the Minister was not impacted for most of his answer. I will hear from the Leader of the House, who I am sure is rightly concerned about the disorder in the House.

Mr Ron Hoenig: There are no circumstances in which members of the House may conduct themselves like that. That is about the worst behaviour I have seen.

The SPEAKER: Order! Opposition members are offending against the standing orders as the Leader of the House is attempting to take a point of order about disorder in the House. The Leader of the House will be heard in silence.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Behaviour like that from members on either side of the House must not be tolerated. Mr Speaker, I ask you to use all your available powers if there is an attempt by any member to repeat that behaviour.

Mr Alister Henskens: To the point of order: Yesterday when I could not hear what the Speaker was saying because of the cacophony of noise from Government members, the Leader of the House did not admonish his side of the Chamber. Members on this side of the House legitimately thought I had asked a question of the Minister for Building, not that Bill Shorten had returned to politics.

The SPEAKER: I will not deal with this issue throughout the rest of question time. I will apply the standing orders. I have indicated that members will be removed from the Chamber if they continue to interject. If I had exercised my powers under the standing orders fairly, a Government member would have been removed from the Chamber. I will treat the behaviour as a one-off. Minister Chanthivong was not unduly impacted by the interjections in delivering his answer, but the member for Ryde is on a warning for his interjections.

BULK-BILLING SUPPORT

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (11:20): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health. Will the Minister please update the House on how the Minns Labor Government's bulk-billing support initiative is easing pressure on our State's healthcare system?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:21): That was a great question from a great local representative. The member for Strathfield has a mental health forum for youth in his community coming up, and recently he was at Concord hospital with me to look at the massive advancements we are making to the way we treat people with burns at that world-leading health service. When Labor came to office in 2023, one of the big problems plaguing our health system was a declining rate in primary care and bulk-billing across New South Wales. A declining rate in bulk-billing results in a subsequent increase in emergency department presentations at our local hospitals. In fact, it is estimated that a 1 per cent drop in GP bulk-billing equates to about 3,000 more emergency department presentations.

The Government faced a problem that went back to 2018, when GPs were essentially punished with big payroll tax liabilities, which meant it was difficult for them to bulk-bill, so they had to increase patient charges. That meant that fewer people saw their GP and more people presented to emergency departments. The Minister for Finance, the Treasurer, the Premier and I set about looking at what we could reform in New South Wales. For the first time in the State's history, we embarked on a reform to intervene in bulk-billing in New South Wales. That is the first time a State jurisdiction has done that. I acknowledge the work of the Minister for Finance. It would have been easy for her to say that it was a Commonwealth responsibility. But she, the Treasurer, the Premier and I were determined to find a fix.

We worked with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian Medical Association, clinicians and GPs across the community and we found a fix. Payroll tax cuts for GPs in New South

Wales totalled \$4 million in the first quarter, which means they can put that money into their businesses and increase bulk-billing in our community. We hope that will take pressure off our emergency departments. The Government does not pretend in any way, shape or form that, as a result of our intervention, we will see bulk-billing skyrocket in New South Wales, but we had seen a collapse in bulk-billing in New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

We needed to stabilise that to stop the freefall, and that is what the intervention has done. This morning I was with the member for Maroubra and Attorney General in his local area, and a GP. We were at a local GP service that is doing exactly that—bulk-billing at over 80 per cent—and we are making sure that people in and around the Maroubra area have access to health care, particularly when it is not an emergency and particularly in a timely manner. This reform is important because it not only indicates a willingness of the State to intervene in an area that is traditionally the responsibility of the Commonwealth but also demonstrates an understanding from the community's perspective that the Government is guided by feedback from the community. Very clearly, what people were saying, including during the recent Federal election, is that they value Medicare and bulk-billing. A fundamental bedrock to living in this State and this country is that there is a well-resourced GP and primary care system that is bulk-billed at the heart of it and supported by a Commonwealth Government that listens.

This Government definitely will hold the Commonwealth Government to account in relation to its announcements. I make no apologies for that. I congratulated the new Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care and wrote to him outlining a range of issues that I want advanced as quickly as possible. One of them is certainly taking pressure off emergency departments by boosting support for primary care in our communities. That will be the focus of this Government over the next six to 12 months. I thank members who have spoken to me about issues in their communities. I assure them that the New South Wales Government has ensured, and will continue to ensure, that we invest in healthcare services that are important for their communities.

WOLLONDILLY POLICE AREA COMMAND

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (11:26): My question is directed to the Premier. I know his Government is aware of the growth in Wollondilly, and for months I have worked with the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism to get an answer on the new Wollondilly Police Area Command [PAC] and the preferred location. Members of this have has been told that the land is subject to a land claim. How is that land claim going? If it has not progressed, will the Premier ask the Minister to find another place for our much-needed PAC?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:26): I thank the member for Wollondilly for a very reasonable question. I inform the House that the land claim was originally submitted by the local Aboriginal Land Council on 19 February 2015. It is one of tens of thousands of land claims that are in the system that the lands Minister is working through. Whether that work is State Government needs or the local Aboriginal Land Council's complex work in relation to property and settlements, it should not stand in the way of brand-new infrastructure for the fastest growing region—if not the fastest, then the second fastest. I think it competes with the north-west region in the State. The Government knows that police infrastructure is needed to keep pace with that region's growing population. There are other options.

I have spoken to the police Minister and my own departmental officers. There are other options in the region, but we want to ensure that the police officers we have recruited have places to work in, particularly brand-new police infrastructure. If that is good enough for areas closer to the city, it needs to be the same for the Camden region. Regarding staffing of police officers, we are recruiting for fast-growing commands. The police Minister has announced recently that as a part of Class 365, which members would be aware is the largest graduating class from the Goulburn Police Academy in a decade, there are five new recruits for the Camden Police Area Command, six for the Campbelltown Police Area Command and six for the Nepean Police Area Command. The member for Wollondilly would know that there three commands have coverage for her electorate. From Class 364, 298 probationary constables graduated or attested: three for Camden, six for Campbelltown, and seven for Nepean.

The Government made promises at the last State election to fill command posts with new recruits, and that is as crucial as is physical infrastructure when it comes to the police. The Government is on the way to meeting those promises, but only because of changes to pay and conditions for police officers in the State. But I take the member's point that we need to make sure that police officers have the physical infrastructure—the police stations, the cars—and the technology they need to do their job.

STATE BUDGET

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (11:29): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, in his capacity representing the Treasurer. Will the Minister update the House on the

importance of the Minns Labor Government's responsibly managing the State's budget after a decade of waste and neglect?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (11:29): That is how you ask a question, folks.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Mark Speakman: My point of order is under Standing Order 128: Questions should not contain inference, imputation, epithets, ironical expression or expression of opinion. The final words of the question offend all of those.

The SPEAKER: It would change the whole history of the bearpit if I uphold that point of order. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that is something members must be careful of. Members on both sides of the House often sail close to the wind, but in this case I do not uphold the point of order. The Minister will answer the question.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: I thought he was going to correct the question and point out that it was actually 12 years of poor budget management under members of the other side, not a decade. But I would have thanked him for that correction. The member for East Hills understands that if we want to make sure we are investing in the services that people want, we must reduce the amount of interest we are paying on former Liberal-Nationals Government debt. We on this side inherited a budget that was completely out of control. The previous Government delivered the two largest budget deficits in this State's history. By the time members opposite had been voted out, they had run up \$129 billion in debt—that is \$16,000 for every person in New South Wales—and they were on target to reach \$188 billion in debt by 2026, which is more than \$22,300 per person. It was the largest debt ever handed from one government to another in New South Wales history. And it is not as if they inherited a bad budget position.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: When they came into office, the debt was \$22.5 billion. Over the time of those Treasury greats—the great economic minds of Berejiklian, Perrottet and Kean—they managed to increase the debt by 700 per cent. That is an incredible record of dereliction of duty in fiscal management of this State. While the debt went up, so did the interest payments, from \$1.4 billion a year to \$7 billion a year. Imagine what we could be doing with that, rather than paying interest on Liberal-Nationals debt.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: In the 2021-22 budget, which was handed down by former Treasurer Matt Kean and now shadow Treasurer Damien Tudehope in the other place, revenue increased by 17.1 per cent—pretty healthy revenue—but expenses grew by 25 per cent. Every time they had some revenue growth, they made sure expenses grew even more. That is how you end up with debt. It is the antithesis of good, responsible budget management. Why? Because the Liberals and Nationals in New South Wales are the antithesis of good economic management.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Member for Oatley to order for the first time. I call the member for Epping to order for the first time.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: They know it. They are agreeing with me. They are saying, "You're absolutely right." I can hear the interjections now. This came at a time when the former Government was selling everything in New South Wales that was not nailed down. [*Extension of time*]

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Tens of billions of dollars of assets were sold off.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Let us look at their track record. Vales Point Power Station was sold by the previous Government for \$1 million, only to be sold back to the New South Wales Government for \$200 million.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: It was described by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission as the worst deal it had ever seen. Then there was the poles and wires sale, which forced families to pay out super profits to private companies that own transmission assets, unlike Queensland, which kept its assets and kept the dividends. The previous Government sold at least \$72 billion in public assets.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Those opposite sold the land titles office, and fees increased by 25 per cent. They sold the port, and container fees rose by 40 per cent. That is the sort of financial wizardry for which they have been patting themselves on the back.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for North Shore to order for the second time.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Everything those opposite looked at was sold and disappeared along with the revenue. If they ever get back into government, they will use exactly the same tactics again. They will cap wages. They will drive up debt, and they will sell off what they do not think it is necessary. It is in their DNA. However, the Minns Government has acted to stop working people losing more of their purchasing power as a result of that sort of reckless behaviour. We are bringing the budget back under good management.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: We are reducing the State's debt.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Those opposite might not want to hear it, but gross debt is projected to be \$9 billion lower under this Government than it was projected to be under the Government of members opposite.

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

Mr PAUL SCULLY: They do not like to hear it because they do not like to have their track record of budget neglect and mismanagement exposed.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Badgerys Creek to order for the second time.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (11:35): My question is directed to the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport. In October 2018 the Minister said that the 20 per cent impairment threshold in section 39 of the Workers Compensation Act was "grossly unfair" and voted to remove it. Is that still the Minister's position?

The SPEAKER: The member for Terrigal will come to order. The Minister has not even opened her mouth and the member is interjecting. The Minister has the right to be heard in silence for at least the first word of her answer. The Minister has the call.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (11:36): It is quite strange to see members opposite using opposition work done by our good friends over at the Herald to work out what we said in question time and with respect to legislation back in 2018.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I note that in 2018 those opposite did not accept the amendment, and now they lecture us.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: The Minister for Industrial Relations and the Treasurer—and Minister Dib too—have been doing an incredible job to try to build a better New South Wales from the mess that those opposite left us. We are consulting with our communities, and we are consulting with unions. I remember, as a small business operator, when Barry O'Farrell came in and took an axe to the workers compensation system in this State and absolutely destroyed it.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. My question specifically asked about the Minister's position.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister will be directly relevant to the question.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Mr Speaker, I am being directly relevant because—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will not cavil with my ruling. I have determined that she has not been directly relevant.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Apologies, Mr Speaker. I was giving context to my long-held view that workers in this State need to be treated better, which is shared by members of the Government and the crossbench.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Members opposite are the only ones who do not have that view. They demonstrated it for the 12 long years that they destroyed workers compensation.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: An exposure draft of the bill is out, and there is a consultation process, with an inquiry taking place on Friday for anyone who wants to put their views forward.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I have been listening to unions in my community. I have been listening to injured workers for years. I have been listening to families.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Those opposite left behind a disgraceful situation. They did not even look at any of the preventative things that we are now trying to put in place. Those workers with psychological injuries who had a 50 per cent chance of getting back to normal and back to enjoying life, let alone getting back into the workplace, were left on the hook by those opposite. They did not care and cut them off.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: We came in here every single day to defend them and those opposite did nothing. They are a disgrace.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has completed her answer. I remind the member for Badgerys Creek that she is on two calls to order. The member for Epping will come to order.

RENTAL LAWS

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (11:39): My question is addressed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's plans to create a fairer rental system?

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (11:40): I thank the member for Liverpool for her question and her advocacy on behalf of the 12,500 residents in her electorate who are renting, and renting for so much longer as well. I am pleased to advise the House that the Minns Labor Government is ushering a new era of stability and security for renters with three key changes that will come into effect from Monday next week. The Government is delivering on its election commitment to help make renting fairer for the States' 2.3 million renters by removing no-grounds evictions, making it easier to have pets in rental homes and ensuring that renters have a convenient fee-free way to pay their rent.

From Monday 19 May the following legislation will come into full effect. We are ending no-grounds evictions. Landlords will no longer be able to end a tenancy without a reason as set out in the legislation. They must provide supporting documents where applicable, which will increase security and transparency for renters as well as providing clarity and certainty for the 620,000 landlords in New South Wales. We are also making it easier to have pets in rentals. Landlords will only be able to refuse a tenant's request for a pet for a specific reason. A standardised application process will ensure that the decision-making process is fairer and clearer. So that renters have fee-free ways to pay their rent, landlords and agents must make available convenient and modern payment methods, such as direct bank transfers, without any extra costs.

Those important changes come alongside other key initiatives that the Government is implementing. We are limiting rent increases to once per year for all lease types and ending tenants having to pay for their own background checks. We have launched a new, free website called Rent Check, providing important and comparable information about rental properties for renters seeking properties that suit their needs. The Government is investing \$6.6 million to develop and deliver the nation's first Portable Rental Bonds Scheme. We are leading the way when it comes to renting and making renting fairer for the people of New South Wales. Under the Portable Rental Bonds Scheme eligible renters can move homes and digitally transfer their existing bonds with them—a convenient way to do things as people move properties. The Government will also have strong enforcement measures under these new laws to ensure a smooth transition and that the laws are working for renters and the rental market. [*Extension of time*]

As part of the enforcement regime, there will be stiff penalties in place for those agents or landlords who do the wrong thing, with fines up to \$11,000 for individuals, and \$71,500 for a company, who gives non-genuine

reasons or grounds to end a tenancy. A penalty of \$5,500 applies for not providing the required fee-free ways to pay rent, and penalties up to \$2,200 apply for advertising a rental property as no pets allowed or charging for background checks. These changes will be enforced by the Government's Rental Taskforce, with inspectors and support teams to help renters act on serious breaches of these new laws. Significant changes are coming in on Monday the 19th that will bring the rental market into the twenty-first century and make renting fairer for everybody involved. The implementation of the reforms creates a fairer and more balanced rental market that gives tenants greater security while also making sure that owners have clear and transparent processes to follow.

We have listened to renters, property owners and industry experts to shape the bold, balanced and modern changes and have worked closely with stakeholders to ensure the transition is smooth and well understood. Agents and landlords who choose to flout the law should be well aware that the Rental Taskforce will act and there are stiff penalties involved. The Government understands that more people are renting and are renting for longer. The reforms will improve security and fairness in the rental market by ending no-grounds evictions, making it easier for tenants to have pets in their rental homes and ensuring that renters have access to free electronic rent payment options. There is no clearer demonstration that the Minns Labor Government is committed to making the rental market fairer for the 2.3 million renters in New South Wales.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (11:45): My question is directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. In October 2018 the Minister said that provisions in the Workers Compensation Act 1987 that ceased compensation payments for workers with permanent impairment lower than 20 per cent were "casting injured workers into abject poverty, purely to make their bottom line look better". Is that still the Minister's position?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (11:45): I am delighted to speak about workers compensation in this State. I am disappointed that the shadow police Minister did not ask the question. He has given up.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will control themselves. Government members are also being disorderly.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: A parliamentary committee is examining an exposure draft of the proposed reform and holding a public hearing this Friday. If members opposite are interested, I encourage them to come along. The Government will not adopt its final position on workers compensation reforms until people have had their say and had a chance to participate. The Government will then make its decision.

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

Mrs Wendy Tuckerman: Point of order: The question was whether that is still the Minister's position.

The SPEAKER: I understand the question. I uphold the point of order. The Minister will answer the question more directly.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I was about to before I was rudely interrupted. I am part of the Government, and it is then that we will make the decision.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will cease using props. The Clerk will stop the clock. Every member who has been called to order is now deemed to be on three calls to order. Those members are the member for Tamworth, the member for Terrigal, the member for Dubbo, the member for Coffs Harbour, the member for Lane Cove, the member for Badgerys Creek, the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Oatley, the member for Epping, the member for North Shore and the member for Wahroonga. If those members use a prop again, they will be directed to leave the Chamber. Members will come to order.

Mr Nathan Hagarty: Point of order: Mr Speaker, you have dealt with the situation in a fantastic way, but the use of props is just outrageous.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the member's sentiment.

Mr David Harris: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 128 (3) (a), which says that questions cannot ask for opinion. The line of questioning goes very close to breaching that standing order.

The SPEAKER: Earlier I ruled on a similar point of order taken by the Leader of the Opposition. It is difficult to separate those issues, but there is context in this case.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. I will hear the point of order.

Mr Adam Crouch: I seek clarification, Mr Speaker. You mentioned before that all members who have been called to order are now on three calls to order. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: That is right.

Mr Adam Crouch: The member for Canterbury was also called to order.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will counsel her for you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The member for Terrigal is correct. The member for Canterbury has conducted herself in an orderly manner for most of question time. But I remind her that she is on three calls to order. The Minister has the call.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: As I was saying, they will have their chance to respond, and then the Government will make a decision. Being a member of the Government, that is when I will make my decision, directly answering the question. I make the observation that it is rather ironic that Opposition members are asking these questions, because in 2012 they did not consultation with the police whatsoever when they addressed the workers compensation scheme. In fact, police officers stormed the Parliament because they were not consulted. What did the Minns Labor Government do regarding workers compensation for police officers? It had discussions with them for 18 months and put a compensation scheme in place that now looks after workers and police officers. As part of the award negotiations, 98 per cent of police voted for the scheme because it is good and looks after workers. Another observation I make is the state that the Opposition left icare, the very body that looks after injured workers in this State. I had a conga line of injured workers coming through my office door, and I still do.

Mrs Wendy Tuckerman: Point of order—

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Opposition members will not lecture me on injured workers and what they have ever done for an injured worker—because the answer is zero. I have finished my answer.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has concluded her answer.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (11:51): My question is addressed to the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to create a safer New South Wales with increased support for victim-survivors of domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (11:52): I thank the member for Blue Mountains for the question, for her absolute commitment in this area and for the work she does in ensuring victim-survivor safety. No matter where in the Blue Mountains local government area a woman lives, she now has access to Staying Home Leaving Violence. That is due to the investment of this Government. For too long, women and children have been forced to flee their homes to escape abuse. Today I am very proud to share with the House that even more women and children escaping domestic and family violence across New South Wales will now have access to support under Staying Home Leaving Violence so they can end abusive relationships and stay safely in their own homes.

The Staying Home Leaving Violence program is different to others because under this program police make sure that the perpetrator is removed from the home. Victim-survivors will receive safety planning; home security upgrades, where needed; financial planning assistance; and help navigating legal processes. Through the program, women can stay connected to their support network, workplaces and neighbours. Even more importantly, kids can stay at their schools and sleep in their own beds. Last financial year, Staying Home Leaving Violence supported 6,900 victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, including 1,293 children who have experienced abuse.

Through last year's emergency package for domestic violence, the Government invested a further \$25.9 million to expand the program across New South Wales. This is particularly important for regional New South Wales. Under the previous Government, women and children living in 37 council areas across New South Wales could not access Staying Home Leaving Violence, and 26 of those 37 areas—more than two-thirds—were in regional New South Wales. We have fixed that. The expansion means that there are 12 new Staying Home Leaving Violence providers across New South Wales including, the member for Blue Mountains will be pleased to hear, Lithgow Community Projects Inc, covering the Blue Mountains and Lithgow local government areas; Plus Community, covering the Balranald and Wentworth local government areas; and St Vincent de Paul Society NSW covering the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly local government areas. From Bondi to Broken Hill and right

across New South Wales, women and children will be able to access Staying Home Leaving Violence. [*Extension of time*]

I share the story of mother-of-two Monique from regional South Wales, who has been supported by Staying Home Leaving Violence. Monique left her violent ex-husband after experiencing physical, emotional and financial abuse. She then noticed that he started showing up unexpectedly, and she was worried that he was tracking her. Staying Home Leaving Violence case workers provided safety planning and intense case management for both Monique and her two children. That included education on what domestic violence looks like, security upgrades to her property and a safety phone. They engaged an external agency specialising in detecting spyware and hidden surveillance. They found a tracker in her car and on her phone, and four hidden surveillance devices around her property. They also realised that Monique's ex-husband had access to her emails and messages that she had been sending to her friends through her iCloud account. As a result, further charges were laid against her ex-husband. Monique is just one of thousands of victim-survivors who are assisted by the program each year.

The expansion of Staying Home Leaving Violence is just one of the many ways that this Government is working to address domestic and family violence across New South Wales. That includes boosting frontline support services. It includes bail reforms that strengthen victim-survivor safety and hold perpetrators to account, earlier intervention and, importantly, primary prevention. The Minns Labor Government is proud to be investing in a program that changes the story where, currently, victim-survivors are forced to flee their own homes. We know there is still a lot of work to be done, but we will continue to work with the sector, advocates and victim-survivors to ensure that everyone is safe in their own home.

FARMER MENTAL HEALTH

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (11:57): My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health. The former Coalition Government funded more than 20 farm gate counsellors and frontline mental health services for farmers across regional New South Wales. Given that funding is due to run out very shortly and the suicide rate of farmers is 94 per cent higher than that of non-farmers, will the Minister recommit to and extend this crucial program?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:57): That is a good question. I hope there is a sense of bipartisanship in this place when it comes to supporting people with mental health issues. I know people in this Chamber have talked about their own journey, as well as the journeys of family members and people they know within their communities. Farmers are particularly vulnerable, given the huge economic pressures on them, given they are subject to changing climatic conditions, and given the changing amounts of money they can generate for their families.

I want my answer to be clear, so I will check in with the Minister for Mental Health. Obviously, we are in preparation for an upcoming budget. I will check in with the Minister when I get back this afternoon, but I assure the House, particularly members from regional areas, that I know the Minister is determined to improve mental health services across regional, rural and remote New South Wales. The Government understands very clearly that those services are challenged right now. That is clearly the case. Inquiries conducted over the past 10 or 15 years show that mental health needs some serious reform. We get that. I will get some clarification on the specific program. I imagine it is part of the budget discussion going on at the moment. I will ensure that the Minister from the other place contacts the member and engages with him on what is, I hope, a bipartisan issue. It is important to all of us.

TAFE NSW

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (11:59): My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education. This week marks National Careers Week. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to rebuild TAFE NSW?

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (11:59): I thank the member for Heathcote for her question. She is a former TAFE student herself and the co-chair of Parliamentary Friends of TAFE. She is a great advocate for students and skills. Yesterday the member for Heathcote brought a constituent to see me. David had an interesting story as a former TAFE teacher. He told me that, when he was teaching building construction at TAFE in about 2013 or 2014, he was one of 20 teachers teaching the course when, for some reason, the number of teachers was cut to seven. He lost his job. As the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces says, it is no wonder we are struggling to find the skills we need to build the houses for New South Wales. The former Government simply did not invest in TAFE. It saw TAFE as an area to make cuts, based on an ideological position.

Also in the Heathcote electorate, I am pleased to note that there have been over 2,300 enrolments in fee-free TAFE. That is great progress. National Careers Week is an important time to acknowledge the choices that young people have as they head into their working lives. This year focused on saying thank you to our terrific career advisers, who work with young people to assist them on their journeys. But we are not just leaving it up to the career advisers. There is an important role for State and Federal governments when it comes to building the skilled workforce of the future. I am thrilled with the election result that saw the Albanese Government re-elected with a resounding victory. The Albanese Government has committed to wiping 20 per cent off HECS debts, a \$10,000 incentive payment for apprentices in the construction industry to boost retention and, of course, fee-free TAFE. That is a vital one.

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

Mr STEVE WHAN: Worryingly, during the election campaign, the now Federal Leader of the Opposition said that the Opposition would not support fee-free TAFE if it was elected. She did not seem to understand that a number of courses go for more than one year. She seemed to criticise students for not being finished in one year. The Albanese Government has been making an investment in TAFE. During the election campaign, in the lead-up to polling day, the issue of skills and TAFE was mentioned in the media over 20,000 times. [*Extension of time*]

I am sure that, if he had one, the Prime Minister would have been waving his TAFE certificate with his Medicare card because TAFE was that important to the campaign. I was also pleased to see the promise of \$78 million to fast-track the qualification of 6,000 tradies across Australia. That will help to boost the housing supply by getting more skilled workers onto construction sites sooner by recognising experience and prior learning. That builds on the success of the New South Wales Government's Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers Program, under which over 1,200 students earned their qualifications in an average of just seven months. Those programs work with us to rebuild TAFE and make sure that we put our faith back into our largest training provider and, indeed, the largest training provider in Australia. We must ensure that TAFE is in a position to provide the skills we will need for the future. Investing in skills is an absolute priority. The work that is being done in that area is critical to the work that is being done by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and others to ensure we remove the barriers to increasing the housing supply across New South Wales.

It is also critical to have those fee-free places, which are funded by the Federal Government, for workers in important areas like the caring economy. That will help us get the people we need to help NDIS participants, and the people we need in hospitals, aged care and a range of other areas across New South Wales. Those are the skills we need to build for the future. That is why the Government is rebuilding TAFE and expanding access to apprenticeships and traineeships beyond the National Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement. The New South Wales Government is investing in additional fee-free places and apprenticeships, like the Manufacturing Centres of Excellence, which will deliver for the renewable economy. That is the result of Labor governments working together in Australia and New South Wales.

NORTHERN BEACHES BUS SERVICES

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (12:05): My question is directed to the Minister for Roads, representing the Minister for Transport. My constituents feel like they are being taken for a ride—just not on a bendy bus. Despite being due to start returning last month, the buses are still not back. Commuters on the 199 and 190X lines continue to endure multiple daily cancellations. When can the people of Pittwater turn up to a bus stop and expect to see every timetabled bus?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (12:05): I thank the member for Pittwater for the question, and for her strong advocacy for better bus services for the people of her community. The member for Wakehurst has also been advocating on that subject. Most of all, I thank the people of the Pittwater community for their patience.

The SPEAKER: There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I also thank them for their use of public transport. The former Government left a ticking time bomb in the bus fleet, which the New South Wales Bus Industry Taskforce has uncovered. The Government has been working to resolve that. The last articulated or bendy bus was procured in this State in 2011. No replacements were planned for those high-capacity buses.

The SPEAKER: All members will come to order.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: For 12 long years, members of the former Government were happy to just sit there. As the member for Pittwater is well aware, in October last year the former Minister for Transport

commenced an investigation into the structural cracking identified in the underframe and around the door frames of one of the Volvo articulated buses. As a result of those findings, 83 articulated buses had to be removed from service as a safety precaution. That could not have come at a worse time. At the same time that those 83 articulated buses were removed, we were transitioning from diesel to zero-emissions buses. There was no depot transition strategy under the former Government, so we could not even get those zero-emissions buses charged. It was a perfect storm of stupidity in fleet management and maintenance from those opposite. That is a general explanation of the problems the Government has faced when dealing with this issue.

Returning the buses to service is complicated because the issues with the chassis are difficult to address. First, we must understand what is causing the problem. The bus engineering and maintenance teams have been working closely with Volvo, the original manufacturer, to investigate the root cause. A permanent repair solution was prepared in January, and we have been doing testing. We do not want a situation where the buses fail in service. To expedite their return to service, Volvo has air-freighted the first five updated chassis. We received them in March.

The SPEAKER: Order! I direct the member for North Shore to remove herself from the Chamber under Standing Order 249A until the end of question time.

[Pursuant to standing order the member for North Shore left the Chamber at 12:08.]

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Mr Speaker, I do not know how much more relevant I can be.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Minister might not have heard my direction to the member for North Shore to remove herself from the Chamber and therefore she misconstrued what was happening. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I apologise. I could not hear with all the noise from those opposite. Fifty buses are planned to return to service by October and Transport is exploring options to try to expedite the return of the other 32 by the end of the year. We know there have been challenges on the northern beaches. *[Extension of time]*

Transport is continuing to work with Keolis Downer, the operator, on this. We have measures to deliver better bus services. We want to get those peak express services—including services down the main corridor to the city; the 199, which goes from Palm Beach to Manly; and the 190X—back to full timetable delivery. We also want to increase the capacity of the 160X, which goes from Dee Why to Chatswood as an all-day frequent return. We also need those dedicated school buses back. We face systemic issues with our bus fleet. All members know that that was caused by a lack of engagement in procuring new buses and neglect by those opposite when they were in government. The irony is that is why the member for Pittwater and the member for Wakehurst are in Parliament. For decades those communities were represented by members opposite, who did not do the work to ensure that their community members were kept safe on public transport. Those community members need the high-capacity buses. The B-Line does great work but it also needs the support of the wider network. There was a decade of Coalition neglect.

Yesterday I spoke about the infrastructure blowouts in public transport regarding trains, but it was across all modes of transport. It is no wonder that those opposite have been rejected by the people of Pittwater and Wakehurst. I thank both those members for their incredible work and advocacy. I think I had been the Minister for five minutes when they were on my doorstep asking for more for their community. That is what good local members should do. That is what crossbench members do. That is what Labor members do. I have to say a few Nationals do it. But that is not happening with some Liberal members. It has been an incredibly frustrating time. The Government is working night and day to get those services back for the community of the member for Pittwater. Once again, I thank the passengers. We are doing our very best to get them back on the road.

NORTHERN RIVERS RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (12:11): My question is addressed to the Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast. Will the Minister update the House on what the Minns Labor Government is doing to make communities across New South Wales more resilient to flooding and other natural disasters?

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast) (12:11): I thank the member for Shellharbour for the question. The project that I am going to talk about is operating in the Northern Rivers. It is called the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program, or the NRRRP. It is a \$152 million investment from the Federal Government. It operates across the whole Northern Rivers. I can see the member for Bathurst nodding his head. He might remember it. The program covers a whole lot of areas that we often do not think about in terms of building resilience and recovery—small projects or small things that make a real difference to people's lives. I will talk through some of them.

The process of rebuilding a community after natural disasters cannot just mean bringing back what was there before. We have to work towards betterment so that that becomes the norm. It was not in 2022, but since then we have had betterment of roads. We have to do a lot more. We have to do it at State and Territory level, as well as with the Commonwealth. It means that you have to build resilience and deliver the infrastructure needed to protect people from future disasters. It is a big job and will take many years, but we have started. That is what we are doing across the seven local government areas in the Northern Rivers. We are doing it with Commonwealth partners, which have funded it. It is also operated at State level through the Reconstruction Authority.

There are 36 projects across the seven LGAs. CSIRO led the consultation, which councils could submit to. I also see the member for Cootamundra nodding. We have worked on some of this together. I have also worked with my colleagues on this side of the Chamber, including Minister Dib and Minister Scully. It was a really good process. It is important to hear what the process was because it involved local councils and that is important, because councils have to be front and centre in both resilience and recovery. The community could also put forward projects and some did. They put forward drains, and I always joke—but I mean it seriously—that everyone discovered drains after 2022. Before that, a lot of people never talked about drains. I can see the member for Tweed nodding. I will come to the canegrowers if I have enough time; that is a separate project but a great project. [*Extension of time*]

The 36 projects are shared among all members. The electorate of the member for Clarence has many projects; in fact, I think there are 10 across his local government areas. There are seven in Tweed, two in Ballina, four in Byron Bay, seven in Lismore and six regional projects. I will give members an idea of what some of them are. They include the Regional Community Flood Risk Awareness Project, regional floor level surveys, drains in Murwillumbah and Lismore, and the raising of bridges in Tatham and Ballina. There are options like Heal the Rivers, repair and restoration, and mechanical trash racks at all major pumping stations.

I will read out the projects in Lismore because they are important. A fibre-optic cable now connects the pumping stations in Magellan Street and Lower Hollingworth Creek with Lismore City Council. But the key point about that project is that they are the sorts of things we will have to do. We will have a lot more incidents that are more frequent and more intense. We cannot just keep doing recovery; we have to do resilience. We have to turn it around, and that will not be easy. It is a bit like turning around the *Titanic*, but that is what we have to do. The project came through CSIRO, so it is very evidence based.

The SPEAKER: I note that we are joined in the Speaker's gallery by former Minister the Hon. Adrian Piccoli. I welcome him to the Parliament.

Bills

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (HOSPITAL HELIPADS) BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:18): I am delighted to return to my contribution to debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. I was talking about how much Government members like Medicare and Opposition members do not. At the outset, I acknowledge the broader point of the importance of health funding and adequate resourcing, particularly for emergency departments. However, it would be remiss of me not to highlight that if the member for Kiama and the former Government had their way, they would have sold every hospital in the State. We are talking about Milton and Shellharbour being privatised.

Ms Anna Watson: Goulburn.

Mr GREG WARREN: Yes, Goulburn and Maitland.

Mr Gareth Ward: Point of order—

Mr GREG WARREN: The reality is the hypocrisy of this bill—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat. The member for Kiama rises on a point of order. What is the point of order?

Mr Gareth Ward: My point of order has two parts. Firstly, attacks on members must be done by way of substantive motion. Secondly, under Standing Order 76, the bill has nothing to do with the privatisation of hospitals, which is not even on the table.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I thank the member for Kiama. I will continue to listen closely to the contribution by the member for Campbelltown.

Mr GREG WARREN: My contribution is directly relevant. My point is: If the member for Kiama had had as much passion for health services and investing in our health system when he was a Minister in government as he does now, we would all be better off. But we now find ourselves in a position where this Government continues to sweep up and repair the carnage left by well over a decade of government by those opposite.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (12:20): I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. I thank my colleague in the House the member for Kiama for introducing this important bill, which seeks to ensure that the Government takes appropriate steps to place a helipad in public hospitals where there are emergency departments. I note the contribution of the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, who spoke about the issue of a one-size-fits-all approach. In that regard, I foreshadow likely proposed amendments to ensure that the bill refers to emergency medicine services at hospitals that have a role delineation level of three to six. I think those proposed amendments will address the concern raised by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health. When we acknowledge that concern, we can see that this is an important bill to take us forward. I also refer to the contribution of the member for Campbelltown, which had more winds and curves than Appin Road.

Mr Gareth Ward: More twists and turns than Chubby Checker.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: More twists and turns than Chubby Checker, as the member for Kiama said. I have been considering why the member for Campbelltown lacks willingness to see helipads in public hospitals across regional New South Wales, and I get it. It is because the member for Campbelltown has already got his helipad. Not only has he got his helipad; he had a \$632 million investment in stage two of the Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment—funded by the prior New South Wales Coalition Government. That followed on from the stage one redevelopment of Campbelltown Hospital that was completed in 2016. He has got what he wanted; he does not need to worry about services across regional New South Wales.

I acknowledge the member for Kiama and his passion to see a helipad at Shellharbour Hospital. The bill can improve hospitals not just in Shellharbour but across New South Wales. Albury Wodonga Health faced a similar issue to that of Shellharbour in the redevelopment of the Albury Campus. Albury Campus is classified as a regional trauma service under the Victorian Department of Health. For members who may not be aware of what that implies, health.vic.gov.au states:

Regional Trauma Services (RTS) are located in major regional centres and receive appropriate referrals from surrounding catchment areas.

RTS provide resuscitation and stabilisation of major trauma patients prior to their transfer to a MTS.

They also provide definitive care for a limited number of major trauma patients where their injuries are assessed, in agreement with an MTS, as not requiring a transfer.

Albury is a major regional centre with over 70,000 emergency department presentations from across Albury and Wodonga each year. It is classified as a regional trauma service. The Australian and New Zealand Trauma Care Verification Program *Model Resource Criteria for Trauma Services*, which is published by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, states:

Rural should have helipad or documented agreement for fixed wing transport to major trauma service.

One of the jurisdictions responsible for Albury-Wodonga Health classifies Albury Campus as a regional trauma service. It has a significant emergency department. There are 45,000 presentations in Albury alone and 70,000 presentations across the health campuses of Albury Wodonga Health. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons specifies in its *Model Resource Criteria for Trauma Services* that such a location should have a helipad.

I recognise that the Parliamentary Secretary for Health is in the Chamber. I acknowledge that the Minister for Health has supported the redevelopment of the Albury Campus. I recognise the investment that is being made, but the Parliamentary Secretary for Health knows that when the \$558 million investment was announced it included a helipad. That was part of my fight to get funding for Albury Campus. I raised this important aspect with former Minister Brad Hazzard at the time. We achieved funding for a helipad, but it has now been lost for no other reason than value management.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Health spoke about needs. There was a need because it was funded. Both the Victorian Government and the New South Wales Government identified that it needed a helipad. It has been taken out simply for value management. This bill seeks to address this issue. It will stop decisions being made solely on a financial basis. The Government must have regard for the needs of the community. If we have this in place rather than a one size fits all—

[A Government member interjected.]

I acknowledge that interjection. As I foreshadowed, my amendments will make this appropriate for the level of service. If the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons says this is something we should have, then it is something we need. That is what this bill sets out to address. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I thank the member for Kiama for bringing this bill before the House. I urge the Government to continue investing in our infrastructure. I recognise that there are pressures across health services, but there is an identified need at Albury Campus that was taken out. That is the reason I am supporting this bill.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (12:27): I oppose the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024, particularly in light of references that have been made about the new Shellharbour Hospital. Here we go again. We have ended up in the same place we always end up with the member for Kiama. This is another bill designed for the sole purpose of creating outrage and scaring people into thinking that only the hero of Kiama can save the day. He is no hero, and he will not be saving this day. The free-range chicken from the Illawarra is scaremongering and spreading fear everywhere. He is going into older people's homes—

Mr Gareth Ward: Point of order: I demand the member for Shellharbour withdraw her poultry interjections.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The member for Kiama and the member for Shellharbour will resume their seats. I am not afraid to use Standing Order 249A to eject both of you from the Chamber should this conduct continue throughout this debate.

Ms ANNA WATSON: The member for Kiama likes nothing more than to run around to aged-care facilities, scaring old people into thinking that they are not going to have a helipad, that the roof is caving in, that the roads are dangerous and a whole bunch of other things. The member for Kiama has been complaining about this helipad situation at Shellharbour since the exact moment the Liberal Party kicked him out of the party. He simultaneously claims to have done all the heavy lifting and secured the funding for the hospital but that somehow it is the Labor Government's fault there was no helipad planned by the former Coalition Government in 2022.

The bill is all about scaring people. Let us look at the scare campaign about the Shellharbour Hospital helipad in more detail. On 9 May 2023 the member for Kiama put a question on notice asking the Minister for Health to provide advice on whether the helipad would be in operation when the new Shellharbour Hospital opened its doors. The Minister for Health replied on 13 June 2023. The member for Kiama should listen because he knows as well as I do what is coming. The Minister's answer reads:

The project design will enable the construction of a rooftop helipad in the future. In disaster emergency response situations, helicopters will be able to land in the grounds next to the Harbour Hospital.

The member for Kiama knows all too well what he read in that answer, yet he scaremongers in this place and gets everybody in the Illawarra worked up about how there will not be a helipad and people will be stuck in ambulances in traffic. It is just not true. It is clear that helicopters will be able to land onsite at the new hospital if required. The Minister for Health cannot be any clearer than that.

But that did not stop the fear campaign of the member for Kiama—no way. He cannot pretend he did not see the answer from Minister Park because he mentioned it in a private member's statement—all recorded in *Hansard*—on 23 August 2023. He knew very well what he was doing. He continued to scare the community by stating that the Government's plan was to land helicopters at Albion Park airport and risk people's lives by driving onto congested roads and through school zones. They are absolute lies. There were probably a few crocodiles in flooded rivers along the way. Who knows? That is what he does, and it continued for over a year after that. On 26 August 2024 he put out another little work of fiction. It was a media release this time, in which he said:

Their plan is to land emergency patients at Albion Park Airport and drive them along a busy highway, then on Dunmore Road through a busy school zone in order to deliver emergency patients to the hospital.

What a big, fat lie that was. It was more gilding the lily by the member for Kiama. It is outright lies, again and again. There is a pattern emerging, all designed to make people worry about themselves and the people they love. It is absolutely disgraceful. The member for Kiama followed up with a scary social media post. He put out a petition to make sure he collected more email addresses from innocent victims of his scare campaign. I understand all too well the concern and passion of my community in Shellharbour. People want the best for the region they live in and reassurance that, in an emergency, care is close by with timely access. That is why the Government is delivering a brand-new \$780 million hospital in Shellharbour, one of the biggest investments—

Mr Gareth Ward: You had nothing to do with it.

Ms ANNA WATSON: I had everything to do with it. In fact, I inform the House—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The member for Kiama will come to order. The member for Shellharbour is directing her comments through the Chair, which I appreciate.

Ms ANNA WATSON: You are a very good Chair, Mr Temporary Speaker.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Thank you, I appreciate the feedback.

Ms ANNA WATSON: The Minister for Health and I, with other members of the Illawarra, were involved in discussions with the then Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard. The member for Kiama might have turned up to one or two meetings and that was about it.

Mr Gareth Ward: That is a lie.

Ms ANNA WATSON: No. Former Minister Hazzard invited me to the turning of the sod on the new hospital at the Shellharbour site because he knew I had invested years of campaigning and time to making sure a new hospital was delivered to the fast-growing area of the Shellharbour electorate.

Guess who did not get an invitation? The member for Kiama. He was not there. That is how much work you put into the project. The member for Kiama should not spread the lie that he secured funding for the new hospital because, again, it is simply not true. I do not believe the bill helps Shellharbour and I do not believe it helps patients. It offers superficial solutions to a complex issue and it risks undermining the very progress our communities have fought hard to achieve—without your help! Let us be clear: The new Shellharbour Hospital was designed to serve the region well into the future. It includes an expanded emergency department, more inpatient beds and better services for the people of the Illawarra and South Coast. It has been master-planned to allow for the future inclusion of a helipad if and when clinical needs justify it.

Mr Gareth Ward: There it is! It's not going to be open on day one, is it?

Ms ANNA WATSON: You know that very well because you asked a question about it in 2023 and you were given an answer, but you still spread a scaremongering campaign. You are like the grim reaper of the Illawarra, running around wearing a big hood and holding a cleaver. Those lies were just not true. This plan was created under the former Liberal Government, of which the member for Kiama was a part, and the plan remains.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The member for Shellharbour and the member for Kiama will direct their comments through the Chair. If they wish to have a private conversation, they can have it outside the Chamber. I will happily assist in removing them from the Chamber if that conduct continues.

Ms ANNA WATSON: The Government has taken a responsible approach. We are not ruling anything out and we never will. But we are not adding millions of dollars in costs to build infrastructure that may sit idle while more urgent needs must be met, like additional staff or increased critical care capacity. Those needs must be met. For the cost of one helipad, we could roll in two mobile stroke units, bringing brain-saving treatment directly to patients, or we could provide rural maternity support for four years. There is so much we could do. But, importantly, Shellharbour Hospital is not a designated trauma centre. Patients requiring major trauma care are taken to Wollongong Hospital or other hospitals in New South Wales. It is called the trauma network. The member for Kiama should write that in his notes. Just because a hospital has a helipad, that does not mean helicopters will be sent there.

Retrieval is based on where patients will get the best care, not the shortest flight path. That is pretty basic. That is how the system is designed. That is how it works every day. It is guided by clinicians and paramedics, not parliamentary motions. The suggestion that not building a helipad means the community is being ignored is inaccurate, untrue and dishonest to the community. The new hospital is a major step forward. I am very confident that when the hospital opens, local residents will see the new emergency department and expanded clinical services and they will know that the Minns Labor Government has delivered for the Shellharbour and Kiama electorates. I thank the fantastic Minister for Health. Ryan Park is the best health Minister this State has ever had. He is doing such a fantastic job. He works hard day in, day out to provide those vital services for all of our communities across New South Wales. The member for Kiama should thank him.

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (12:37): I contribute briefly to debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024, introduced by the member for Kiama. The bill proposes to add a new section to the Health Services Act 1997 that requires the Minister to ensure that any new public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad, and the same will apply to existing hospitals when a redevelopment is undertaken. As shadow assistant Minister for Health, I acknowledge and appreciate the intent of the bill. It will ensure that all patients have timely and equitable access to emergency medical care, regardless of where they live. I also welcome the amendment to the bill that was foreshadowed by the member for Kiama. That will help to clarify and strengthen the scope of the bill.

Role delineation is a former NSW Health framework for assessing hospital capability. If a hospital is designated level 3 to 6, it is already expected to manage complex cases. The infrastructure must match the clinical role. Helipads will ensure a quick and safe means of transport for patients at these hospitals. By ensuring that this provision applies only to hospitals with level 3 to level 6 emergency departments, the intent of the bill becomes clearer. Many level 3 to level 6 hospitals serve rural and regional communities where they lack nearby trauma centres. Mandating helipads ensures geographic equity in access to timely critical care, not just for metropolitan hospitals.

This bill is also an opportunity to improve our disaster and emergency preparedness for bushfires, floods, or other incidents. Our public hospitals must be equipped to receive patients from air transport. That means helipads must be treated as a core component of emergency health infrastructure, not an optional extra. This bill is about saving lives and recognising that emergency care must be both clinically capable and physically accessible. I commend the member for Kiama for bringing this issue forward and for refining the bill to ensure that it is both practical and targeted. I thank the House.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (12:39): I oppose the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024, which obviously will come as no surprise to the member for Kiama. Committing to a helipad at every NSW Health site has a significant capital and operating cost to its budget. The Government's focus is on using that money to support and fund the healthcare professionals—those who are needed in this State and in places where we need them to provide expert care. Construction of helicopter landing sites is generally funded as part of the total cost of relevant health capital works projects. The cost could range from approximately \$5 million to \$29 million depending on the location, type and the complexity of the helicopter landing site.

Approximately 110 NSW Health facilities with an emergency department do not have an onsite helipad. As such, the capital cost to ensure that each public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad could be estimated in the order of between \$500 million to \$2 billion. Furthermore, there are significant operational costs for repair and maintenance in excess of \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year per helipad. An additional factor to be taken into consideration is the impact of maintenance costs for existing helipads. I turn now to reflect on recent events in the Liverpool Hospital, which is in my electorate and which is the largest standalone hospital in the Southern Hemisphere. It has been continuously operating since it began as a tent hospital in the 1790s. The hospital is now one of the leading trauma centres in Australia. It provides statewide services in critical care and trauma in neonatal intensive care and in brain injury rehabilitation, which are all quite necessary and important services for the people of our State.

Furthermore, Liverpool Hospital is one of the principal teaching hospitals for both the University of New South Wales and the Western Sydney University. I acknowledge that in the last few years the University of Wollongong and the Australian Catholic University commenced teaching courses at the hospital. Liverpool Hospital has had a helipad since the early 2000s. Given the hospital's history and the significant development of the Liverpool CBD over the last 15 years, a flight path review was conducted in 2020 for the western approach/departure path for the Liverpool Hospital's main helicopter landing site. The review found that existing and proposed development in the central business district of Liverpool encroached on and had a material impact on the approach and departure flight paths for the hospital's helicopter landing site. Therefore, a revised flight path direction farther north than the previous flight path was implemented. As members can appreciate, that resulted in additional cost and resources that were required to amend the flight path direction and implement those changes.

The Government has committed to multiple hospital upgrades throughout the entire area of Western Sydney as well as in other parts of the State. As members who preceded me in this debate identified, helipad upgrades are included in the upgrades, but as members would also appreciate, NSW Health resources are finite, and we must consider the best use of those resources, which is what the Minister for Health and the Parliamentary Secretary for Health have been doing. In the words of the member for Shellharbour, our Minister for Health is probably one of the best health Ministers this State has ever seen in how he considers the various needs of our very complex health system. Unfortunately, the member for Kiama has totally missed those very real considerations and the consequences of the bill. It stands to reason that, as a member of the former Government and a former Minister of the Crown, he should have worked through those considerations. Although maybe I am expecting too much, because I note that the former Government was responsible for ghost hospitals that were left without necessary staff and for freezing the wages of public health workers in this State, including nurses, allied health professionals, doctors, paramedics and other administrative staff.

Those measures of the former Government have all contributed directly to the challenges that our health system faces today. Since the conclusion of the pandemic, the Government has faced significant challenges in not only addressing the shortages and the haemorrhage of health staff to other States but also ensuring that our health staff are valued and remunerated as they should be. Having had their wages frozen for over 12 years, a lot of them are rightly asking, "How can we address the cost-of-living issues we face and support our own communities—the

communities we have grown up in and lived in for most of our lives—when other States are remunerating health workers more?"

Those are the challenges facing the health system. Instead of looking at how more resources can be put towards addressing them, the member for Kiama has brought a bill that proposes to divert those resources into helipad upgrades across the State. Government members on this side of the House are tackling those challenges by negotiating with employee unions and working with health districts across the State to target where the resources are required to address the real issues within our health system. As I have identified, those funds would be better spent on ensuring that New South Wales has the workforce to support our facilities and the people of this State.

I also note that some rural hospitals may need to acquire land to accommodate the provision of helicopter landing sites, which brings further financial challenges. The price of land, materials and labour in Sydney has gone up substantially over the past few years, but I note that the same is being experienced in rural areas in New South Wales. Again, that puts an additional impost on the finite resources of the State's health budget. We should be considering how to best use those to address the challenges we face. The Government is committed to focusing on its workforce to ensure that we have the people we need, in the places we need them, to provide the best health care to the people of New South Wales and ensure the best health outcomes for our communities.

I reiterate my opposition to the bill. I encourage my colleagues to focus on the clear and pressing needs of our health system and the health needs of our communities. Earlier the member for Vacluse, and shadow Minister for Health spoke of prioritising community needs over playing politics, so surely she understands that the bill is not the best way to meet the needs of our communities. The member for Vacluse was not part of the former Government, but the member for Kiama was. He forgets to outline the track record of members opposite when it comes to health care in the Illawarra, which was clearly outlined by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, and member for Bega and by the member for Shellharbour. The previous Government's track record on health in the Illawarra was either closing hospitals or privatising them.

Forgive me if I do not take any notes from those opposite on how to listen to the community or meet the health needs of people in the Illawarra and anywhere else in New South Wales. I take their advice and suggestions with a boulder of salt. I oppose the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same, because it does not meet the clear and pressing needs of our community and of the good people of New South Wales. It wastes the finite health resources of New South Wales by misdirecting them away from the health professionals who serve our people. With that, I do not commend the bill to the House.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (12:49): I speak in debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024 and indicate that The Greens support local community calls for improved health infrastructure planning. I begin by acknowledging the genuine concern that has driven this bill forward. The community advocacy around the Shellharbour Hospital redevelopment has been powerful, persistent and deeply grounded in a commitment to better health outcomes. I thank the campaigners, local councillors and frontline clinicians who have tirelessly called for transparency, evidence and common sense in health infrastructure decisions. The Greens commend their efforts. We agree with the principle that every hospital should be planned with future demand, patient safety and emergency access front of mind. We agree that when we build a hospital, it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity and one that we must get right. We agree that patients in Shellharbour, and across New South Wales, deserve fast access to life-saving care, which may include helicopter retrieval and transport.

The bill will not necessarily fix the problem that it seeks to address. The problem is not a lack of legislation mandating helipads; it is a broken, opaque and sometimes politicised health infrastructure planning process that continues to ignore clinical advice, suppress data transparency and frustrate community trust. The problem is not just in Shellharbour. Documents produced in the other place under an order for the production of papers on the motion of my colleague The Greens health spokesperson Dr Amanda Cohn revealed the revision of health service projections to justify underinvestment in Albury. We have seen clinically endorsed master plans ignored. We have seen greenfield site recommendations quietly shelved. We have seen costly, conflicting plans pushed through without clear policy direction or adequate consultation. The bill reacts to one symptom of that wider dysfunction. It tries to legislate helipads for every emergency hospital without reference to clinical need, geography or design constraints. NSW Health's guidelines require those factors to be considered. If passed, the bill would mandate helipads even in places where it may not be appropriate to include one, potentially adding waste and inefficiency to a system already under strain.

I note the advice from NSW Health that the Government should not support the bill, not because helipads are unimportant but because planning must become responsive, evidence based and site specific. We also cannot ignore that, while helipads are relatively low in cost, they are not the only crisis in our health system. Our nurses are overworked. Emergency departments are overcrowded. Mental health services are underfunded. In regional

areas, communities are losing essential services or people are being asked to travel hours for care. Rather than legislating around individual planning failures, we should be fixing the planning process itself. That means making health infrastructure decisions transparent, accountable and free from political interference. It means enforcing existing evidence-based guidelines and restoring clinical input and community voice to the centre of those decisions.

The Greens will continue to push for a health system that listens to frontline workers, to clinicians and to communities. We call on the Government to urgently review the planning failures that led to this bill's introduction in the first place and to ensure that no community is ever again forced to fight this hard for such a basic, sensible inclusion in its hospital. We appreciate the advocacy that brought this issue to the floor of Parliament and support the call for better emergency access. We agree that when we build a new hospital, we need to get it right. What we need is deep reform, not just patchwork legislation.

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (12:53): I speak in opposition to the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. I express deep concern about not only the content of the bill but also the precedent it seeks to establish. Legislation should be a tool of last resort, and it should not be a substitute for consultation, evidence or planning. Yet the bill before us proposes to mandate the inclusion of helipads in all new or redeveloped public hospitals with emergency departments, regardless of clinical need or the hospital's location or role in the broader health system. The bill was introduced with no consultation with the local health districts, no engagement with Health Infrastructure, no advice sought from NSW Ambulance and no input from the clinicians who manage retrieval services every day. That is not law making. That is legislating by media release. It is playing Russian roulette with people's lives.

I have some experience with this issue. The helipad at Nepean Hospital was closed for five years from 2016 until 2021. Not only had the helipad reached a point where it was no longer fit for purpose, it also had the added complication of not being located in the best flight path position because the city grew around the hospital. That is a real example of why helipads at hospitals need to be carefully planned by consultation with all the relevant authorities. Consultation is critical when we are building important infrastructure. The Nepean Hospital is located in a heavily populated area of the suburb of Kingswood.

In 2016 construction cranes from residential developments impeded the approach paths of helicopters aiming to land at the hospital. Helicopters transporting critically ill patients were unable to land because the helipad was closed. Patients were transported by road, which had the potential to delay their critical care. Often the patients had to be rerouted to Westmead. That was not in the best interests of our community. NSW Ambulance had to work with senior clinicians to develop a plan to ensure that patients with time-critical issues could be transported by road to Nepean Hospital.

The result was that for emergency situations the helicopters had to land in a local park or sporting field, then an ambulance was used to transport the patient to the hospital. That was completely unacceptable. Our residents were put at significant risk. We need to learn from those examples. The necessary due diligence needs to be taken when redeveloping hospitals. At a system level, the bill is not just unhelpful; as I have just outlined, it could be potentially harmful.

The bill reaches far beyond Shellharbour. It would force every hospital redevelopment to include a helipad. That potentially creates several serious risks. First, it could delay the development of emergency departments altogether. If adding a helipad pushes a project over budget, then services may be scaled back, or indeed shelved. That is not a theoretical risk; it is a direct result of imposing blanket requirements without context, without consultation and without planning. Secondly, the bill could lead to the construction of helipads that are not operational. It does not mention the ongoing costs required to maintain staff, certify and operate helipads to aviation safety standards. The bill mandates a capital asset but is silent on recurrent funding or clinical integration.

Thirdly, as I mentioned, it sets a dangerous precedent. There is no other legislation in New South Wales that mandates the inclusion of a specific design feature in all health bills, regardless of expert planning. If we legislate helipads today, do we legislate the number of beds tomorrow? Do we legislate for a CT scanner in every hospital, even if no radiologist is there to read the images? It is a bit like redeveloping a building without any plan to staff it. The bill lacks clarity in some very critical ways. What constitutes "nearby"? What qualifies as a "substantial redevelopment"? How are costs borne or recouped?

Hospitals are complex, interconnected pieces of infrastructure. They are designed by health planners, clinicians, architects and engineers working together, not by politicians looking to score points or a local media headline. The proper way to plan for helipads, and every other component of a hospital, is through established processes that take account of trauma roles, local geography, safety and the hospital's role in the health network. Where a helipad is clinically justified, it is built. There are helipads at my hospital at Nepean and at Wagga Wagga,

Randwick, Westmead and others. Where a helipad is not required, we do not waste public funds building one just to meet a check box.

Instead of paying for one helipad, we could modernise an entire resuscitation area in a busy emergency department, directly improving emergency care. I do not know how many critical emergency nurses it could fund for an emergency area for one year. The bill is a shortcut to bad health policy. I urge every member who believes in evidence-based planning, common sense, fiscal responsibility and a system of integrity for our health services to oppose the bill. I do not commend the bill to the House. I urge all members to vote against it.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (13:01): I speak in debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024 to outline the reasons why I oppose the bill. Let me be clear on what the debate is about. It is easy to propose a concrete slab. When I was first elected as the member for Camden, I was a bit green. There were a few things I did not know about. I went to my local health district and asked why the helipad at Camden Hospital had not been maintained. I said, "We had a helipad. What happened to it?" Someone sat me down and explained it to me, and I am now more knowledgeable than I was. I had been there for 10 minutes. The idea that the member for Kiama has not sat down with people from his local health district to have a conversation about their plans for Shellharbour Hospital is disappointing and smacks of grandstanding.

It is much harder to deliver real, working emergency care for the whole of New South Wales than it is to propose a concrete slab. The bill gives the impression that every new hospital needs a helipad to save lives. The member for Kiama has completely missed the reality and the facts. The public health system in New South Wales is built on clinically led, evidence-based planning. That includes emergency services and retrievals. Not every hospital needs a helipad. Building one where it is not needed does not make patients safer. It wastes money that could be used for more doctors and nurses or additional intensive care beds. If a new hospital was built next door to a major international airport, would it need a helipad? It is right next door to maybe eight helipads. It makes no sense to legislate that a helipad has to be included. In certain situations, a helipad is not necessary, and it would be a complete waste of money that could be spent on more nurses, for example.

We already have a coordinated retrieval system in New South Wales. Every hospital, regardless of whether it has a helipad, has a transport access plan for patients. Transfers are done using road ambulances, fixed-wing aircraft from nearby airports or helicopters where clinically required. The decision on transport is not made by people wanting to win over or frighten a small number of people in their community through headlines but by specialist retrieval teams based on urgency, geography, weather, team availability and aircraft suitability. Mandating helipads at all new or redeveloped hospitals with emergency departments would not improve patient outcomes. In fact, it could delay or reduce the development of critical services. There is a real risk that, to avoid the costs associated with a mandated helipad, hospital upgrades could be scaled back or emergency departments could be left out altogether. That is not a hypothetical. That is a real outcome that poorly designed legislation can produce.

Approximately 110 NSW Health facilities with an emergency department do not have an onsite helipad. As such, the capital cost to ensure that each public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad could be estimated in the order of \$500 million to \$2 billion. The bill also fails to address the ongoing costs of helipads, including insurance, maintenance, certification and compliance with civil aviation safety. A helipad is not a one-off cost. It is an ongoing operational commitment in excess of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year, per helipad. We must also be honest with our communities, which is really important. In our jobs it is very easy to whip people into a frenzy of fear, division and hatred, and it is really important that we are honest and work with integrity within our communities.

Shellharbour is getting a major hospital upgrade. The new facility will include an expanded emergency department, increased inpatient capacity and state-of-the-art services. It also includes future provision for a helipad if it is ever clinically needed. That is responsible planning. By contrast, this bill offers the illusion of safety while diverting funds from our frontline workforce, where they are most needed. I speak with a little bit of experience on this issue because, as the member for Albury said, the former Government spent a lot of money on Campbelltown Hospital, and it is beautiful. Many of the hospital's rooms were empty for a very long time. Bed after bed sat with no patients because there was no staff to work in the hospital. In education, we had upgrades everywhere, beautiful maintenance of roofs and wonderful new windows; meanwhile, the human capital, the teachers of New South Wales, which should be our number one priority, were fleeing in droves.

Let me be clear: Nurses save lives, paramedics save lives, and doctors and retrieval teams save lives. A concrete pad without a helicopter, a retrieval team or the right clinical conditions does not. I am proud to be part of a government that continues to invest amazing amounts of money into our health system. We have made a \$480 million investment into an emergency department relief package, helping over 290,000 people avoid a visit to the emergency department. We have put \$188 million into a bulk-billing support initiative to clean up the payroll tax mess created by members opposite and to protect the cost of seeing a GP for families across New South Wales.

In question time today we heard the Minister for Health—possibly the best Minister for Health we have ever had in this State—talk about the difference that is making to the people of New South Wales.

We also have to be honest about the levels of hospitals we are talking about. We have a real trauma network design. Not many level 4 and 5 hospitals are trauma hubs. Many of our level 4 and 5 hospitals stabilise patients for transfer. They are not the final destination for critically injured trauma patients. For example, Shellharbour Hospital is level 4, and patients who need major trauma care or advanced critical care are transported to Wollongong Hospital, which is level 5 and moving towards level 6, or to St George Hospital or Westmead Hospital. [*Extension of time*]

I thank the House. This means that patients who come to the level 4 Shellharbour Hospital requiring major trauma care or advanced critical care will need to be moved to Wollongong Hospital. Due to my upbringing, I spent an inordinate amount of time in Wollongong—hello to my mum, who lives in Wollongong. It is not a lengthy transfer from Shellharbour Hospital to Wollongong Hospital. Grafton Base Hospital is a level 4 hospital, yet major trauma incidents go to the Gold Coast hospital or Lismore Base Hospital, depending on the situation. Building helipads at non-trauma hospitals wastes money and does not save any lives. All it does is disrupt the proper trauma network.

Even within the level 4 and 5 hospitals, some locations do not have geography that supports safe helicopter access. We are experiencing the most incredible levels of fog in Camden at the moment. That is why our helipad has not been reinstated. We have been experiencing weeks where, for many hours a day, often until close to midday, Camden has been blanketed in a thick fog. It does not matter how much we want a helipad at Camden Hospital; it is not going to happen. No-one can land there. You cannot see the helipad. That is a geographical stopping point, and it is why broadbrush legislation like this does not work. Sometimes there are noise or space regulations. Members from Western Sydney would understand that flight paths can often be a problem. Fixed-wing retrievals from nearby airports or fast ambulance transfers to trauma hubs may still be the safest and fastest method. Mandating helipads ignores clinical, logistical and geographical factors. I take a minute to focus on the member for Kiama's second reading speech on the bill. In his speech he made reference to something that I personally found quite upsetting. He said:

The Government can find money for its trade union friends. It can find \$16 million for Ultimate Fighting Championship ...

For everyone in Harrington Park, I put on record that the member for Kiama and members opposite are coming after their UFC gym and their memberships. I ask them to be aware of that. That is a personal note from me to them. But the previous Government could not find money for Camden Hospital. The last time any money was put into Camden Hospital was in 2010. Who was in government then?

Mr Gareth Ward: You.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL: Yes, we were. For the 12 years that the Liberal-Nationals Government was in power, Camden Hospital got nothing, zero, bupkis. It is time to give Shellharbour the upgrade it needs. It is time to focus on delivering whole-scale, across-the-board health care. The money for one helipad could provide essential key worker housing for 25 regional nurses, doctors or allied health staff, people who keep the hospital running. The bill is not about saving lives; it is about scoring headlines. I oppose the bill, and I urge members of the House to oppose it.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (13:16): I contribute to debate on the Health Services Amendment (Hospital Helipads) Bill 2024. The object of the bill is to require the Minister for Health to ensure that each public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad. The bill seeks to insert new section 132A, "Helipads required for public hospitals", into the Health Services Act 1997. New section 132A states:

- (1) The Minister must ensure that each public hospital with an emergency department has a helipad.
- (2) The helipad must be located in or near the public hospital.
- (3) The helipad must be constructed—
 - (a) when the public hospital is built, or
 - (b) for an existing hospital that does not have a helipad—when a substantial redevelopment of the hospital is carried out.

I oppose the bill. Committing to a helipad at every New South Wales hospital site would have a significant capital and operating cost to the NSW Health budget. The Government's focus is to use that money to support and fund the healthcare professionals—the people we need in the places we need them—right across regional and metropolitan New South Wales so that they can provide expert care. Construction of helicopter landing sites are generally funded as part of the total cost of relevant health capital works projects. That could range from

approximately \$5 million to \$20 million, depending on the location, type and complexity of the helicopter landing site. Approximately 110 NSW Health facilities with an emergency department do not have an on-site helipad.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided.

Ayes36
Noes48
Majority.....12

AYES

Anderson, K	James, T	Singh, G
Ayyad, T	Kemp, M	Sloane, K
Clancy, J	Lane, J	Speakman, M
Coure, M	Layzell, D	Taylor, M
Crouch, A (teller)	McGirr, J	Thompson, T
Davies, T	Moylan, B	Tuckerman, W
Di Pasqua, S	Petinos, E	Tudehope, M
Dwyer, R	Preston, R	Wallace, J
Griffin, J	Provest, G	Ward, G
Hannan, J	Roberts, A	Williams, R
Henskens, A	Saunders, D	Williamson, R (teller)
Hodges, M	Scruby, J	Wilson, F

NOES

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

PAIRS

Cooke, S	Butler, L
Cross, M	Tesch, L
Toole, P	Kamper, S

Motion negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The time for consideration of general business orders of the day for bills having expired, I set down resumption of the interrupted debate as an order of the day for a later time. I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Motions

LOCAL SPORT DEFIBRILLATOR GRANT PROGRAM

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (14:31): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Welcomes the grant of up to \$2,900 to Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club for the installation of a defibrillator at Fairfield Road Park, Guildford West.
- (2) Notes the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program has awarded \$500,000 in funding to 193 sporting organisations across New South Wales.
- (3) Wishes all players, coaches and supporters a successful 2025 season.

Cardiac arrest is a medical emergency in which a person's heart stops beating. Their brain and vital organs are starved of oxygen, they become unconscious and they either stop breathing or do not breathe normally. Cardiac arrest can affect a person who has no known heart condition. It can be sudden and it can be devastating. Every minute counts when a person is in cardiac arrest. An automated external defibrillator [AED] is a portable device used to treat sudden cardiac arrest, a condition where the heart suddenly stops beating effectively. Without chest compressions and the use of an AED, a person in cardiac arrest will not survive.

According to the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, around 10,000 people will suffer a cardiac arrest outside of hospital each year in New South Wales. Currently, the vast majority—nine out of ten people—will not survive, which is a sobering statistic. Access to an AED immediately following a cardiac arrest can mean the difference between life and death for the thousands of people across New South Wales who suffer cardiac arrest each year. Portable defibrillators detect and analyse a person's heart activity and, if needed, deliver an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The chances of survival dramatically increase when patients have access to a life-saving defib in the minutes following a cardiac arrest. According to Andy Paschalidis, the founder of Heartbeat of Football, last year at least six footballers in Sydney alone were saved because of defibrillator access at their grounds and the rapid response by individuals trained in CPR. Having these devices in community sporting clubs is saving lives. They give people who experience a cardiac arrest while playing sport a fighting chance of survival, a chance to return to their families and a chance to play another day.

The Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club is a football club located in Guildford West in my electorate and was established in 1966 through the local scout movement. Over the years, the Holroyd Rangers has undergone significant change to become the club it is today. It has survived three name changes, four home grounds, four different uniforms, two near collapses and the destruction of the clubhouse. It is a true community and family club that welcomes players of all ages and skill levels to give soccer a go.

Why am I talking about the Rangers? It is because the club recently benefited from an important New South Wales Government grant that has enabled it to purchase and install an automatic external defibrillator, or AED. The Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program equips clubs to respond to potentially life-threatening emergencies at their sports facilities. In 2024-25 the Government is providing up to \$500,000 in grants to eligible sporting and recreational organisations through the program.

The grants are for amounts of up to \$3,000 for the purchase and installation of new AEDs, as well as training in their use, and I am delighted that Western Sydney clubs such as Holroyd Rangers are benefiting. However, the Government was concerned the defibrillators were not reaching lower socio-economic communities in the numbers required. An analysis by the Office of Sport found that local sporting clubs that were least able to afford their own AEDs were missing out on the grants, and that is why the Government changed the eligibility criteria. The Government wanted to ensure that funding was going to the clubs and communities that needed it most. The criteria were amended so that clubs, associations and councils in the State's lower socio-economic areas were eligible. The results of those changes are great news for the people of regional New South Wales.

The 2024-25 program was announced in January this year, and 193 sporting organisations across New South Wales benefited from funding assistance towards purchasing a defibrillator for their club. Delivering hundreds of new defibrillators to sporting organisations across our State will give even more people the confidence to exercise and play sport safely. A veritable ABC of sports have benefited from the 2024-25 grants program—from AFL, athletics and aerial sports; to bowling, bocce and bridge; to canoeing, cricket, croquet and cycling. But it does not stop there, with grants for dance academies, dragon boating, equestrian, fencing, golf, hockey—both field and ice—judo, karting, rugby league, motorsports, netball, pickleball, rowing, sailing, shooting, soccer, tennis, touch, triathlon, rugby union and yoga. Groups across the State in all manner of sports received a grant in the 2024-25 round.

The people of New South Wales love their sport, and they all have the right to participate in sport and share in all its benefits. Sport keeps us healthy, both physically and mentally. It provides important opportunities for social and community involvement. No matter the region, no matter the sport and no matter the role—whether player, coach or official—I wish all those participating in sports across New South Wales a safe and successful 2025. That will be enhanced where the grounds have an AED installed. It makes the difference between life and death.

Sadly, last year in the Granville and Districts Soccer Football Association, which the Holroyd Rangers are part of, a player from the Auburn club died on the field. We never want that to happen again, which is why programs like this are so important. Whether people can get an AED to someone in time makes the difference between life and death. It gives them a far greater chance to be revived, which means that people can play sport safely well into middle age, can continue to be happy and active throughout their lives, and can stay involved in their communities.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (14:37): I start by acknowledging the member for Granville and thanking her for bringing the matter of automatic external defibrillators [AEDs] to this House. I join with her in acknowledging the receipt of a grant by the Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club in her electorate, and I acknowledge the benefits of defibrillators in our communities. I understand why the member for Granville has brought the motion before the House. It is because each and every one of us knows that defibrillators are literally a matter of life and death. Each member of this House recognises the importance of defibrillators and the role that they play.

According to NSW Health, every year more than 8½ thousand people experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Only 12 per cent of them survive. Of those experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest, as few as 5 per cent survive without an AED. When a defib is used before paramedics arrive, the chance of survival can be as high as 70 per cent. Those statistics were from St John Ambulance. I also acknowledge that the member for Granville spoke about the Heartbeat of Football, an organisation I know well. I acknowledge the work of Andy Paschalides and his organisation in making sure there is not only awareness of AEDs in our community but also significant uptake and knowledge of how to use them. Andy and Heartbeat of Football do invaluable work that stretches into many multicultural communities as a valuable resource.

My problem with the motion of the member for Granville is that, as important as defibrillators are in our communities, they are not available to all of them. Not every member of this place can tell their communities that they will be able to access a defib under the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program. That is problematic because, until the Labor Government was sworn in, every community had that opportunity. Labor is now playing postcode politics. Some people's lives are being given more value than others. It should not matter where a person lives, plays or has a heart attack. If a life is in danger, there should be access to an AED. Labor members can spin it however they like, but the reality is that access changes according to socioeconomic status. Under the Coalition, every life had the same value. Everyone could apply for an AED and, to make things fair, organisations that had received funding for an AED in the past were no longer eligible. That was a much fairer system.

How will members say to people with different postcodes in the same electorate that some clubs are eligible while others are not, or that they live in an eligible suburb but play in one that is not? It is nonsensical that a person having a heart attack on an ineligible football field will not have access to an AED but may have access if playing on their home ground. We are not talking about a lot of money; we are talking about very small grants. I do not diminish the value of the grants by any stretch. An AED can be priceless. It is literally life saving. But, in the scheme of the Government budget, a \$3,000 grant is not a lot of money. The reason the Government felt the need to restrict access to the program can only be political and petty. It serves none of our communities. Under the new changes, only 12 per cent of Liberal electorates are eligible and, unsurprisingly, Labor electorates have 57 per cent eligibility. That does not make sense to me, and we have repeatedly asked the Minister to look at that.

The Minister gave undertakings in budget estimates hearings after the first amendment to the program was made. Despite that, the Minister made one amendment, which was not to equalise everything. It was a hardship amendment that meant that an ineligible club could demonstrate financial hardship to the department to be permitted to apply. A response that I received from the Minister for Sport to a question on notice this year said that there were only three such applications in the last round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program. That number does not seem significant given, in the last round of funding, there were 283 applicants and 193 were successful. Members can see that there is overwhelming demand for the program. It does not make sense to me or any of the Opposition members that the suburb a person plays in is the difference between whether or not their life is saved.

Although members debated life in a different form yesterday, most members agree that we should protect life—living, moving beings. Yet, in this instance, some people will miss out. The member for Granville knows that all too well because she has had her own experience in her own electorate. Many members have fortunately had community members who have been saved by swift action from someone using an AED. No-one should be worse off when they are playing sport simply because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. Defibs are crucially important. I sincerely congratulate every club throughout this State that successfully received funding. My electorate is not eligible for funding. Many members represent electorates that are not eligible for funding, and that is a real travesty. I ask the Minister to reconsider the importance of AED funding for all of our communities to ensure that we can protect as many lives as possible.

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (14:44): I thank the member for Granville for moving this sensible motion. It is about the fundamental aspects of our role as MPs and how we can help the people who need it the most. It is terrific that the member for Granville spoke about the Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club. I am a soccer fan and a fan of the Newcastle Jets. My brother played soccer. I like the word soccer as opposed to football because I am old fashioned about those things. Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club does not sound like it is the richest club in New South Wales, and I congratulate them on receiving a defib. It must have been well earned and very well received.

I agree with the member for Miranda and the member for Granville about the importance of defibs for sporting organisations. I thank the volunteers at Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club and the volunteers at every other football club, soccer club and sporting club in New South Wales. Volunteers do so much work, and some of them need more opportunities than others, which is where I differ from the member for Miranda—postcodes do make a difference. My electorate has changed a little bit, but the inner city part is still so much wealthier than the western suburbs, which is evident when visiting the schools and football fields. There can be 100 people at a P&C in town, but no-one at the P&C in the most western suburbs of my electorate. It is the same with the football fields.

The socialist in me believes in means testing. If the Government is making sure that defibs go to the poorest and most socially disadvantaged sporting groups first, then I say hooray. I thank the Government for doing this. This is what it is all about. We can work the other things out later. As someone who attends a lot of sporting matches—particularly soccer or football—I can see the difference between the wealthier clubs and the poorer clubs, especially in what the wealthier parents, organisations and volunteers can raise. It is sensible to means test for our poorest clubs, which do not have the same opportunities. The member for Miranda said that every life has the same value. Yes, it does, but not every life has the same opportunity.

Not everyone has soccer lessons that are paid for them. I do not know about other members, but my electorate also funds and supports soccer clubs for refugee kids. We buy shoes and soccer balls for them because they have no money. They cannot pay for many things. We need to support those groups as well as helping the richer groups. What the Government is doing right now is excellent. I congratulate the member for Granville on her motion. This program gives an opportunity to the poorer clubs that they may not otherwise have had. Let us have some equity in this world so that everyone, from the richest to the poorest, has opportunities. That is why I joined the Labor Party.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (14:48): I contribute to debate on the motion brought by the member for Granville. While I welcome the motion, I am deeply concerned about the failure to continue this program. I was proud to be part of a government that made the very good decision to provide defibrillators to any club in New South Wales that wanted to apply for them, no matter where they were located or what their financial situation was. As the member for Miranda mentioned, the majority of those clubs are run by volunteers on the smell of an oily rag. We can talk about socialist ideology, but those clubs are all equal because they are all run by volunteers. They are all mums and dads doing sausage sizzles to try to raise funds. I was so proud to be part of a government that said to every single club in New South Wales that no matter where they were, who represented them or which side of politics they were on, they were able to apply for a defibrillator to save the life of anybody playing on one of their fields.

I have written to the Minister for Sport on this issue multiple times and have still not received a suitable response. If someone lives on the Central Coast, in the electorate of Gosford, Wyong or The Entrance, all their sporting clubs are entitled to apply for a defibrillator grant. But if they live in the 2260 postcode, which covers my entire electorate, they are excluded. That means that any club in my electorate is excluded from applying for any funding from this program. How is that equitable? The poorest socio-economic group in my electorate is in Springfield, where there is a baseball diamond. They cannot apply for that money because they happen to live in a Liberal electorate. That oval has a line running down the middle of it. On one side is the electorate of Gosford, where there is an AFL club that can apply for money for the defibrillator. On the other side of the oval, the baseball club cannot. How is that fair or equitable? Yet, the Minister has refused multiple requests from me and other members of this place to put back in place the correct system, which was delivered by the Liberal-Nationals Government. If we want to talk about equality, that is it.

Heart attacks are not postcode specific. God forbid that someone who plays for a club in The Entrance, Wyong or Gosford should happen to have a heart attack while playing in the electorate of Terrigal, because my clubs cannot get funding for a defibrillator. We are talking about \$3,000. Talk about penny pinching of the worst degree. We have seen it with so many things. The First Lap swim voucher is another example. More than \$1 million of funding went to people on the Central Coast, because we know how important it is to teach kids to swim. That is gone. The decision about the defibrillator program is beyond the pale now. I was so proud to be part of a government that provided defibrillators to any sporting club in any electorate, especially on the Central Coast.

I was so pleased that every sporting club, whether it was in Wyong, The Entrance, Gosford, Terrigal or the bottom end of Swansea, was eligible.

It did not matter what its postcode was. To say that one club is poorer than another is total garbage and actually offensive. It says to somebody that if they live in a poorer group, somehow their life is not worth the same as somebody else's. Everybody's life is precious, no matter where they live or what their postcode is. I urge the Government to do the right thing and correct this ridiculous program so that every single electorate is included, no matter what the postcode or what sport is played. These are all volunteer clubs that are being disadvantaged by a bad decision by a bad government and a Minister who refuses to listen to the feedback he gets all the time from local members. While I commend the member for Granville, this is a bad government doing a bad job on defibrillators and it needs to fix it immediately.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (14:52): I contribute to debate on the motion and thank my colleague the member for Granville for bringing it before us so that we can discuss the benefits of this program. I acknowledge the contributions by members and the concerns my colleagues have for their local communities. Each and every one of us should stand up for our community. It is very heartwarming. I am advised that under the previous program that was in place, many clubs missed out because they were disadvantaged. Many in rural and regional areas found the process of applying to be very opaque and difficult, and people were falling through the gaps.

I acknowledge the concerns that colleagues have expressed in the House and provide numbers in reply to their contributions. The Office of Sport had a total of 193 applications. Its analysis is that approximately 80 per cent of the grants went to regional and remote areas that did not know the grants existed or, if they did know, did not know how to apply for them, and may have been challenged during the application process. That is from the Office of Sport. Regarding grants funding, I am advised that Labor electorates received 36 per cent, Independent electorates received 22 per cent and Coalition electorates received 42 per cent. The Government ensured that assistance went to communities that ultimately needed it.

I agree that everyone needs a defibrillator. Heart disease is not biased. No-one is immune. I know that because I have heart disease in my family. My father had a triple bypass when he was 47 years old. I went to the doctor and have been on cholesterol medication since I was 21 years old. My body makes too much cholesterol. That runs throughout my whole family, on my mum's side and on my dad's side. The Christian camp at Wedderburn, in my electorate, has received a defibrillator. While the camp might not sound like a sporting organisation, it is. The camp has ropes and sporting activities onsite that children from across New South Wales enjoy. I was there the other day and they have found the defibrillator to be invaluable. I am advised they have had to use it already. That is not good, but thank goodness it was there.

While I acknowledge the points members have raised, it is important that governments review processes to make sure applications are accessible and easy. The process must be implemented in a way that does not prevent access by people in financially and socio-economically challenged areas. We must acknowledge their unique circumstances. Local members have pockets of those communities in their electorates. When we target our communities and do outreach, we know there are certain areas or groups in our community we need to help. I believe that is why the changes were put in place. I am certain the Minister and his team will continue to review the program and make adjustments where required. I thank the House.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (14:57): In reply: I thank members who contributed to debate on my motion, which highlights the Labor Government's life-saving initiative and reflects its deep commitment to community wellbeing and grassroots sport across our State. I respond to comments made by members. The member for Miranda highlighted the incredible work that Andy Paschalidis and Heartbeat of Football have done for many years. I thank the member for Miranda for joining me in wearing Holroyd Rangers green today; however, I correct the complaints she made about the allocation of funding to the regions. In the latest round of funding approximately 80 per cent of devices were allocated to regional and remote communities in New South Wales, including areas where emergency medical services are many kilometres away.

Local sporting clubs are the beating heart of civic life in those communities. Ensuring that life-saving equipment is on hand is not just smart policy; it is an expression of our values. In 2023-24 almost 75 per cent of grants went to regional and rural communities across 76 local government areas. The successful applicants for 2024-25 include 11 on the Central Coast, 16 in the Central West and Orana, 16 in the Far West, 28 in the Hunter, 16 in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 16 in Sydney, 11 in New England and north-west New South Wales, 32 on the North Coast, 29 in the Riverina and Murray, and 18 in the south-east Tablelands.

The member for Wallsend spoke about the role of sport and defibrillators in ensuring that people continue to play sport in her local area. The clubs that were awarded grants in her electorate are the MG Car Club, the Newcastle Radio Yacht Squadron, the Water Board Bowling Club and the Shortland Rugby League Football Club.

The member for Wallsend also spoke about the refugee kids who benefit from playing in local soccer clubs where lots of people raise money to make sure they have uniforms. That is very much the situation also at Holroyd Rangers. The member for Terrigal claimed that under the previous Government defibrillators were available to every club, but we know that is just not true. Not all of them knew about it and, for those who did, the application process was absolutely impenetrable. I thank the member for Campbelltown for his comments, particularly about his family history of heart disease, as well as about Pro Camp in Wedderburn and its wonderful work throughout the year offering campsites for weekly school camps, group retreats and church groups. All those programs are making a huge difference.

On 28 January the New South Wales Government announced the delivery of almost 200 defibrillators to sporting and recreational organisations across New South Wales, bringing the total number of defibrillators delivered under the program to more than 2½ thousand. Each one is a critical tool that can mean the difference between life and death. As members would know, every year over 9,000 people in New South Wales experience a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting. The survival rate for those incidents is tragically low, unless immediate action is taken. Defibrillators dramatically improve those odds. When seconds count, access to a defibrillator can save lives. Under this initiative, a total of \$500,000 is made available each year to sporting organisations to equip their facilities with automated external defibrillators. Again I thank all members who contributed to the debate. I certainly hope that next year we will see many more clubs applying for defibrillators and supporting their communities to continue playing sport.

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

Motion agreed to.

RAIL, TRAM AND BUS UNION INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:01): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Government for its failure to negotiate an outcome with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, creating uncertainty for the many thousands of people who use public transport.
- (2) Notes the contempt with which the Government is treating commuters, school students and small businesses because it cannot secure an outcome with its union mates.
- (3) Calls on the Government to request the Federal employment relations Minister to intervene in the dispute in an effort to have the matter resolved.

As a young woman who is new to this place, I gave notice of the motion in February this year, hoping that one day members would get the opportunity to debate this very important topic. The glorious day has arrived. In preparing for this debate, I was taken back to year 8 in school. I was an academic student and always did my homework. In year 8 we studied *The Merchant of Venice*, the famous text that gives us the often-quoted phrase "a pound of flesh". What would Shakespeare make of the drama played out in this State? Probably he could not do a lot with mediocrity, but maybe he could update *The Merchant of Venice* because each union in this State is coming for their pound of flesh. They want their pay rises. They were told, "Just donate. Just hand out, and we will deliver for you."

Labor is finally back on the Government benches, but they cannot run the joint and they cannot deliver for the people who put them there. I know they like to grandstand and introduce very important legislation, like updating the name of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Mr James Wallace: Very important.

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE: It is very important but, at the end of the day, the job is pretty simple: schools, hospitals, public transport, a strong economy and keeping the community safe. So far, we have seen very little from this Government on any of those fronts. The selective school test could not be delivered. Nurses and doctors are on strike. Criminals are being let out on bail. The budget will not be in surplus any time soon. And commuters live under the constant threat of train strikes. The Fair Work Commission may have given them a brief reprieve, but that moratorium will soon be over. The strikes will be back. July is coming. The commuters are getting nervous. The cafe owners in the city are getting nervous. The uni students are getting nervous. Everyone is getting nervous about July except the actual transport department, because its workers work from home. Does that not sum it up? The Government's own bureaucrats do not have to worry about the strikes because they get to work from home, while everyone else in this State who uses our train network has to face the prospect of strikes.

Nothing sums up this Government more than hypocrisy. Members opposite criticised our Government for not being able to resolve the strikes. They wanted the Minister sacked, but now they cannot resolve the strikes. We are only here because of false hope presented by the Premier—the mutual gains Messiah was going to fix

everything in our industrial relations system. It was only apparently a system of mutual gains that could fix our industrial relations. It was only mutual gains that was going to get everyone back to the negotiating table for sensible negotiations. They were going to be grown-ups and just sit down. I am a frequent reader of the RTBU's "Fighting for our Future" website.

Mr Anoulack Chanthivong: Are you a member?

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE: No, I am not. I do not have time for Marx. Instead, I go straight to the RTBU's website when I need to lift my spirits and find out what the people who are actually running this State are up to. Well, this is from one of their latest updates:

The days are long and dull ...

To paint a picture, the process involves your EA delegates sitting around a large table across from the employer representatives, with the Commissioner sitting at the end of the table on her computer manually drafting words to reflect real life conditions that will benefit members everywhere. It's dull ...

It does not sound like the mutual gains bargaining framework is working very well. Instead, it sounds more like a paragraph by a protagonist in an Emily Bronte novel. Not much progress is being made, if we read these updates. We can only assume that when the moratorium comes off, the strikes will be back. And worse, the RTBU is now coming for the metro. Everyone I know loves the metro. They want more metros. They will not see any more metros under this Government. Instead, they will get more metros that are mangled to meet union demands, because the union wants to install cabins for drivers on driverless trains.

In fact, the RTBU wants a 10 per cent allowance for drivers who are not doing any driving. You cannot make this stuff up. Next, we will have a union to bring back workers to stand in the lifts at Parliament House to get Labor members back to the floors they want to get to. But this is a serious matter. These strikes are bad for people and bad for the economy. In the December quarter last year, 15,000 days were lost to industrial action in New South Wales, second only to the socialist republic of Victoria. That is 15,000 days of work lost. The Government must resolve this dispute. If needs be, bring in the Federal Minister. Put the pride away and pick up the phone to Amanda. Start arbitration, because the New South Wales economy desperately needs this dispute resolved.

There is no productivity agenda in this State. There is no reform that will get the economy moving. Instead, we have a government that cannot deliver, and now it will sell out its workers even more. Each member will have to go back to the unions and tell them, "We cannot deliver for you on workers compensation, but please do not strike." What a pathetic, progressive government those opposite are. They do not stand for progress. They stand for protest, and the people of this State will not forget. Let me finish by once again reading this very important motion:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Government for its failure to negotiate an outcome with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, creating uncertainty for the many thousands of people who use public transport.
- (2) Notes the contempt with which the Government is treating commuters, school students and small businesses because it cannot secure an outcome ...

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:08): Here is Comrade Tudehope, the great bastion of workers' rights, who is not even a member of a union. She has come out with the big guns. She wants to talk about hypocrisy and contempt, but was it not the former Coalition Minister who, in 2022, was quite literally asleep on the job when he got a phone call from the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union [RTBU] notifying him that there would be a rail strike and then failed to notify the people of Sydney that was going to happen? He was literally asleep on the job.

That is the same Government that suppressed wages for 12 long years across this State. But I thank Comrade Tudehope for bringing this wonderful motion to the House. It gives us an opportunity to talk about the Coalition Government's deplorable track record when it comes to negotiations in this State and, in particular, negotiations with the RTBU. The former Government took two years to reach an agreement. In that time there were 500 industrial bans. Members opposite gutted the Industrial Relations Commission. Reinstating the commission was one of the first things that we did when we came to government. We are backing the commission and will be reaching an agreement with all of them.

Mr James Wallace: That's the Fair Work Commission, just so you're clear.

Dr Michael Holland: There's two commissions.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: There are two commissions. If those opposite are going to be bastions of industrial relations, they should maybe read up on it. When they are looking back in time, they should not go back too far. Just go back to 2022, when the former Minister was literally asleep on the job and failed to tell the people

of Sydney there was going to be a rail strike. We all woke up and no one could get to work because he had been asleep on the job. The 2022 Sydney Trains enterprise agreement expired on 1 May. The Government, the rail agencies and the combined rail unions have been negotiating on an agreement since June. It is a simple fact that negotiations often have a protracted path to settlement. It takes a long time to get there. As someone who comes from a long line of proud trade unionists, I say that we will get there in the end.

As I said, I am advised that the last enterprise bargaining agreement struck under the former Government took two years to negotiate. Opposition members have a lot of gall to come to this Chamber and try to flip-flop around with motions like this. As I said, it took them two years and 500 industrial bans. In that case the protected industrial action cost the people of New South Wales \$600 million. It is a matter of record that this Government has acted in determined ways to shield the public from the impact of bans over several months. We have acted to protect the travelling public and the economy. The fruit of that action is, as I said, the Fair Work Commission recently suspended the right of unions to take industrial actions before 1 July this year. We are continuing to work with the unions over this. We will continue to be vigilant in seeking to resolve the areas of disagreements with the unions. I understand why rail workers and public sector workers are champing at the bit to get their wages brought back up. After 12 long years of wage suppression, they want action. This is it.

Mr Gareth Ward: Drivers on driverless trains.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Oh, gosh! You're here. We want to see a fair outcome for all rail workers in our community. We seek an affordable and responsible outcome. But, as I said, after 12 long years of wage suppression, of course public sector workers are champing at the bit to get their wages brought up to a fair and equitable place. It is going to take a long time because, again—we hear it time and time again in this place—we had the single biggest debt passed from one government to another, so these issues are going to be solved easily or quickly. But I have complete faith in the Fair Work Commission. I have complete faith that our Ministers and the RTBU will reach a good outcome in their negotiations. As I said, we are seeking an affordable and a responsible outcome with this. Unlike those on the other side, our Ministers are not sleeping on the job. We pick up phone calls from—

Ms Monica Tudehope: But no wineries.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: That's the thing, right? I get it. We are a city that depends on public transport. I take public transport to work every day. Our workers and students need trains to get to work and school.

Ms Monica Tudehope: Light rail.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Mate, if you want to start talking about the light rail, it does not even work in the rain. It is the worst white elephant ever. And the contracts that those opposite signed with the buses are just the gift that keeps giving. I love that members opposite bang on about how bad the buses are. They signed the contracts, and now we have to work through them. The member for Castle Hill is laughing. He is sitting there thinking, "They are pretty bad." It is great. We are ordering the first bendy buses in 14 years.

Mr Gareth Ward: Articulated buses.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: The big bendy buses that do the heavy lifting. Our job is to keep the State moving and to talk reasonably with workers' representation. We are working hand in hand with the RTBU and all public sector unions to make up for 12 years of wage suppression. Of course the unions are angry. We can do both things. They are not mutually exclusive.

Mr Gareth Ward: Alex Claassens is on the ALP executive. What a conflict.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Claassens is Federal now. Ideally, discussions will continue in an environment that is free from Coalition posturing and motions like this. I remind members opposite that when they were in government, they were literally asleep at the wheel. The former transport Minister was in bed when the union called him. He did not pick up the phone.

Mr Mark Hodges: At 2.00 a.m. He has to sleep sometime.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: I could call Minister Hazzard at any time of the day and he would pick up, so the member cannot say that. There were good Ministers who would pick up the phone. When negotiations needed critical assistance last time around, the former Government was not there.

Mr JAMES WALLACE (Hornsby) (15:15): This motion may have been scheduled a few months too late, but Sydney commuters will never forget the summer of hell that the Minns Labor Government and the Rail, Tram and Bus Union [RTBU] put them through. It was a summer of strikes, delays and last-minute apologies. The bad news for commuters is that they are going to enter a winter of pain. When the cooling-off period imposed

by the Fair Work Commission ends on 1 July, the chaos, strikes and delays will begin again. The RTBU made public comments when the cooling-off period commenced in February. It said:

Our fear is that the NSW Government has no intention of finalising this bargain ... it will continue to sit on its hands rather than reach agreement with its rail workforce.

Was the RTBU correct? In the months since, there has been no deal. The Government has changed transport Ministers following an entitlements scandal, but there is still no deal. The member for Coogee said, "We will get there in the end," and that the Government has complete faith in the RTBU. Contrast that with the comments of the former Minister for Transport, the member for Summer Hill, who called the RTBU a "boa constrictor strangling the life out of Sydney's rail network". Major disruptions loom as the rail union's industrial action threatens to recommence. With the winter months approaching, public transport chaos will soon commence. It does not have to be that way. The chaos could have been resolved. The Minns Labor Government sat on its hands for months before taking the RTBU to the Fair Work Commission. It could have stopped the industrial action earlier by bringing action to the commission. It should have acted months earlier.

Our Liberal leader, the member for Cronulla, called for action, but the Minns Labor Government chose to not take any. It was only as a Federal election loomed and the threat of industrial action had the potential to cost the Federal Labor Government votes that the Minns Government finally stepped up. To make that clear, the suffering, problems and challenges that Sydney commuters were facing—the fact that they were stranded at bus stops and train stations, unable to rely on a once-reliable public transport system—did not cause the Minns Government to take action. It had to wait until a Federal election was looming to finally step up and do something. We all know that the Government could have acted months earlier if it had asked the Federal Government to intervene and call off the strikes.

The truth is that the Minns Government is hopelessly conflicted when it comes to managing the public sector workforce. It is paid for by the unions. The unions pay for the election campaigns. The Rail, Tram, and Bus Union donated \$400,000 to the last election campaign. The unions paid for an outcome; they paid for a big pay rise. The problem for the Minns Labor Government is that it promised every public sector union the same, and actually managing all of those competing promises made to different public sector unions is a challenge that Premier Minns and Treasurer Mookhey cannot deal with when in government. Before the election Premier Chris Minns said that his union wage deals would not cost the people of New South Wales a cent. Well, it is costing them millions of dollars, and it has cost them the reliability of their transport system.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (15:19): I am delighted to make a contribution to debate on this motion. I thank my colleague for bringing it to the House because it again provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the facts of the past. You will not often find me agreeing with the member for Hornsby, but I do agree with him that it did not have to be this way. As a reasonably new government, we found ourselves with an inherited debt due to the mismanagement of the previous Liberal-Nationals Government in New South Wales.

Mr James Wallace: How is debt related? Debt has nothing to do with the opex side of the budget.

Mr Mark Hodges: Look forward, don't look backwards. What are you doing? Why don't you solve the problem?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): Opposition members will come to order.

Mr GREG WARREN: Once the kids have finished, I will continue. It would not have to be this way if we did not inherit more than \$180 billion in debt and over a decade of frozen wages. I do not blame rail workers for being angry, like everyone else who had to suffer under the wages cap imposed by the Coalition. Of course they are going to come out hard when New South Wales has a new government that is good at economic management and is sympathetic to the workers. I do not blame them. But the reality is that the Minister, the Premier, the Cabinet and this Government have done something that the previous Government never did with those workers: They have been honest with them. The Government is honest with them when it says it has debt and it does not have the money.

We know what we would like to do, but we have to be able to pay for it. That is, quite simply, the position that we found ourselves in at that time. I acknowledge the hard work of the former transport Minister, the member for Summer Hill, as well as the current transport Minister. We inherited a network that made the Burma Railway look like Grand Central Station. It was absolutely falling apart. I do not have the figure in front of me, but the joint was broken. It was at a stage where, if it got hot or it rained, the network would shut down because of the maintenance backlog. I note that the Minister, and member for Macquarie Fields, is in the Chamber. He catches public transport. We both live in the most outer south-west Sydney electorates from which to commute into the city. We do not like catching the train for our chats and catch ups; we do it because we have to, like so many other residents. But the reality is that we find ourselves in a situation that we must address.

I know it is fun for members opposite to continue to beat up on workers, unions and union bosses. What does the member for Hornsby want? He is saying, "You didn't have resolve." The Government went to the Fair Work Commission and it won. That is why we are now where we are at. On the other hand, he is saying, "Just give them their pay rise." How are we going to pay for it? No wonder the joint is broke. The Coalition ran around for more than a decade. A drunken sailor has more sense when leaving Rockers in Woolloomooloo at 2.00 a.m. than any of those members opposite have right now. It is absolutely amazing. Opposition members want to attack the union support of Labor candidates, but I do not hear them carrying on about the Exclusive Brethren's support of the Liberal Party. I note the brethren did not support the National Party. The Opposition can go back to throwing those cheap shots. It is low-hanging fruit from low-flying politicians. Opposition members should look in the mirror and see they are part of the cancer, not the cure. *[Time expired.]*

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (15:24): The member for Campbelltown started his contribution by saying that the motion gives him the opportunity to reflect on the past, and that is the problem. Members opposite are reflecting on the past and not looking to the future. They need to be considering what they can do to solve the problem. They need to stop looking at the past and start designing policies. That is the real problem. I thank the member for Epping for moving the motion because it enables us to look at exactly what is occurring with this Government. It plays the blame game all the time, which is all it ever wants to do, rather than solves problems. The Government is not negotiating at arm's length; it is negotiating with its affiliated partner, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union [RTBU].

When did the industrial problems start? The issue started very early in 2024. In the 12 months since then, the Government has done absolutely nothing. On 20 November 2024 a meeting was held between the Minister and the RTBU. The member update, which I read, records that the Premier "popped into the room late afternoon". I say to members opposite that if the Premier and the Minns Government were at all serious about solving the matter, the Premier would not have popped in late in the afternoon; he would have been involved in the negotiations. That demonstrates the problem. They are not working and they are not trying to solve problems. The Minns Government has failed to deal with the issue in a timely and appropriate manner. That has cost the community millions of dollars.

David Harding, a Business NSW executive, appeared on Sky News on 17 January 2025. He pointed out that we have suffered \$97 million per day in damages as a result of the strikes and shutdowns, and that is a real problem. Sadly, we are seeing the blame game. For what it is worth, the RTBU reported how the unions are involved with the Labor Party. In an open letter published on the RTBU member update site, referring to some comments made by two Labor members of this House, the RTBU stated:

These Unions, as you well know, are affiliated with the NSW Labor Party and represent thousands of hardworking Australians fighting for fair wages and improved working conditions.

We understand that members of the Labor Party do not like it when we refer to their affiliation with the terrorist thugs the RTBU. Clearly, the unholy alliance between the RTBU and the Labor Party has cost the community lots of money. Members on this side of the House do not support hostage policies of the RTBU. The Government needs to work with the community to solve the industrial relations problem, rather than play the blame game.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:28): I thank the member for Epping for bringing the motion before the House. I acknowledge my colleagues in the Chamber the member for Coogee, and Parliamentary Secretary for Transport; and the member for Campbelltown, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Early Learning, and Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney. I also acknowledge the other members who contributed to debate. Members might wonder why I am here.

Mr Gareth Ward: Yes, I do.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: I wonder sometimes, too. My electorate does not have a railway. It ends at Bomaderry. There is lots of discussion about the Canberra to Eden railway that has been there since Federation. Because of a conflict of interest, to enter Parliament I had to resign from the "Builders Labourers Federation of professions", the Australian Medical Association. But I am now a proud member of the Health Services Union. I acknowledge that the past few months have been frustrating for train passengers. I do not catch trains, except in Japan, where I spent a lot of time in January, which was wonderful. These people are just trying to get to work, get home after work, take their kids to school, or go to a doctor's appointment. These are the people who have to face those real consequences. The thing is they are workers, just like our rail workers. The Government understands how tough this is for passengers. That is why we have always worked to find a solution to this dispute.

It is a matter of record that the Government has acted in a determined way to shield the public from the impacts of these bans over several months. We have acted to protect the travelling public and the economy. The fruit of that action was the Fair Work Commission, which recently suspended the right of the unions to take industrial action before July this year. We will continue to be vigilant while seeking to resolve areas of

disagreement with the unions. We seek a fair outcome for all—rail unions and the community—and we seek an affordable and responsible outcome.

But those opposite try to work both sides of the street, and there is no credibility on either side of the street. If a person is a street worker—some members may know what that is—they know the rules. They work their side of the street. Members opposite would like to be pimping the industrial relations system. I can just imagine them with a big hat, grills, sunglasses, a gold chain, a fur coat and alligator boots. They would be out there strutting their stuff and ripping off those workers. On one hand they cry industrial vandalism, and on the other hand they say, "Just roll over and get the deal done." It is a really unserious approach that is emblematic of all their policy failures.

When the Coalition was in government, it failed, bargaining for 22 months. The previous Government completely shut down the rail network with no notice in February 2022. The good Parliamentary Secretary and other members here remember David Elliott having a nap. He forgot to tell the Premier at the time. It was wonderful, but it was not wonderful for the people of New South Wales. He was sleeping on the job. Just imagine me, a local obstetrician on call for 264 hours straight, thinking, "I'll just have a nice bottle of red and I'll put my phone on silent. If you need a caesarean, don't worry about it." They were asleep at the wheel—or in their beds, in fact. They were asleep behind the wheel when negotiations needed critical assistance last time around. In the end, we all paid dearly for those empty words and hollow threats.

Our job is to keep the State moving and to talk reasonably with worker representatives. We can do both; they are not mutually exclusive. The problem is that members opposite do not understand unions. They do not like workers. They want a history lesson on the power of social justice and the progress that our State has achieved through eight hours of labour, eight hours of recreation, and eight hours of rest. Would that happen with members opposite? No. We got annual leave, sick leave, equal pay for women and the weekend. Under the Coalition? Nothing.

Mr JASON LI: I seek leave to make a contribution to debate.

Leave not granted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I call the member for Epping in reply.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Bring it home, comrade!

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:32): In reply: I cannot wait to bring it home. I cannot wait to bring it home on behalf of all the commuters of this State who will suffer under this Government because it cannot resolve the dispute with the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union [RTBU]. It is shameful for all those people who want to go to university, go to school, or go about their daily lives using our once reliable transport system. They cannot do that under the threat of strikes. As the member for Kiama says, the winter of our discontent is on its way. The moratorium will be lifted and the strikes will resume. I acknowledge those members who made a contribution to debate on this very important motion. I start with the member for Coogee, who could not get the right commission. In fact, this matter is before the Fair Work Commission, not the Industrial Relations Commission.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: It's called the Fair Work Commission.

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE: The Fair Work Commission—I just said that. It is not the Industrial Relations Commission. For a government that makes itself out to be all about mutual gains and an improved industrial relations system, one would think they would understand the way in which the industrial relations system works. They said they wanted to act—that they did act to protect workers. But the member well knows that the Premier and the Minister could have acted much sooner to get this matter to arbitration. They let this matter drag on. They could have moved this matter to arbitration, but instead they had faith in the RTBU. Let us see if that faith continues, because when the moratorium is lifted, we know that the strikes will be back.

I thank the member for Hornsby for his contribution, because he rightly pointed out the contradictions that exist in the Government. The member for Coogee said, "We're all friends. We have faith in our union comrades," yet the member for Summer Hill, who was once the transport Minister, said, "No, we're in fact enemies." The reality is that we are but the children caught between those two warring families and we are the ones to suffer. I also acknowledge the member for Campbelltown's contribution because, in effect, it sums up exactly what is wrong with the Government. He said that the Government is "sympathetic" to the workers. If that does not sum up Labor, I do not know what does, because it is all sympathy and no action. It is all talk. "We're your friends. We can deliver for you. Trust us, we will be able to deliver the pay rise."

The member for Castle Hill also made a fantastic contribution to debate on the motion. I am so glad he spoke in this Chamber on behalf of the people of his electorate. He reminded us of the hostage politics that those opposite condemn us to, because we are but hostages to the fact that they cannot resolve the dispute. Of course,

the member for Castle Hill is very lucky because his constituents got a metro, which the former Coalition Government was able to deliver and which the RTBU now wants to put cabs onto for its drivers, who would, in fact, not be driving. I will finish with the member for Bega, who talked a big game in his contribution. Again, he mentioned sympathy.

Mr Greg Warren: Leaving the best for last.

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE: I do leave the best for last, because it is entirely ironic that he has been asked to make his contribution today about the strikes that happened during January, when he was in Japan, where the trains actually work. Does that not just sum it up? He was not here having to experience the strikes that the rest of us had to. Japan must have been fantastic. I commend the motion to the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes35
 Noes48
 Majority.....13

AYES

Anderson, K	Hodges, M	Sloane, K
Ayyad, T	James, T	Speakman, M
Clancy, J	Lane, J	Taylor, M
Cooke, S	Layzell, D	Thompson, T
Coure, M	Moylan, B	Toole, P
Crouch, A (teller)	Preston, R	Tuckerman, W
Davies, T	Provest, G	Tudehope, M
Di Pasqua, S	Regan, M	Wallace, J
Dwyer, R	Roberts, A	Ward, G
Griffin, J	Saunders, D	Williams, R
Hannan, J	Scruby, J	Williamson, R (teller)
Henskens, A	Singh, G	

NOES

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

PAIRS

Cross, M	Tesch, L
Petinos, E	Butler, L
Wilson, F	Kamper, S

Motion negatived.

*Bills***VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICTIMS REGISTERS) BILL 2025****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 14 May 2025.**

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (15:43): I speak in support of the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Register Bill) 2025, which makes amendments to four Acts to ensure that victims' information can be shared between relevant government agencies for the purpose of informing victims about their eligibility to be registered on a victims register. Registers support victims of crime by providing them with access to specific information about an offender, including details about their sentence, release dates and change in legal status. Victims registers also support victims to provide submissions for consideration in relation to key events such as an inmate's release on parole.

New South Wales has three victims registers—the Correctives Services NSW Victims Register for victims of adult offenders, the Youth Justice Victims Register for victims of young offenders and the Specialist Victims Register for victims of forensic patients. The bill introduces a legislative obligation on agencies responsible for administering the three victims registers in New South Wales to notify victims of certain serious offenders of the existence of the register and the victim's eligibility to register. It has come about in response to feedback from stakeholders—including victims, their representatives and victim advocacy and support services—as part of consultation conducted.

Legislating a positive obligation on agencies to notify victims of serious offenders that they are eligible to register will meet victims' calls for more information and awareness of the registers, while maintaining victims' agency and consent over the choice to register. The bill achieves that through amendments to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020, as well as schedule 4 to the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013. The primary aspect of the obligations imposed is that the responsible agencies will be required to notify eligible victims as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a person is an eligible victim. Eligible victims are defined under the respective existing legislation for each register. While eligible victims differ across the three registers, generally eligible victims are victims of an offence for which the offender has been sentenced to custody.

Schedule 4 to the bill amends the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to ensure that the sharing of victim information between agencies responsible for administering the registers and other agencies is permissible under privacy legislation. The amendments contained in the bill better support victims of serious offenders, reflecting that that cohort of victims may be more likely to have an interest in an offender's progress through the correctional system. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (15:46): I support the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Register) Bill 2025, which continues the Government's work to support victims of crime by implementing improvements to the operation of victims registers. The registers support victims of crime by providing them with access to specific information about an offender, such as details about their sentence, release dates or any change in their legal status. They also support victims to provide submissions for consideration in relation to key events such as an inmate's release on parole. New South Wales has three victims registers—the Correctives Services NSW Victims Register for victims of adult offenders, the Youth Justice Victims Register for victims of young offenders and the Specialist Victims Register for victims of forensic patients, which are victims in cases where there has been a finding of "act proven but not criminally responsible".

The bill amends the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 to introduce a legislative obligation on agencies responsible for administering the three victims registers in New South Wales to notify victims of certain serious offenders of the existence of the register and the victim's eligibility to register.

The bill also amends the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to ensure that it is not a breach of privacy legislation for relevant government agencies to share victim information for the purpose of enabling an agency responsible for a victims register to notify victims that they are eligible to register, and to ensure that a victim's contact information can be shared between relevant government agencies for the purposes of informing victims about services, support or assistance available to them, including their eligibility to be registered on a victims register. That is notwithstanding section 6.8 of the Charter of Victims Rights, which provides that a victim's residential address and telephone number will not be disclosed unless a court directs otherwise. The three victims registers are based on an opt-in model, whereby a victim chooses whether to register. A challenge of the model is that it relies on a victim being made aware of the existence of the register and their eligibility to register, which has not always occurred.

The Premier publicly committed to consulting with victims and their representatives about ways to improve the operation of the victims registers from December 2024 to February 2025. The majority of victims consulted were in favour of retaining an opt-in model. They provided feedback that they do not want to be registered without their consent, and want to retain their autonomy over whether to register. The reforms in the bill respond to that feedback by introducing a positive obligation on the agencies responsible for victims to notify victims of serious offenders of their eligibility register. That strikes the appropriate balance between making sure that victims know about and can access their right to be on the register, while maintaining victims' agency and choice about whether to opt in. The focus on victims of serious offenders aligns with stakeholder feedback and an understanding that victims of serious crimes may be more likely to want to access a victims register and benefit from the service it provides. The bill provides that a responsible agency will be required to notify eligible victims about the victim's register as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a person is an eligible victim.

The bill provides that the relevant responsible agency is not required to notify a victim about the register if the agency does not have sufficient information to inform the person despite having taken responsible steps to ascertain that information from prosecuting authorities. That ensures that an agency will not breach its obligations in situations where victims are unable to be identified or contacted—for example, due to inaccurate contact details. The bill also provides that the notification obligation does not apply if the agency is aware that the victim does not wish to be recorded in the register, or does not wish to be contacted in relation to the relevant offender. That would include, for example, where the victim has already indicated to New South Wales Police Force or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that they do not wish to engage with the register. The bill also contains amendments to the Victims Rights and Support Act to facilitate the sharing of information between agencies and to enable victims to be notified about victims registers.

As agencies responsible for administering the registers do not hold victims' contact details prior to registration, that information will need to be obtained from relevant prosecuting authorities, including the New South Wales Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The bill amends the Act to ensure that the sharing of victim information between agencies responsible for administering the registers and other agencies is permissible under privacy legislation. The bill also provides that the disclosure of health information is similarly permissible. That is relevant in the sharing of information for the Specialist Victims Register given the fact that information about a person who is a forensic patient is considered to be health information under the Health Records and Information Privacy Act. The bill also amends the Victims Rights and Support Act to ensure that a victim's contact information can be shared for the purpose of informing victims about services, support or assistance available to them, including advising victims of their eligibility to be registered on a victim's register.

I also speak about the impact that being attacked had on Samantha Barlow to highlight how important it is that victims, if they choose to, should be able to make submissions prior to parole being considered. Victims should have sufficient time to prepare a strong submission. Samantha's brother, Jason, has been a friend of mine for over 30 years. Not only did Roderick Holohan's assault completely change Samantha's life, it also changed the lives of her whole family. Samantha was on track to be the youngest-ever inspector in the New South Wales Police Force. She was close to passing those exams when she was assaulted and left for dead. She was bashed with a brick and robbed while walking to work through Kings Cross in 2009. Instead of becoming a police inspector, Samantha retired from the police force.

Her family, husband, children and eventually also her parents all moved to Port Macquarie to support Samantha through her injuries and trauma, and to support each other. It has been very hard on Samantha and her family, and especially her children. They should have always been able to make a submission opposing Holohan's parole instead of finding out by chance. Instead, she did not know that she could be put on the victim's register and informed. Samantha pleaded against parole being given. I note that, earlier this week, Holohan was arrested in Bomaderry and charged with threatening and intimidating a woman. Bail has been refused. It is a terrible shortcoming that Samantha did not have sufficient time to make a detailed, considered submission against his parole. The changes under the bill should ensure that that never happens again.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (15:53): In reply: I thank all members who contributed to debate on the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025: the members representing the electorates of Terrigal, Prospect, Orange, Bankstown, Penrith, North Shore, Fairfield and Granville. This bill marks another critical step in the New South Wales Government's commitment to improving our justice system and supporting victim-survivors as we create a safer New South Wales. This bill will legislate a new requirement for agencies who administer the Victims Register to proactively notify the victims of certain serious offenders of their right to be on the register and access the benefits it offers.

This will give victims greater peace of mind and the support for safety planning that they deserve. I am proud to deliver a bill that achieves a careful and appropriate balance between victims' desire for more information and awareness of the Victims Register with concerns about retaining victims' privacy, agency and consent. I thank the shadow Minister for Corrections for his support of the bill. I am glad that the shadow Minister for Corrections and the member for the North Shore recognise the importance of these reforms, which address a current gap in the system and give the best support to victim-survivors. I also thank the member for Orange for his contribution to the debate. While he acknowledged that the matters he raised are beyond the scope of this bill, I applaud him for his ongoing and dedicated advocacy for victim-survivors.

These reforms show that the New South Wales Government takes its responsibility to better protect community safety and support victims of crime seriously. This includes responding to calls for improvements to the systems in place to support those affected by the heinous and deplorable offences that sometimes can unfortunately take place in our State. I thank the many individual victims and victim support and advocacy groups that have contributed to the development of this bill. In particular, I thank Samantha Barlow, a former police officer and victim-survivor, and her husband, Laurence Barlow, for their extraordinarily brave advocacy for victim-survivors and for the invaluable advice they provided throughout the consultation process.

I thank longstanding and dedicated victim advocates, Howard Brown and Martha Jabour, for their generous expert advice and contributions to the bill. I also thank staff from the Department of Communities and Justice and Corrective Services NSW who have supported the development of the bill, including Luke Grant and his team, Sarah Cumming, Claudia Daly, Stephanie Parsons and Rebekah Hitchenson. Lastly, I thank my staff for their dedication to this important reform, including Constance Piperides, Alicia Sylvester, Brooke O'Rourke, and departmental liaison officers Brenna Lorkin and Laura Dewberry. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Petitions

KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): This debate will consider the petition signed by 10,000 or more persons and lodged by the member for Wagga Wagga.

The question is that the House take note of the petition.

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:57): I speak in support of the petition that I tabled that calls for the repeal of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018. The petition was signed by more than 11,000 people from more than 50 locations across New South Wales. Like so many people in our State and country, they are concerned about the impact of an invasive species on our fragile alpine environment. I share their concerns. I acknowledge the visitors in the gallery today, and I thank them for their work. The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act is an artificial construct that goes against logic. That law should now be repealed, and the reason is simple: It has the bizarre effect of supporting introduced species in a national park over and above native animals and plants.

In environmental terms, this Act cannot be justified. Feral horses are an invasive species that trample wetlands and pollute waterways. They compact the soil and contribute to erosion. They are large, hard-hoofed animals without natural predators and they live in an environment that has not evolved to cope with them. Why should this invasive species be given protection over native species? Would we legislate to protect foxes, goats or pigs in our national parks? Would it make any sense to have a "Kosciuszko Wild Pig Heritage Act"? I have supported the Government's efforts to reduce the number of wild horses to the target of 3,000. Many would argue that 3,000 horses are too many. Science will determine how many horses should remain.

I understand the emotional appeal of wild horses for some people. I also understand that some people see wild horses in the high country as part of our heritage. But the facts are that horses are a relatively recent introduction to the park, and the harm they do far outweighs any heritage values they hold. The horses that served in World War I "were carefully bred for military purposes" and were killed on foreign fields, either in conflict or at the end of hostilities. Much is made of Banjo Paterson's glorious poem *The Man from Snowy River*, an epic that does indeed celebrate Australia's equine history in the high country. But the poem was not about preferencing

wild horses over other species. It, in fact, told of heroic efforts to recapture a valuable escaped horse—the famous "colt from Old Regret"—and return him to his human owners.

A descendant of Banjo's grandmother, June Wilkinson, from the Monaro region has been riding in the high country since she was a child. She loves horses but has seen the damage they do in the park and is adamant that they need to be humanely removed. Mrs Wilkinson points to the recollections of Banjo himself, who described shooting parties culling feral horses in the State's Central West. For all his romancing about the high country and his aversion to having to shoot wild horses, he noted that they had run out of control and their numbers had to be reduced. Even Banjo Paterson knew that wild horses must be managed. None of that is to say that the repeal of the Act would lead to the elimination of all wild horses in the park, but the facts are that horse numbers spiralled under inadequate management in the years of debate leading up to the passing of the Act and after, and the environment suffered. Now that numbers have been reduced, the environment is starting to recover.

I know this is an emotional issue that will attract an emotional response. Opponents of the removal of horses from the park and the repeal of the Act will have much to say. Their arguments are based on rejecting the evidence of horse numbers, with some even claiming that there were as few as 600 prior to the recent cull. That position can be dismissed simply by the fact that we know almost 9,000 horses have been removed since 2021 and that current numbers are estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000. One prominent wild horse supporter has even accused the former Deputy Premier and architect of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act, John Barilaro, of betraying "the snowy brumby populations by falling in line with then environment Minister Matt Kean". It is extraordinary. But that is telling. It can only be presumed that that means at least some supporters of feral horses do not see a need to require any limit on numbers. That reinforces the need to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act.

Science does not lie. We cannot cry fake news when the evidence defies emotion. The time has now come to preference science over emotion and repeal the Act. I thank those who signed the petition and worked to get the signatures. I acknowledge the leadership of Jack Gough and the Invasive Species Council for their work and give a special shout-out to Linda Groom and her team who have worked so hard. It is time to end this farce that protects an invasive species at the expense of our national environmental heritage. Future generations will thank us. I commend the petition to the House.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (16:02): In response: As the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, amongst many other things, I respond in this petition debate. I thank the honourable good doctor for bringing the petition to this place and join him in thanking the people who have signed the petition for being in the gallery today. Petitions present an opportunity to have a debate heard, and I thank them for making the effort to be here. I acknowledge the interest shown in this topic not only by the member for Wagga Wagga and the petitioners but also by a number of people across the board. Kosciuszko National Park is one of the most significant and iconic conservation reserves in Australia and the world. It has outstanding and unique natural and cultural features, together with recreational opportunities that are highly valued by many, including First Nations people.

However, the scientific evidence is clear that many of these values are at risk from the impacts of wild horses in the park. That includes risks to water quality, overall ecosystem health, and threatened native plants and animals. The management of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park was previously neglected, allowing the population to grow to alarming levels. The New South Wales Government has taken decisive action to control the wild horse population, consistent with the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 and the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan, which was prepared and adopted following extensive public consultation. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is legally required to comply with the targets set out in the plan, which include reducing the wild horse population to 3,000 and limiting their presence to 32 per cent of the park by June 2027.

We are well on track to meet these targets while ensuring that wild horse control is undertaken in accordance with the highest animal welfare requirements. Between November 2021 and 30 April 2025, a total of 9,036 wild horses were removed from Kosciuszko National Park. Over 1,000 horses were rehomed. As the Minister for the Environment advised at her March 2025 budget estimates hearing, preliminary estimates indicate that around 3,000 wild horses remain in the park. The focus of the New South Wales Government continues to be on delivering on-ground management actions to meet the targets by June 2027. The Government made that commitment to the people of New South Wales when the plan was publicly exhibited and subsequently adopted. It is also consistent with our commitment to implement the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry into the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park.

The New South Wales Government does not, therefore, consider pursuing repeal of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 to be a priority at this time. On the issue of feral animals generally, the Government has

consistently demonstrated a firm commitment to feral animal control across the State. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is delivering the biggest feral animal control program in its history. In Kosciuszko National Park and the surrounding region, more than 18,000 feral animals, including over 6,000 deer, have been removed by aerial shooting over four years. During the same period, The National Parks and Wildlife Service removed around 180,000 feral animals from parks statewide, including over 20,000 deer. This clearly demonstrates that the Government is taking real action to tackle the impact of feral animals. It does not prioritise feral animals over native animals in national parks. Once again, I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for introducing the petition for debate and for his interest in the matter.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (16:07): I contribute to this petition discussion in my capacity as shadow Minister for the Environment. I dug deep into my memory bank as the previous Minister responsible for the implementation of the plan and it is fair to say that wild horse management in Kosciuszko National Park is a complex and challenging issue. I have met strong and vocal advocates from both sides of the debate, and I have seen firsthand the impact of horses on Kosciuszko. I have also seen firsthand the calm, methodical and professional manner of National Parks and Wildlife Service staff, particularly in Jindabyne and surrounding offices. I reiterate my view, which I held then and still hold, that the New South Wales National Parks team are the most dedicated and diligent people I have ever had the privilege of working with.

I put on record my thanks to the then leadership of National Parks and the Office of Environment and Heritage for their courage in introducing and commencing the park management plan. We all know and appreciate there are strong differing opinions on this matter. I thank the thousands of citizens who have taken the time to sign this petition. I understand their concerns. I note also the incredibly diverse spread of locations from which signatures on this petition have come. It would be remiss of me to not mention that in the top 10 locations was the wonderful electorate of Manly. But let there be no mistake: Kosciuszko National Park is one of Australia's great national parks. As I said back in 2022, when Australia's highest suspension bridge was opened in the park as part of the signature Snowies Alpine Walk, if you liked the Cradle Mountain Overland Track, then come to Kosciuszko.

But it is also a place of vital environmental importance. Members in this place would know that the former Coalition Government had a legislated plan to reduce the wild horse population to 3,000 by 2027. Under that plan, the National Parks and Wildlife Service had a legal obligation to reduce the number of horses. We must continue to protect and restore the unique Kosciuszko environment, including 32 endangered species that suffer when horse populations spiral out of control. We must also understand that there is an emotional attachment to the horses and that that is to be respected.

I note that a recent cross-party inquiry found that the New South Wales Government should have an appropriate independent third-party review of the standard operating procedure regularly to ensure it continues to reflect best practice and is as robust and as humane as possible. In that sense, as the management of the park evolves, we have a growing body of evidence on which to make sensible and science-backed decisions on the future and ongoing management of the park. It is science and data that should guide the next steps in the management of the park. It is science and data of the type that is being collected as part of the plan that will provide an unequivocal pathway to ensure "Koszi" thrives for decades into the future.

I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for presenting the petition. I place on the record my immense thanks and gratitude to the thousands of people who have been part of a very long journey to ensure this issue is raised in the New South Wales Parliament. It is an important mission. I commend the petition to the House.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:11): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for presenting this petition, and I acknowledge a very packed gallery today. I acknowledge the hard work of those people, their compassion, the science, and their commitment to bringing this issue to Parliament time and again. My colleague the member for Port Stephens and I are on the record as having spoken in 2019 during debate on a previous petition with more than 10,000 signatures in relation to this important issue. At that time—as I do now—I paid tribute to the activists and environmentalists who collected those signatures and made their case to the community throughout New South Wales. They built an argument for the repeal of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018.

A crucial and important point to make today is that the request, put on behalf of the petition's organisers by the member for Wagga Wagga, is not off the table. That is my understanding. As my colleagues and I argued in 2018 and 2019 in relation to the previous petition, wild horses are beautiful animals, but nevertheless are an introduced pest above all other ecological, environmental and cultural values, which is problematic within the Kosciuszko National Park. As I said years ago, that fact speaks to the absurdity, recklessness and short-sightedness of the introduction of that bill in 2018. As my colleague Minister Jihad Dib said, representing Minister Penny Sharpe in the other place, the Government is focused on managing wild horses in the Kosciuszko National Park in accordance with the management plan under the Act.

As has been pointed out many times, and also recently when I collected the petition, it is important to acknowledge that the park contains the continent's highest mountains, unique glacial landscapes and unusual assemblages of plants and animals, a number of which are found nowhere else. The park contains significant water catchments, the main seasonally snow-covered region in Australia, and extensive tracts of plains, forest and woodland. I acknowledge that wild horses are causing significant adverse and ongoing impacts to the natural, cultural and recreational values of the park.

As a Government member, it is important that I reiterate the impacts those horses will have on the long-term survival of threatened species and ecological communities, and to the overall catchment and ecosystem health in the park. It is important to explain why the Government took immediate action upon coming into power two years ago to reduce brumby numbers as quickly and humanely as possible. As has been mentioned in the debate, we are on track to meet the legal requirement to reduce the wild horse population within 32 per cent of the park and remove them from other areas of the park by June 2027. That demonstrates the Government is delivering on its commitment to reduce the population of wild horses to a level that meets legal requirements. It is also important to reiterate the history of the community's work. I remember tearing into the then Deputy Premier in 2019 when he was talking about brumbies and reminding him it was The Man from Snowy River, not The Brumby from Snowy River. It is important that we continue to work together for an eventual repeal.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (16:16): I speak on behalf of The Greens, particularly for the member for Ballina and the member for Newtown, given the limited number of members allowed to speak on the petition debate. This important petition debate, brought to us by the member for Wagga Wagga, implores the Government to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018. I emphatically thank the community for bringing this important petition to the New South Wales Parliament today. I say from the outset that The Greens opposed the wild horses bill when it was first introduced in the New South Wales Parliament in 2018. The petition was signed by more than 11,000 people, including over 300 people from my electorate of Balmain. I thank all the members in our communities for caring about our precious environment and our native wildlife and ecosystems.

The petition reflects widespread concern that is shared by scientists, conservationists, First Nations communities and members of the public about the ongoing legal protection of damaging non-native species within one of Australia's most fragile and important ecosystems. Kosciuszko National Park is such an important national park. It is the largest alpine-protected area in Australia, covering 690 hectares and includes glacial valleys, sphagnum bogs, alpine meadows and rare subalpine woodlands. Those environments support unique ecological communities and species found nowhere else in the world. The park also contains the headwaters of the Murray, the Snowy and Murrumbidgee rivers. Together those rivers supply around 9,600 gigalitres of water each year, which represents about 29 per cent of the total flow to the Murray-Darling Basin. Those water flows support agriculture, ecosystems and drinking water supplies for more than two million Australians. When Kosciuszko is damaged, the consequences are felt across the entire south-east of the continent.

Kosciuszko is home to 28 nationally listed endangered species and two endangered ecological communities, including the northern corroboree frog, with fewer than 50 individuals remaining in some populations; the mountain pygmy possum, which relies on deep snow cover and survives only in a few small alpine regions; and the broad-toothed rat, a species dependent on intact, undisturbed alpine sedgeland. Wetlands within the park regulate water flow, store carbon and support unique microclimates, yet they are highly vulnerable to disturbance and can take centuries to recover once damaged. The alpine and subalpine ecosystems within the park play a key role in buffering against the impacts of climate change. They store carbon, filter and retain water, reduce erosion and help vulnerable species survive by providing cooler, high-altitude habitat. Those systems are already under significant pressure. Damage from non-native species is leading to the loss of native vegetation, erosion of streams and collapse of vital ecological processes. Restoration of those areas is critical to maintaining resilience in the face of climate change.

The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 is the only legislation in Australia that mandates the retention of a damaging non-native species within a national park. It is at odds with the purpose of a national park, which is to conserve native species and ecosystems. I refer to the words of Federal Greens senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi when she was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council. When the bill originally passed the Parliament in 2018, Dr Faruqi said:

The Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves, which includes Kosciuszko National Park, are already listed federally as a national heritage place in recognition of their unique natural environment found nowhere else in Australia. This area is also one of only two UNESCO biosphere reserves in New South Wales. It is clear that this region is incredibly important not only nationally but also internationally. This bizarre plan does nothing to protect this precious, pristine and unique environment.

Legislating to keep wild horses permanently in the national park only seeks to further damage it. This would force the protectors of our national parks, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to keep invasive species in the park in direct contravention of their mandate to protect the environment.

The Greens stand alongside scientists, conservationists and the community in their calls for the bill to be repealed. I thank the Invasive Species Council, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Public Service Association of NSW, the National Parks Association of NSW and Bushwalking NSW for their advocacy on the critical issue. I also thank Fiona Campbell from my electorate for engaging with me so passionately on the issue. The Greens know that there is much more work to be done to protect our precious environment, including reducing emissions, ending coal and gas, transitioning to renewable energy and ending native forest logging. I thank all of the organisations that work towards that goal alongside us every day as well as everyone in the electorate of Balmain and across New South Wales who supports strong climate and environmental action.

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (16:21): I thank all the petitioners who have brought the petition to us today and the Invasive Species Council for its work in collecting the signatures. I particularly welcome those who have travelled from Monaro to be in the gallery. It is a long trip. I do not often see people from Monaro in the gallery, so it is great. Firstly, I acknowledge the Minister for Emergency Services, representing the Minister for the Environment, who has given the Government's position on the petition. I was not a member of Parliament when the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018 was passed. As the member for Monaro, I make it clear that I think it is an appalling piece of legislation. It would have been opposed if I was a member of Parliament at the time. It is still my view that we should get rid of that legislation.

Kosciuszko National Park is a special place. We first worked to remove hooved animals from fragile areas of the park nearly 90 years ago with the Soil Conservation Service. Over 80 years ago, we declared the park to protect the natural native flora and fauna. The explosion in the number of brumbies, due to the previous Government's complete inaction on tackling brumby numbers, has damaged large areas of the park. Like many in the gallery, I regularly walk in the park and have seen the damaged areas. I have been excited to see photos of some of those areas and the recovery that is already taking place, even in the short time since we have reduced brumby numbers in the park.

I recognise that for many passionate lovers of brumbies, it is a hard issue. There are many of those in Monaro. My constituents certainly let me know their views in no uncertain terms. I have no problem with that. I welcome that people rehome and love the brumbies that they take from the park and keep on their own properties, but it is a national park. National parks have natural values that need to be protected for generations to come. The park has fragile areas of alpine grassland and extremely vulnerable species that need to be protected. I commend the Hon. Penny Sharpe for the strong work she has done to reduce brumby numbers. That work has seen the most progress made in 20 years of arguing and stuffing around on the issue. I strongly advocated for and supported that.

I think we will eventually get to the repeal of this legislation. First of all, we need to ensure that we have a management plan that works and that we would, in a very practical sense, be able to get it through the Parliament. Those are things that the Minister needs to look at as we move forward. But in the short term our focus needs to be on achieving the reduction in brumby numbers in the park, restoring the valuable areas of the park, and continuing the good work that we are now doing to ensure that, in 80 years, we still have a Kosciuszko National Park and that it is in a better condition than today.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (16:24): In reply: I thank the members for Bankstown, Manly, Blue Mountains, Balmain and Monaro for their contributions. The member for Bankstown highlighted the value of the park and the Government's actions. The member for Manly emphasised the importance of science and data. The member for Blue Mountains reminded us of the 2019 debate, and I was pleased to hear that the issue of the repeal of the bill is—to quote the member for Blue Mountains—not off the table. That view was echoed by the member for Monaro. We need to keep working on this; there is no question about that. I thank the member for Balmain for her careful, detailed enunciation of the enormous environmental value of the park, and for the support from her and The Greens on this important issue.

The speakers today covered all of the issues in great detail: the value of the horses to people, but how they are wrecking the park; the value of the park; the need to place science above myth in decision-making; the importance of our national environmental heritage; and that we take the right action. It is not easy. It is a fraught debate; there is no question about that. But taking in all of today's speeches together, in the round, there is a clear direction that we need to take: We need to continue to work for the repeal of this Act. Finally, I thank the visitors in the gallery. They have all travelled today, and they have all worked hard in collecting those signatures. This is not an easy thing. Debate in the public sphere is often ugly and difficult. I take my hat off to them for the courage they have shown and for their hard work. I know how hard it is to get 11,000 signatures. That work is really important and gives enormous impetus to getting this right for our State and our country. I commend the petition to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Jason Li): I thank the guests in the gallery who visited to listen to this debate.

Petition noted.*Community Recognition Statements***KHMER NEW YEAR**

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (16:28): On 20 April I had the immense honour of joining the recently re-elected Federal member for Werriwa, Anne Stanley, at Khmer New Year celebrations at the Rossmore Khmer Buddhist Temple. It was a truly special gathering that brought together tradition, culture and community. Choul Chnam Thmey is more than just the start of a new calendar year; it is a time of renewal and reflection, deeply rooted in the rhythms of the seasons and the spirit of Cambodian heritage. From the sacred water blessings to the joyful music, dance and offerings to monks, every part of the celebration was a testament to the richness of Khmer culture. What moved me most was the sense of unity, with families, elders and young people coming together to share in food, laughter and tradition. Seeing younger generations proudly take part reminds us that culture is alive and well in Leppington, being carried forward in community, not just memory. The event truly showcased the beauty of Cambodian Australian identity, and I thank all who made it possible.

BIMBI TURNER

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (16:29): I recognise Ms Bimbi Turner, who was recently nominated as a finalist and announced the winner of the 2025 Australia Day Award Senior Citizen of the Year in Yass Valley shire. Ms Turner has been recognised for her remarkable and unfailing energy that she exudes throughout her work within the community. Ms Turner made significant contributions to the Liberty Theatre, Rotary Club of Yass, Red Cross and Yass Hospital Auxiliary, whilst also supporting the conservation of Bowning and Tangmangaroo churches. Her energy and enthusiasm to support the community is unrelenting, and she also finds time to plan, coordinate and fundraise for various local community organisations. I congratulate Ms Turner on her award and thank her for her exceptional drive to support the community, which undoubtedly has a positive effect on many.

PHILIP HOLDSWORTH

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (16:30): With deep respect and admiration, I recognise station officer Philip Holdsworth of Parramatta, a long-serving and outstanding firefighter. I proudly congratulate him on receiving an award at the NSW Rural Fire Service St Florian's Feast Day Awards on 4 May. In the tradition of the day, where we honour the bravery and dedication of firefighters globally, we celebrate Philip's exceptional contributions. Philip has been awarded an individual Commendation for Meritorious Service, a testament to his remarkable courage and unwavering commitment during a challenging unit fire knife attack in Mount Druitt. His actions on that day, facing unforeseen danger, truly exemplify the selflessness and bravery that define our firefighting community. While the details of the incident speak volumes of his valour, it is Philip's consistent dedication and positive spirit within the Parramatta Fire Station that we also celebrate today. He embodies the true essence of a firefighter, standing ready to protect our community with courage and professionalism. Philip's meritorious service brings great pride to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

BYABARRA PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDRAISER

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (16:31): The small town of Byabarra came alive last weekend as locals from across the Hastings valley gathered for a special high tea in support of palliative care. Hosted by the It's a Stitch Up sewing group and the Byabarra Hall committee, the afternoon was a filled with delicious food, live music and prizes. The community tucked into sandwiches, hot savouries, scones, cakes and endless cups of tea, with a splash of bubbles to keep things fun. Behind the lively chatter and full plates was a heartfelt cause. It's a Stitch Up is a group of local women who sew for the palliative care unit at Wauchope hospital. They share skills and lovingly sew gowns, "at peace" bags, catheter covers, privacy indicators and pump pouches for patients in their final days. During Palliative Care Week, it is heartwarming to see small towns make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

ARGENTINA REVOLUTION DAY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (16:32): I acknowledge an upcoming important occasion for the Argentinian community in Liverpool: Dia de la Revolución de Mayo, or Argentina's Revolution Day, celebrated on 25 May. This date marks the declaration of Argentina's independence from the Spanish Empire in 1810, which is a moment of great national pride and a symbol of unity, resilience and hope. It is a time to honour the legacy of those who stood up for freedom and laid the foundations for a sovereign nation. In Liverpool, that spirit is alive and well. Next weekend the Nobleza Gaucha Argentinian Group will host a community celebration in Hinchinbrook to mark the occasion. Through dance, music and cultural displays, they continue to share the rich

heritage of Argentina with all of us. I encourage everyone to attend this wonderful event and join in celebrating the contributions of our Argentinian Australian community and have lots of alfajores and dance the tango.

TED SMITHIES

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (16:33): Ted Smithies is a remarkable surf lifesaving competitor, who has patrolled Newport Beach for over 25 years. Ted recently won the Masters Legends award at the 2025 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. This award honours competitors over the age of 35 who have shown exceptional results consistently over many years in a range of disciplines including the beach sprint, relay and flags. In 2016 Ted won gold in the beach sprint at the World Championships in the Netherlands, which is a true testament to his commitment and skill. Impressively, he has secured 31 gold, three silver and three bronze medals across his 24-year career. Those events require a huge amount of mental and physical perseverance and strength. To compete, participants swim through strong currents and sprint along the sand. Ted is also known for his active role in mentoring new patrolling members, guiding and encouraging them to take on more responsibilities within the club.

GALUNGARA CRICKET CLUB

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (16:34): I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Galungara Cricket Club on an outstanding season and the incredible achievements of its players across all age groups. The under-12s division two team had a remarkable journey, crowned champions after a season marked by consistency and brilliant performances. Their bowlers were exceptional. Srijan Dasari led the attack, helping the team restrict opponents to under 80 runs on nine occasions this season. A special congratulations goes to Aiyonce Sapumange, whose selection for the under-12s girls cricket team is a testament to her exceptional talent and passion for the game. We also celebrate Shashank Reddy, who showcased resilience and skill to help his team reach the under-15s division one semifinal—a fantastic achievement. The under-10s blue team members deserve recognition for their determination and team spirit in securing a place in the finals, showing that the club's future is in very capable hands. I sincerely thank the coaching staff for their commitment to nurturing young players. Galungara Cricket Club continues to lead by example, fostering sporting excellence, community pride and the next generation of cricket talent.

STEP UP FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (16:35): Today I encourage local residents to sign up to the Step Up for Cancer Survivorship challenge this June. It is an exciting opportunity to get fit, have fun and make a meaningful difference in our community. By signing up for the challenge, people will improve their physical health and wellbeing and also contribute to a worthy cause: the Sydney Cancer Survivorship Centre at Concord Hospital. The centre provides vital support and care to cancer survivors. All money raised will go directly towards the cost of providing free courses and exercise programs for cancer survivors. People can walk, run, dance, swim, kayak, play tennis, hop backwards or do any kind of physical activity that they enjoy each day throughout June. By participating, they will be part of a supportive community that is working together to make a positive impact. Whether someone is a seasoned athlete or just starting out, the Step Up challenge is an opportunity to challenge oneself, connect with others and give back to our wonderful community. Join me and sign up for the Step Up challenge today.

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:36): Australia's greatest sporting rivalry is back in full swing tonight, with our mighty New South Wales Blues taking on the Queensland Cane Toads at the Women's Ampol State of Origin series game two. We are coming in with a win, after our girls secured a series lead, beating the Maroons on enemy territory in game one. Now, back on our turf at Allianz Stadium, this women's side will play to a crowd of cheering fans there to see them triumph over Queensland again. I say to our team on the field that their strength, determination, skill and grit not only inspires but breaks the line for future female footy players and athletes. They are setting an outstanding example of sportsmanship and showing the recognition and respect that women's sport truly deserves. Tonight's match is more than a game. It is even more than a rivalry. It is a milestone for women's sport. Everyone at the New South Wales Parliament will be cheering them on. Go the Blues!

DIANE HALLAM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (16:37): I recognise Diane Hallam, who has been named a finalist in the 2025 Women Changing the World Awards in not one, but two categories: People's Choice—Making a Difference and Volunteer of the Year. Diane is one of just three Australian finalists among 750 women globally acknowledged for their work across areas like education, sustainability, health and leadership. With more than 40 years of volunteer service, Diane has generously donated her time to a wide range of causes, from preschools and palliative care to the Great Lakes Oyster Festival and scouts. For the past four years, she has volunteered with

Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry as a public relations officer and trainee radio operator. In the past year, Diane has helped raise over \$5,000 for Marine Rescue and co-organised a major safety day supported by 20 first responder groups. I congratulate Diane on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for all she brings to our community. We are incredibly proud to see her work celebrated at an international level.

WANDERER FESTIVAL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (16:38): The Bega electorate's Sapphire Coast will once again provide a stunning backdrop for one of the country's most distinctive cultural celebrations. The Minns Labor Government has invested in the return of the Wanderer Festival at Pambula Beach over the October long weekend. Supported by the Government through Destination NSW, the boutique multi-day music and arts festival will transform the Bega Valley into a vibrant hub of music, arts and family-friendly entertainment, drawing thousands of festivalgoers to the idyllic coastal haven of Pambula Beach. The event is an important catalyst for regional tourism on the South Coast and is expected to provide a significant boost to local businesses, injecting more than \$1.6 million into the local visitor economy. Major events like this provide an enormous boost to our local restaurants, hotels, cafes and retail. We look forward to welcoming thousands of visiting festivalgoers with the warm hospitality and fine produce that the Bega Valley is famous for. I am thrilled that we are bringing the Wanderer Festival back to the region.

MANLY-WARRINGAH CHOIR

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (16:39): I congratulate the Manly-Warringah Choir on celebrating its recent 50-year anniversary. The phenomenal milestone is testament to its members' enduring passion and dedication to classical music. The choir's rich history dates back to 1975 and the Warringah Symphony Society, which was dedicated to classical music, combining a choir and orchestra. In the 1980s, after the orchestra disbanded, the choir's spirit remained unshaken as it went on to form its own orchestra. Today the choir proudly includes 77 members aged between 40 and 90 years old. They rehearse weekly in Collaroy Plateau and perform at St Paul's Catholic College in Manly. They perform in a range of languages, including Russian, Latin and Hebrew, under the support of their conductor, Dr Carlos Alvarado, who has been with the choir since 2003. On 17 August the choir will host a special performance and celebration of its golden jubilee. I applaud the choir's members for their commitment to celebrating their love of classical music and sharing it with the community. Here's to another 50 years. I promise I will not join them.

LAO AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (16:40): I had a great time at the Mother's Day celebration organised by the Lao Australian Women's Association. The atmosphere was vibrant, with beautiful decorations, traditional Lao music and performances that showcased the rich culture and heritage the community is so proud of. The celebration brought together families, friends and community members to honour all the incredible women who have given so much of themselves to raise and nurture the next generation. It was a true pleasure to see so many mothers being celebrated for their strength, compassion and unwavering dedication. It was wonderful seeing the joy on all the mothers' faces. I thank Mrs Soukhamone Khammontry, Ms Nguyet Do and the Lao Australian Women's Association for organising such a meaningful celebration. Their efforts to bring the community together and publicly recognise the important role of mothers are deeply appreciated. I hope every mother had a happy Mother's Day last weekend. They are the heart of every family and community.

PENDLE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Winston Hills) (16:41): I acknowledge the outstanding work of the Pendle Hill "Tigers" Football Club, a much-loved community club based at Binalong Park. Pendle Hill Football Club has long been a place where families, children and young athletes come together to enjoy grassroots football and build a strong sense of community. Whether it is a kid experiencing their first season or a young person working their way up through the junior ranks, Pendle Hill Football Club plays a vital role in keeping local sport thriving. I am pleased to note that the club has recently secured a major commitment for an upgrade of Binalong Park, their home ground, with \$3.6 million in funding from the Federal Government. That is a significant win for the local community and a reflection of the club's passionate advocacy and ongoing service to local families. I acknowledge Lucy Douglas, the president of Pendle Hill Football Club, along with all its committee members, for their leadership and tireless efforts. I wish the club every success this season.

JIM MCNEILL

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:42): On 2 May I attended the launch of Michael Samaras' new book *Anti-Fascists: Jim McNeill and his Mates in the Spanish Civil War*. Jim was a long-term resident of Guildford in the Granville electorate. His daughter Vanessa still lives there and served for many years as a councillor on the former Holroyd council. Jim was a Wollongong steelworker and one of many Australians who joined the

International Brigades to fight against Franco and fascism in the Spanish Civil War. He stowed away in a meat ship in 1936 to get to Europe to join the fight. He had encountered fascists in Sydney and knew the threat they presented. With Vanessa's help, Michael Samaras has crafted a meticulously researched and fascinating story about the Depression, the Spanish Civil War, World War II and Jim's life as a left-wing activist in Guildford. He was a long-term member of the Australian Workers' Union, as well as a communist. His story is quite fascinating and full of bravery and incredible insights.

PRIMEX FIELD DAYS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (16:43): Today marks the beginning of Australia's largest coastal-based agribusiness event, Primex, which will run from today through to Saturday in Casino. I extend my congratulations to Bruce Wright and his dedicated team, who have worked tirelessly for the past 12 months to put the event on for its forty-first year. Members of the House would know that my electorate is one of the State's major food bowls. From beef, fishing and forestry to sugar, macadamia nuts, blueberries and much more, Primex showcases the lot. World-leading brands and suppliers will be onsite over the next three days. It is an unmatched platform for innovation and industry connection. Importantly, Primex celebrates our region's paddock-to-plate history. It brings together producers, educators, innovators, chefs, students, exhibitors and much more all in one spot. I congratulate the Primex team and I hope they have a terrific event.

CHARLESTOWN FIRE AND RESCUE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (16:44): I take a moment to sincerely thank the on-call firefighters from 255 Charlestown for their outstanding service to our community during the recent storms. On 30 May they attended an emergency at a home in Dudley and demonstrated the very best of what we expect from our emergency services: professionalism, promptness and genuine compassion. Their calm and reassuring presence brought great comfort to a family in distress, especially to its young children, who were facing an overwhelming and frightening situation. It is in moments like those that the true value of our emergency services is most clearly felt. It is just one example of how our firefighters go above and beyond to protect, support and care for our communities. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment. I extend my deepest appreciation to the entire crew at 255 Charlestown.

PICTON SPORTSGROUND

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (16:45): In April I was honoured to represent the Government at the official opening of the newly upgraded Picton Sportsground, a fantastic local project made possible through a huge grant from the Office of Sport. The upgrade is a huge win for the Wollondilly community. The grant application was primarily secured by the proactive and well-organised Picton Rovers Football Club's Andrew Merchant and the club's committee members. The remarkable facility includes separate changing areas for men and women, storage spaces and meeting rooms. Importantly, the enhancement allows the location to function as an essential hub during fire emergencies, offering areas for communication, staging and helicopter landings. While the upgrade took several years to complete, user groups and the community will enjoy the advantages for many years to come. The new facilities will enhance sporting opportunities in Wollondilly, from grassroots to competitive play. It is a great example of local, State and Federal governments working together to invest in healthier and more connected communities.

DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (16:46): Last week Dementia Australia came to Parliament to run training sessions for members of Parliament and their staff. It was an incredibly successful day, with 26 members getting the opportunity to experience virtual reality dementia training sessions. In the sessions we experienced a scenario as a person living with dementia and a follow-up scenario of how that same person's life could be made easier and more accessible through the implementation of dementia-friendly labelling. I thank all members and parliamentary staff who took the time out of their day to partake in the experience. Dementia is a disease that affects us all. In 2024, 1,082 people were recorded as living with dementia in my electorate of Camden alone. Dementia Australia projects that number to increase by 73 per cent by 2054. As co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia group, I know how important the issue is. I am not sure there is a single family in our country who has not been impacted, in some part, by the disease.

ASTRID NIXEY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (16:47): I extend a huge congratulations to Astrid Nixey, a remarkable 12-year-old from Balgowlah Heights in my electorate of Manly who has made a name for herself as one of our most talented young sailors. A dedicated student of Manly Sailing, at just 12 years of age Astrid has already proven herself to be a formidable competitor with an impressive list of accolades that reflect her skill, talent and

commitment to the sport. Building on her success, Astrid has recently been selected to represent Australia at the 2025 Optimist European Championship in Türkiye. Representing our country on the international stage at such a young age is an outstanding achievement and one that speaks volumes about her character and capability. I know the entire Manly community will be proudly cheering her on as she sets sail in Türkiye later this year. I wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting challenge.

CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:48): I acknowledge the fiftieth anniversary of the Central Coast Bridge Club, a valued institution in our community. On 2 May I attended an event to celebrate the anniversary and view the refurbished clubhouse. Its major upgrade reflects the dedication of the club and illustrates its relevance in the community. I was fortunate to hear about the club's inaugural meeting, which was held on a very wet night back in May 1975. It was a group of eight people who were keen to promote competitive bridge on the Central Coast. Since then, membership has grown. Club members played at a range of locations until 1986. It was at that time that they found their new home in Long Jetty, with its clubhouse officially opening in November 1987, where it remains today. The clubhouse has had a variety of changes over time to make it fit for purpose, culminating in its most recent major upgrade. The space allows members to share in the enjoyment of learning bridge while growing lasting friendships. I understand that the club has also been responsible for five marriages. What an absolute success story! I extend my congratulations to the Central Coast Bridge Club on its important milestone.

KIAMA WAR MEMORIAL ARCH

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (16:49): The Parliament of New South Wales recognises the 100th anniversary of the Kiama War Memorial Arch and a historic Anzac Day remembrance in Kiama this year. Opened in 1925 by the Hon. Sir George Fuller, our then local member and Premier of New South Wales, the triumphant arch and brown marble bears the name plaques of those who served in the First World War and honours our local citizens who have served Australia in times of war and conflict since then. It is complemented with bush rock memorials and the Gordon Grellman Wall of Remembrance. I acknowledge all local service men and woman from the Shoalhaven, Kiama and Shellharbour regions. That includes Harold West, now 102, and John Wayne, now 103, who attended the special anniversary—both the last surviving members of their respective units. I acknowledge Mr Gary McKay, MC, OAM, president of the Kiama-Jamberoo RSL Sub-Branch, along with all its other members. I also acknowledge everyone from our community, including school students and veterans, who turned out in huge numbers to commemorate the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day. Lest we forget.

GEOFF SCOTT

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (16:50): I recently had the pleasure of viewing Geoff Scott's incredible vintage bike collection. Geoff is a Camden local and a gem. A pioneer of design, Geoff entirely changed the way bikes were made for optimal racing. His development of custom frames changed bike racing history. Each frame is sized and constructed to suit the individual rider rather than the bikes, which are popped out in the thousands nowadays, with riders forced to adapt to the frame. His bikes have been ridden in world championships, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games, where they have won numerous medals. Assisted by Gefscoco frame technology, Australia won the teams pursuit gold medal in the 1984 Olympics, when Australian cycling really landed on the scene. Geoff's bikes are all handpainted, and in his later years Geoff has experimented with incorporating Aboriginal art in his frames—a nod to his heritage. Some of Geoff's bikes are proudly displayed in Darwin airport. We are so lucky to have talents like Geoff's in our Camden community. I thank him for letting me view his collection and for all he has contributed to Australia's sporting history.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I remind members that each community recognition statement is limited to one minute.

THERESA QUATTROMANI

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (16:51): I was proud to announce the winner of the 2025 Badgerys Creek Local Woman of the Year award, Theresa Quattromani, in recognition of her outstanding service to the community, volunteering for many local groups and initiatives over decades. Theresa has been a co-ordinator of the Horsley Park Community Social Group for the past 25 years, during which she has organised monthly social outings, weekends away and overseas trips. Since 2003 Theresa and a small, dedicated group of friends, including Josephine Borg, have held an annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea community fundraiser. The event attracts over 250 members from the community each year and has raised almost \$500,000. In 2008 Theresa established the Horsley Park Community Craft Group, which provides friendship and support. Theresa was also recognised for her extraordinary service volunteering through many initiatives at Our Lady of Victories

parish church in Horsley Park. I thank Theresa for her incredible and continued service to our community. She is an outstanding example of the power of the individual to build community strength and spirit.

MASSIMO LUONGO

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (16:52): I recognise Australian footballer and Socceroo Mr Massimo Luongo, whose dedication and talent have left a lasting mark on the national game. Born in Sydney as a local Heffron resident, where his family still resides, Massimo rose through the ranks to become Most Valuable Player in the 2015 Asian Cup, scoring in the final. Massimo briefly retired from international duty in 2023. After helping Ipswich Town achieve promotion into the English Premier League, he again made himself available for international duty to support Australia in World Cup qualifiers. He is only one of two Australian players to take the field in the English Premier League in 2025. I know Massimo well; he played youth league with my youngest son. He has always carried himself with pride, resilience and humility throughout his career. I wish him every success as he continues to represent Ipswich Town, and I thank him for his enduring service and support for our national identity.

HARRY LITTLE

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (16:53): I congratulate Harry Little, who was cast as Billy Elliot in the 2025 production of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* at the Sydney Youth Musical Theatre. It is the opportunity of a lifetime and Harry's absolute dream role. It is Harry's third Sydney Youth Musical Theatre production, having appeared as a classmate in *School of Rock* in 2024 and as the Mad Hatter in *Shrek the Musical* in 2024. Known for his commitment, creativity and sense of humour, Harry is happiest when performing on stage and bringing joy to his audience. A skilled dancer, Harry captained the Scots College dance company and has earned multiple awards in Eisteddfod competitions. Harry has been professionally trained in tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop and vocals. I congratulate Harry on his incredible role. We all look forward to seeing where his talent takes him next.

KELLYVILLE RIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (16:54): I extend my warmest congratulations to the Kellyville Ridge Cricket Club and give special recognition to the under-13 Mollie Dive Shield girls team on its incredible grand final victory. This remarkable achievement results from a season filled with hard work, dedication and true team spirit. A standout performance came from Era Bhoir, who was deservedly named player of the match in the grand final. Her skill, composure and impact on the field were instrumental in securing the win. Era also finished the season as the leading wicket-taker in the competition, which is a reflection of her consistency, discipline and commitment to excellence. Beyond the scoreboard, the team has shown how the power of sport can develop confidence, leadership and resilience in young people. Its journey is an inspiring and shining example of what can be achieved when talent and teamwork come together. The Kellyville Ridge Cricket Club plays a vital role in building community connections and fostering the next generation of sporting talent. I congratulate the players, coaches and families. I cannot wait to see what they will achieve next year.

NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (16:55): I rise today proudly wearing the tie and badge of the mighty North Sydney Bears to celebrate a moment so many of us have waited decades for—the Bears are returning to the NRL. Since their exit in 1999, I, along with countless other proud club members and supporters, have held onto the hope that one day we would see the red and black return to the big stage. That dream is now becoming a reality. This is much more than a sporting comeback; it is the revival of a proud foundation club with over 115 years of history, heart and community spirit. The Bears have always been bigger than our area, with fans right across Sydney and Australia. Their return brings not only excitement but also renewed pride, opportunity for young players and reconnection with generations of supporters who never gave up on the dream. I commend and thank so many who have worked so hard for so long on this journey, including Greg Florimo, Daniel Dickson, Perry Lopez and Justin Owen. The red and black roar is back. Long live the mighty North Sydney Bears.

LACHLAN HYDE

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (16:56): The 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards are a prestigious set of accolades that recognise young people across Australia. Although I could not be there in person, tonight I congratulate an individual who was nominated from the Camden area. Lachlan Hyde was nominated for the Konica Minolta Career Achievement Award for his work with the Royal Aero Club of New South Wales. At 24 years of age, Lachlan is the youngest ever president of the club. He is doing absolutely incredible things. Lachlan restarted the Royal Aero Club of New South Wales two years ago, and it is now the largest volunteer-run flying school in the Southern Hemisphere. Lachlan created and led flying training camps and mentorship programs which inspire young aviators and promote industry diversity. If that was not enough, Lachlan also co-founded the

Fairy Wren Movement for youth mental health and he leads civic engagement workshops through Youth Decide. Lachlan represents the best of Camden. I congratulate Lachlan and thank him for all that he does.

MARCH FOR CHANGE

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (16:57): On Friday 2 May 2025, the Hills community stood together in the March for Change, which is a demonstration against domestic, family and gender-based violence. The event brought together residents, students, educators, charities and community leaders who are all committed to making the Hills a domestic-violence-free community. Following the march, students participated in the Love Bites Respectful Relationships program at Castle Hill RSL Club, an educational initiative that promotes respectful relationships. Community members attended a presentation at Castle Hill Bowling Club featuring several speakers.

I thank Detective Chief Inspector Chris Laird, who shared local domestic violence statistics; Anita Fisher, the chair of the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network; Nalika Padmasena, a solicitor and elder abuse expert; and Jessica McLaren, the principal solicitor at the Western Sydney Community Legal Centre, for their vital insights and contributions. A highlight of the event was the launch of the Click Collab initiative by Kिरrily Dear, which aims to achieve zero domestic violence—Zero DFV—through education, technology and community partnership. I commend Ms Dear for her initiatives and extend my appreciation to Castle Hill RSL Club for fully funding Click Collab. I also commend Bryan Mullan, who was one of the main organisers of the event.

Private Members' Statements

HEATHCOTE ROAD UPGRADE

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (16:58): Tonight I discuss the main arterial road connecting the Sutherland Shire to the Liverpool local government area—the notorious Heathcote Road. The former Coalition Government has a remarkable track record of funding and delivering transformational infrastructure like the current upgrade of Heathcote Road between Infantry Parade in Holsworthy to The Avenue in Voyager Point. However, Labor's big promises from the 2023 State election are starting to fall flat. At that election, the Labor Party made a commitment—a bold headline announcement of \$180 million over four years to duplicate "key sections" of Heathcote Road. Yet, more than two years on, this Government still cannot say what those key sections actually are. There are no maps, no public consultation, no timeline and no transparency. It begs the question: Was there ever a plan at all?

What is most embarrassing is that the Labor Government was caught out last year when it was revealed that only \$65 million was budgeted over four years to 2027-28, nearly a third of what was originally promised. All that when key parts of Heathcote Road remain a deathtrap for local drivers. There have been four deaths along Heathcote Road since 2018. The intersection at Pleasure Point Road remains an immediate and unresolved safety issue. Anyone trying to exit Pleasure Point knows how dangerous it is, particularly during peak hours. That is poised to get worse if the proposed 300-plus lot subdivision is approved. That subdivision stretches from the end of Lilli Pilli Drive all the way to Pleasure Point Road, which is almost a kilometre in length.

Let me be clear: The 300-plus subdivision has the potential to provide long-overdue, high-quality residential options and improved amenity along the Georges River. But the Government must come to the table and ensure safe access and egress. Without that, we risk placing hundreds of families in harm's way. The New South Wales Government rightly acknowledges the dangers of that intersection and, in a question on notice to the former Minister for Roads in November 2024, he advised that "temporary traffic signals would be set up to reduce disruption during busy times". Unfortunately, those signals never materialised. There was no explanation and no update. It was just another empty promise.

The inaction is not isolated to one spot. Deadmans Creek, a site well known to residents and regular road users, remains a kill zone for koalas. After years of advocacy, the New South Wales Government finally announced community consultation late last year. Ever since, we have not heard anything. Another summer has come and gone, and Deadmans Creek still remains a danger for koalas and other fauna in the national park. At Sandy Point, the intersection at St George Crescent and Heathcote Road poses a major risk, especially in wet conditions. It is located on a sharp downward bend as vehicles descend toward Deadmans Creek, and multiple residents have reported incidents or near collisions. During periods of heavy traffic, it takes multiple minutes for traffic to sufficiently clear in order to turn right heading towards Liverpool. A basic improvement, like a dedicated waiting zone for vehicles turning right towards Liverpool and a rear-end collision barrier, could make a meaningful difference but, again, the Government has done nothing.

While all that unfolds, upgrades are moving ahead on the Heathcote electorate side of Heathcote Road, between New Illawarra Road and the Princes Highway—but nothing for Holsworthy. It sends a clear message: Holsworthy does not matter to this Government. Our safety concerns are ignored and our projects are sidelined.

This Government and the Minister need to urgently clarify what sections of Heathcote Road are proposed for upgrades and, more importantly, to keep the promise by increasing funding to the committed level of \$180 million. I call on the Government to release a timeline, engage in proper consultation and urgently address known safety issues at Pleasure Point Road, Deadmans Creek and Sandy Point. Our community will not accept delay, deflection or political spin.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:03): I acknowledge the attempted advocacy of the member for Holsworthy for her community. I also acknowledge that it was actually the late Alison Megarrity who, in 2011, first got those upgrades happening. Unfortunately, when the Liberal Government came to power in 2011, it dropped all plans of upgrading Heathcote Road. It was only in 2019, when the Liberal Government feared that it would lose the seat, that it started to do any works. I acknowledge the advocacy and work of the member for Liverpool, who was a councillor at that time and was able to secure funding and commitments around those works.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (17:04): When a loved one is sick, time, access and compassion matter. Members in this job are often asked, "What does the Government actually do?" In my view, the best answer is this: We make sure people get the care they need when they need it. Under the previous Government, too many people in my electorate were left behind. There were long emergency department wait times, rising out-of-pocket costs, GP clinics closing or under the threat of closure, and nurses left on temporary contracts. That is what happens when a government neglects essential services for over a decade. In communities like mine—Green Square, Eastlakes, Zetland, Rosebery, Mascot and Alexandria—residents do not ask for special treatment; they ask for decent treatment and accessible, timely and affordable health care. Under the New South Wales Labor Government, that is finally what they are getting.

People who feel unwell after hours or people who do not have it in them to get dressed can access virtualADULTS and speak to a nurse or doctor from the comfort of their home. People with sick children can call Healthdirect and connect to virtualKIDS, a free video consultation service with a paediatric clinician. Both services are free and saving thousands of unnecessary trips to emergency departments. In fact, two-thirds of families who have used virtualKIDS have been able to seek much-needed treatment without entering a hospital. As a parent, I understand how stressful it is to rush a child to hospital in the dead of night or early hours of the morning. My wife and I have done that on many occasions. We were lucky to be based so close to the best hospital in the world, the Prince of Wales, but I would have appreciated access to those supports when my sons were young.

For people who need a walk-in appointment for something urgent but not life threatening, new urgent care services have opened across Sydney. They are bulk-billing, easy to access and ready to help. Over 55,000 people have used them already. The urgent care service at Green Square has been a game changer for local residents, offering fast, bulk-billed treatment for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions without the long wait times and hospital stress. That is easing pressure on emergency departments and making care more accessible, affordable and local. That is great news for the State's fastest growing community in my electorate's densest neighbourhood. Thanks to Labor's \$189 million bulk-billing support initiative, GP clinics in metro Sydney, including in my electorate, have claimed over \$74.1 million in tax-free wage support. That means more clinics open, more appointments bulk-billed and more people able to see a doctor without dipping into their grocery budget.

Our hospitals are improving too. At Royal Prince Alfred, Labor provided the staffing required to implement safe staffing levels. That included the recruitment of 21 additional nurses to the emergency department. That is what happens when government takes public health seriously and has an exceptional health Minister. We are rebuilding what was neglected and restoring what matters. Our system puts care before cuts, patients before profits, people before politics. I am proud to be part of a Labor government that is delivering not just in my electorate but across this State. We are building a better health system where people come first.

FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:07): I speak on behalf of a young woman named Ava Martin from St Clare's College who completed work experience in my office last week. Ava and many young people in my community care very deeply about their education. They would like to have a say on what they are taught at school. These are Ava's thoughtful and well-researched words:

As known to adults, money and finance are exceedingly important topics.

They are the skills used in our day to day lives.

I strongly believe that young people encounter unique challenges as they go through the process of completing their schooling and transitioning into adulthood.

Students lack the knowledge and experience to make financial decisions that will become complex and significant as time goes on because of a lack of education.

Studies have shown that young people between the ages of 15-19 struggle to gain a genuine understanding of financial knowledge, with 28% of males and 15% of females showing financial literacy ...

Studies also show that 51% of all young people strongly agree that they are often stressed about their financial knowledge and are stressed about money.

Often those who are transitioning to adulthood don't have a sufficient amount of knowledge. Statistics from a recent government study show that between the ages of 14-17 years old 94% believe that understanding money management is crucial, but the education is not properly provided.

Although schools have lessons on economics and business, students find that these lessons do not include the crucial financial concepts, for example budgeting, managing debt, savings, rent, loans, and interest rates and how to avoid scams.

For example, people set themselves budgeting goals to manage their personal finances, statistics show that 36% of generation Z perform this act customarily, 26% sometimes and 25% infrequently or never.

Young people with unqualified guidance are exposed to debt-traps, which have an impact on not only their lifestyle and financial security but also their mental wellbeing.

However 48% of students between the ages of 16-17 are employed with a part time job.

Students with jobs start to gain more experience with financial knowledge, giving them a head start.

Although another aspect is how parents have an impact on their child's future financial habits, as some parents teach their children the importance of financial literacy while other households do not discuss it with their children, believing they will learn it later on, giving these students a disadvantage.

Data shows that 71% of young people look to their parents or guardians for financial influence. I believe that high-schools should be funded to provide lessons about money and finance for years 7-12.

This class would not be an elective class and the year groups would be divided. It would be scheduled for one day a month, the school day will be dedicated to having different lessons throughout the day providing the student with the financial literacy that will be preparing them up for adulthood.

I have had a variety of discussions with those at school who have felt the same way and feel like although they are in year 11, they feel as though it is a vital part of living and working and yet still fail to understand it and are unprepared for their independent life after school, in addition to being concerned about not meeting the expectations of their family and themselves. Statistics showing generation Z are more likely to agree to feeling financially stressed due to, not having sooner provided with the education to help them develop.

90% of these young people have a genuine interest in learning how to confidently manage their finances.

I personally connect to this and hope others will too.

As during the years of the covid pandemic, it was harder for certain trades to work and make their regular income.

It was a hard time for my family and I, as certain products became more expensive during the pandemic and less people booked appointments due to the risk of sickness.

Although things weren't as easy, we got through it and it was stressful seeing my parents worried about money and I didn't understand what was happening in the economy and in our financial life.

I would recommend the NSW Government look into ways that finance education could be incorporated into the NSW High School curriculum in the future, in order to set students up for the years ahead and ensure students have sufficient financial literacy skills as they head into adulthood.

I thank Ava for her words.

FORSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (17:12): During National Neighbourhood Centre Week, which runs from 12 to 18 May under the theme "Ripples of Change", I acknowledge the role that neighbourhood centres play in our communities. Every action, no matter how small, has the ability to create a ripple effect. At neighbourhood and community centres across Australia, we see it happen every day. A friendly smile, a shared story or a listening ear—these small moments add up to something much bigger, creating changes that go beyond our local neighbourhoods. In regional areas, where services are often already stretched, these centres are not just helpful; they are essential.

Since opening its doors in 1980, the Forster Neighbourhood Centre has become the only place-based service available to every resident of the Forster-Tuncurry region, offering emergency relief, advice, information and referral services, child and family support, and a range of community programs. Staff and volunteers work incredibly hard to meet the diverse needs of our community, often going above and beyond what their roles require. Our local centres give vulnerable residents a physical door to walk through to get help. In some cases this can mean supporting a family who may not be able to afford food, assisting someone who has nowhere to sleep, or providing a safe place for a resident without a secure home. Even these efforts can only stretch so far. With

demand continuing to climb and the complexity of needs growing, staff and volunteers are already at their limits. Without additional resources, their ability to respond effectively risks being overwhelmed.

Over the past few years, the demands placed on our local neighbourhood centres at Forster and Manning Valley have grown exponentially. The aftermath of bushfires, floods, COVID-19 and broader economic pressures have led to an unprecedented surge in both client numbers and the complexity of issues. Yet, despite this rising need, core funding has not kept pace, placing strain on both staff and volunteers, who are the very people the community looks to in moments of crisis. Repeated requests for support to fund a crisis response worker has been met with "The Government values the role of neighbourhood centres but there is just no money," and the Minns Labor Government refused assistance in November 2024. That has forced the Forster Neighbourhood Centre to close its central hub to the public on Mondays and slash service availability by 25 per cent to protect the wellbeing of their workers and volunteers, who were being overwhelmed by demand without adequate resources.

The centre urgently requires an additional \$110,000 per annum to restore full five-day service delivery. An investment like that would directly fund a specialist crisis counsellor to respond to vulnerable community members who are in complex crisis and would secure the ongoing operation of the community hub infrastructure, making sure that residents can continue to access important wraparound support and specialist referrals. In response to this funding crisis, the centre has launched a community fundraiser, the "Support Forster Neighbourhood Centre, one cup of coffee at a time" campaign, inviting community members to pledge just \$5 per month, with a goal of 1,833 pledges to raise \$110,000. That would be enough to reopen on Mondays and employ the trauma counsellor our community so desperately needs. As part of that campaign, Forster Tuncurry's very first Pop-Up Pub Choir is happening this Sunday 18 May at the Bellevue Hotel Tuncurry from five o'clock. For just \$5—the price of a cup of coffee—patrons can experience an evening of guided singalongs, all while making a difference for our most vulnerable neighbours.

We cannot afford to lose these essential community supports. These pressures are not isolated; they are widespread across New South Wales. I call on all members in this place to stand up for our neighbourhood centres, to continue to advocate for core operational funding, to promote donation campaigns and to recognise the importance of neighbourhood centres, like the ones at Forster and the Manning Valley. In doing so, we can make sure that every ripple started by our neighbourhood centres becomes a wave of change across our regions, keeping our community hubs open, our volunteers and staff supported, and our most vulnerable neighbours safe.

PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (17:16): It is with great pride that I represent the Parramatta electorate and say with confidence that the Minns Labor Government is delivering the infrastructure to support the growing suburbs within it. Melrose Park is divided between two electorates, Ryde and Parramatta. While the eastern part of the suburb consists of low-rise housing and is synonymous with the Ryde golf course, the western side was traditionally the location of some of the country's most significant pharmaceutical companies and, of course, putt putt. Today the 55-hectare western side of Melrose Park is quickly becoming a competitor to Wentworth Point, with street cred as a completely high-density development site. Consideration was given to local schools when the urban renewal of Melrose Park was on the drawing board, with Melrose Park Public School onsite and Marsden High School situated across Victoria Road on a site blessed with sports fields, the envy of many.

In what can only be described as a wasteful and shortsighted decision, members opposite made the decision to pull down Marsden High School. They failed to listen to communities in Ermington, Rydalmere and Melrose Park. Demolishing a public high school just a stone's throw from a new development of a projected 11,000 dwellings shows not only the contempt and disregard of those opposite for public education but also for their communities. The decision to build a new Marsden High School, co-located with Meadowbank Public School and TAFE and further from the growing population centres in Ermington and Melrose Park, left students and families with longer commutes and the area without an appropriate public high school.

Anyone familiar with the Parramatta electorate knows that it is growing. While the high-rise development in Melrose Park is obvious to all, it is the replacement of freestanding homes with duplexes across Ermington that sees this area experiencing significant population growth. To the west, there are the over-enrolled schools of Parramatta High School, Arthur Phillip High School and Macarthur Girls High School. Those schools are already finding it hard to meet the growing needs and expanding populations surrounding the Parramatta CBD. To the north, Cumberland and Carlingford high schools work hard to meet the needs of growing populations in Epping, Carlingford, Dundas Valley, Oatlands, Telopea, Dundas and Rydalmere. The former Liberal-Nationals Government went further and made sure that public high school students of Ermington and Melrose Park travel further east to school.

Students must currently make a journey along the traffic-heavy Victoria Road in West Ryde to reach their school. Local students share their school with residents of the growing Eastwood, Denistone and West Ryde

catchment areas. With the growing population within the City of Ryde, the situation is unsustainable. As such, I am proud to say that as part of the Minns Labor Government's commitment to rebuild public education, the 2024-25 budget is delivering record education funding, including \$8.9 billion for new and upgraded schools. To accommodate current and future growth in the area, a new high school will be delivered for the growing community in Melrose Park, in addition to the redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School and a new public preschool.

The redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School will also provide new classrooms and core facilities to meet anticipated enrolment growth in the area. Melrose Park High School will not only provide essential education infrastructure but also accommodate the anticipated increase in enrolments in the area and allow families to conveniently access educational facilities close to home. The planning application for the new high school went on public exhibition from Friday 14 March 2025 until Thursday 10 April 2025, and submissions are now under review. I am still waiting for the member for Ryde to thank me for cleaning up the mess for the residents of our shared suburb. I am sure he will be champing at the bit to take credit for this great Minns Labor Government project on day one of the school opening, if not earlier.

The urban renewal and growth right across that part of Parramatta and Ryde has been years in the making. The City of Parramatta sold its portion of the site to developers in 2014, so construction of the new suburb has been on the way for years. Credit where credit is due: Maybe those opposite were just too busy re-announcing Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 eighteen times to notice the needs of the community. The important thing is that the Minns Labor Government is building a better New South Wales, and construction of public education and public transport for current and future residents of Melrose Park is full steam ahead.

NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (17:21): Last night something significant happened on Sydney's northern beaches. Over 400 concerned citizens gathered to finally hear the truth about our local public hospital. With the member for Pittwater, I was pleased to co-host the Treasurer and the Minister for Health at a community forum at Dee Why RSL to speak directly to and hear directly from the community. At the end of the day, they are the people who are living with the consequences of the disastrous public-private partnership experiment at the Northern Beaches Hospital that was foisted on them by the former Coalition Government. I again thank the Treasurer and Ministers for fronting up to hospital staff and local residents to explain something that they inherited. The health Minister said clearly that the New South Wales Government is doing everything it can to return public services at Northern Beaches Hospital back to public hands. He said:

The NSW Treasurer and I have made a decision to try and right a wrong. It's not going to be easy but we can get there. This is a model of health care that no longer works. From my perspective it's a model that doesn't deliver benefits to the community in a way a public hospital does.

I was also pleased to hear the health Minister say:

We are not in the game of reducing services at the Northern Beaches Hospital and we will make sure it is a properly funded hospital.

The Treasurer said that the Government owed the community and should be accountable. He said that "private equity should not be running acute emergency care". The Treasurer characterised Healthscope's approaches to the Government to hand back the hospital as Healthscope essentially saying, "You want us to leave, so pay us to go," but that the Government was determined to ensure that "private equity should not get a windfall from the end of the partnership".

I am pleased that my private member's bill, the Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025, which was introduced in Parliament last week, will play a role in ensuring that New South Wales taxpayers are not done over when extracting our local hospital from the hands of global private equiteers. Despite persistent warnings from well-placed medical professionals since inception that the situation would end in tears, only now, after recent tragedies and the release of the Auditor-General's sobering performance audit, is the community finally hearing the truth. The reality at the Northern Beaches Hospital is that we are getting cut-cost health care and it is not sustainable.

I thank Professor Keith Burgess and Dr Patrick Coleman for leading the medical staff council. The council's submission to the Auditor-General is very confronting. I look forward to the public reading its submission to the parliamentary inquiry. Given the situation with the hospital owner, Healthscope, is evolving quickly, I am pleased that Professor Burgess and Dr Coleman will have the opportunity to meet with the Minister for Health and his team before the Public Accounts Committee inquiry is underway. I was also pleased that the shadow Minister for Health attended the forum and apologised to the community for the previous Government's decision to close the Manly and Mona Vale public hospitals and place essential public health services in the hands of a listed private company where, not surprisingly, profit has been the dominant consideration.

A key issue for me and the community, which came through strongly in questions from the floor, was making sure we do not end up with fewer public beds than we had before the new hospital was built. If Healthscope keeps the private portion of the hospital, as is its stated intention, it is possible that we could end up with fewer public beds than we had in 2018. Given that number was inadequate then and our population has since grown, that would be an unacceptable outcome. It is also difficult to comprehend how the private and public components can feasibly be separated within the one building. Our community desperately needs a sustainable, long-term operating model at the hospital, and that is what I will be fighting for. I will continue to raise these issues with the Government but, again, I thank it for its focus and commitment to untangling this mess. I appreciate the situation is fast-moving, and I commit to keeping the community informed every step of the way.

I close with a quote from one of the hospital's emergency physicians who attended the meeting. Dr Cliff Reid said, "The staff at the hospital are dedicated and world class. Yes, the ownership structure is problematic, but I want everyone to know that they can sleep at night knowing staff will do their utmost to ensure they receive first-class care." As the medical staff council submission details, staff have been the buffer capacity in this hospital experiment. They are the flex in the system. Yes, the State has been receiving discounted health care, but that is at an enormous personal cost to the dedicated staff who have always prioritised patient safety, day in and day out. Nobody enjoys working continuously in a pressure cooker, but that is the situation the Northern Beaches Hospital staff have been operating in for many years. As I said last night, thank God for them.

HOSPITAL SAFETY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (17:26): One of the basic tenets of our society is the expectation of safety in our hospitals. Be it for staff, patients, carers or members of the public, we expect safety from violence and harassment. We expect people to be safe from aggression in our State's public hospitals. However, for too many, that is not the reality. Unfortunately, that has led to circumstances where health staff are assaulted, and patients and carers experience the harmful impacts of that. This was identified by the Anderson report on improvements to security in hospitals in New South Wales in 2020 and, after a period, in a response from NSW Health and the implementation of some of the report's recommendations.

I was pleased to join with the Minister for Health and the Health Services Union to visit Liverpool Hospital and announce that body-worn cameras would be trialled, starting with Liverpool Hospital. This move is part of the New South Wales Government's continuing efforts to look at new ways to keep our health workers safe. The trial, made possible by an investment of more than \$800,000 from the Minns Labor Government, will see up to 300 cameras in use by security staff across NSW Health. The security team at Liverpool Hospital will wear a small, lightweight camera that is attached to their uniforms as part of the trial, and they will activate those cameras when they face a situation where there is a risk to their own safety or the safety of others. The trial's primary purpose will be to assess whether the cameras are an effective tool to de-escalate incidents, and the footage captured may also be used by New South Wales police as direct evidence of offending against health workers or members of the community. An independent evaluator will assess whether the body-worn cameras reduce the risk of occupational violence and assaults against health staff.

The cameras are being trialled at 15 sites across New South Wales, including Wyong, Gosford, Westmead, Royal North Shore, Nepean, Liverpool, Bankstown, Wollongong, Shoalhaven, John Hunter, Tamworth, Port Macquarie, St Vincent's, Orange and Lismore hospitals, capturing a broad swathe of communities across our State. Our frontline health workers work very hard every single day to provide care and treatment to people when they need it most, often on the worst day of their lives. We know there are occasions when they may experience abuse and aggressive behaviour while on duty. The Government is taking action so that our health workers feel safe and protected while at work.

The new body-worn camera trial complements a similar trial for paramedics that concluded in November 2023. The evaluation of the paramedic trial is currently being considered to identify any further action that needs to be taken for paramedics. Amendments to the Crimes Act 1900 increase penalties for assaulting frontline health workers. Those penalties apply equally to paramedics and hospital security staff. The maximum penalty for acts of violence against health workers is now 12 years imprisonment for reckless wounding or grievous bodily harm, up from the previous maximum of five years. Across the health system, work is taking place to continue implementing the Anderson review recommendations. The prevention and management of aggression and violence in a health environment is complex and the solutions are multifaceted. Despite that, 91 per cent of the Anderson review recommendations have been implemented.

The Government is determined to do everything it can to support its essential workers. They all have the right to do their jobs without fear of harm or injury. The Minister for Health and I received that message very clearly from Health Services Union member and hospital security officer Andrew Andreou as well as other security officers at Liverpool, some of whom have been working in that hospital for decades. Those workers enjoy and value the work they do. That is why they have been in those roles for long periods. We know that many people

present to our emergency departments under poor circumstances, either from feeling unwell themselves, caring for an ill loved one or being under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The trial has the potential to help our health staff do their jobs safely and de-escalate aggressive behaviour. I thank Peter Anderson for his role in the review. I acknowledge that he is a former member for Liverpool. I also acknowledge the immense work of the Health Services Union, NSW Health and the Minister for Health.

CLARENCE ELECTORATE AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (17:31): Tonight I highlight how important rural agricultural shows are to the fabric of regional New South Wales. Shows are more than just Bertie Beetle show bags and Ferris wheels. In many instances they are the only opportunity for the rural sector to come together as one to celebrate the industry. In my electorate of Clarence, I am very fortunate to have three agricultural shows—the Maclean Show, the Grafton Show and the Casino Show. All of those shows are on Crown lands, which are managed to perfection. Not all rural shows are on Crown lands. I highlight to the House how important it is that the Minns Government continue to support agricultural shows.

Two of the three shows in my electorate were held in the past week. The Maclean Show was held at the Maclean showground on 6 and 7 May. I acknowledge President Robbie Sutherland and Treasurer Pru Ensby, who had many sleepless nights in the lead-up to the show due to the weather. It is very wet in my electorate. Whilst we are whinging about the rain, I acknowledge that some areas of New South Wales in the grip of a drought are praying for rain. The show committee did a terrific job. They waited until the very last second to ensure that all the shows activities went ahead. Unfortunately at Maclean, some events like trotting and showjumping were called off due to the wet weather. But the sun shone over the 131st annual Maclean Show, which featured the biggest sideshow alley in years. The crowds certainly turned out at the showground. The show was officially opened by local pharmacist Ken Hallgarth. Ken is a long-term member of the Maclean community.

There were record numbers of rides and exhibitors, and record numbers of people enjoying the show, including the floral displays and fruit exhibits. The cane exhibit is unique to Maclean, and it is always sought after. If someone gets the grand prize for cane at the Maclean Show, they are doing pretty well. Of course, the pavilions were packed with cooking; there were record numbers there as well. The committee honoured two life members at the official opening of the show. Unfortunately, I could not attend the opening as I was representing my electorate in Parliament at that time. I congratulate Peter Lee and Warren Apps, who were both awarded life membership of the Maclean Show.

Just a few days later, attention turned to the 151st Grafton Show. It was under a bit of a cloud, literally and metaphorically, but the rain stayed away. The TJ Ford Pavilion was packed with exhibitors. There was a terrific line-up of cattle exhibited in the grand parade. The Bird and Poultry Pavilion was excellent this year. For the kids and the younger generations, there was also a terrific line-up of rides in Sideshow Alley. The occasional Bertie Beetle show bag was also purchased.

Ms Trish Doyle: Did you get one of those?

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON: I did get a Bertie Beetle show bag. It had 12 chocolates and a pair of Bertie Beetle socks, which I thought was outstanding value for \$12.

Dr Hugh McDermott: Are you going to bring some down for us?

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON: I only bought it because it was the cheapest showbag there. We will move right along. I acknowledge Grafton Show Society president Rex Green and the countless volunteers who worked very hard to ensure the 151st Grafton Show was an outstanding success.

MANDATORY DISEASE TESTING LEGISLATION

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:36): The NSW Ombudsman has delivered a damning report into the State's mandatory disease testing laws and questioned whether the laws should continue operating. That is an issue of great concern to my constituents. Mandatory disease testing laws passed this place almost four years ago with the support of the major parties. I opposed the laws because it was clear that they would target vulnerable people, create stigma and misinformation about bloodborne diseases like HIV and do nothing to protect frontline workers. The Ombudsman's report has vindicated my concerns.

Mandatory disease testing laws allow frontline police, corrections and ambulance workers who have come into contact with a third party's bodily fluids, as the result of a deliberate action, to seek an order from a senior officer to force that third party to get tested for bloodborne diseases. An order can be sought for anyone 14 years and above. However, orders for those under 18, or who have a mental health or cognitive impairment, must be approved by the courts. The Ombudsman found the laws are failing to make frontline workers feel safe and are being used with broad discretion, to the detriment of vulnerable groups.

The Ombudsman found no evidence that the laws helped frontline workers cope with concerns about possible bloodborne disease contraction at work. A survey of workers who made applications found that test results did not lead them to change their treatment approach or help with their wellbeing. In fact, some workers reported that the process added to their stress and anxiety. While the Chief Health Officer's guidance confirms the lack of risk to workers of contracting a bloodborne disease from saliva, saliva represented at least 87 of the 139 applications for a mandatory testing order—more than 62 per cent of all applications. The Ombudsman argues that inclusion of saliva in the laws could be contributing to misinformation and misunderstanding among workers about the transmission of bloodborne disease, adding to their stress and fear.

The impacts of the law are being felt disproportionately by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They represent 3.4 per cent of the general population and 31 per cent of the inmate population, yet were the subject of half of all mandatory disease testing applications in the State. They were assessed as vulnerable at a lower rate than non-Indigenous third parties and were more likely to consent to a test following an application. The Ombudsman observed cases of pressure to consent, particularly from New South Wales police. The proportion of applications made regarding women inmates was also higher than the proportion that women make of the inmate population, with women making up 25 per cent of applications but only 6.7 percent of the inmate population. Similarly, young people make up roughly 9.5 percent of the inmate population but 22 per cent of the applications. Half of those deemed vulnerable for being a minor were also identified as having a mental health or cognitive impairment.

The Ombudsman was highly critical of the way senior officers make decisions under the law. They have no medical expertise yet were making decisions on risks of disease transmission and about whether a person had a mental health or cognitive impairment. They are only meant to make a mandatory disease testing order if it is justified in all the circumstances, but the Ombudsman found that in practice—particularly for the NSW Police Force, which uses a structured decision-making tool—considerations were more a tick-a-box exercise. Meanwhile, there are few protections for people subject to a mandatory disease testing application. They have very little time to make submissions and do not see the application made against them. They are not given the opportunity to get medical or legal advice. There are no privacy protections to stop officers sharing results.

The Ombudsman's first recommendation was to consider whether to continue the laws, given resources could be redirected into better support for frontline workers. The Ombudsman also made a range of recommendations to improve accountability if the laws are not repealed. They include court enforcement, greater involvement of medical practitioners in decisions, reviewable decisions, an expansion of the definition of vulnerability and clearer information on transmission risks. The laws are not evidence based. Saliva accounts for most applications even though it represents a low transmission risk, and the time lags before bloodborne viruses can be detected make third-party blood tests unreliable anyway. Frontline workers are vital to keeping the community safe, but they are no better off with these laws, which do nothing but create stigma around bloodborne diseases and create new pathways to criminalise vulnerable people. I call on the House to urgently repeal the laws.

TAMIL GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (17:41): On 18 May each year our Tamil Australian community in the electorate of Prospect and Tamil communities across the globe pause to remember the Tamil genocide: some 350,000 innocent people killed, two million people displaced, countless homes destroyed, the mass destruction of infrastructure and, in the wake, a brave people seeking peace, safety and a place to rebuild. We mourn the tens of thousands of unarmed men, women and children who lost their lives during the Sri Lankan civil war. Our Tamil community remember their loved ones and compatriots who were brutally murdered in the final phases of the civil war in the Mullivaikkal massacre of May 2009.

In those terrible times, unarmed Tamil civilians were directed to designated "no-fire zones" by the Government of Sri Lanka—places they and their families thought were safe. In those places they were subjected by the Sri Lankan military to heavy artillery fire, aerial bombings and subsequent executions. According to the United Nations Panel of Experts report published in 2013, civilian assembly locations, schools and hospitals were deliberately targeted for bombing under the pretext of military operations. The United Nations estimated that up to 70,000 Tamils were killed in that massacre alone.

Persecution against the Tamil community was heightened at the final stages of the war, but they had suffered destruction for decades before it. Discriminatory policies by the Sri Lankan Government began in postcolonial Sri Lanka following the recognition of the dominion of Ceylon in 1948. From policies like the Sinhala Only Act in 1956, which made Sinhala the only language of Sri Lanka and barred Tamils from access to services or employment, to the burning of over 95,000 books and manuscripts of Tamil literature at the Jaffna Public Library in 1981, the riots of Black July in Colombo in 1983, and the destruction of temples, schools and hospitals, a horrific scope of events led to ethnic cleansing, pogroms and, finally, the genocide of ethnic Tamils. In 2013 the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka found detailed evidence of deaths, rapes and injuries perpetrated by the

Sri Lankan Government. In 2011 the United Nations Panel of Experts found serious violations of international human rights law were committed by the Sri Lankan Government throughout the civil war. History remembers the deliberate persecution of ethnic Tamils and the attempt to destroy Tamil identity, culture, language and autonomy.

On 18 May this year—this coming Sunday—I will join the Australian Tamil Congress and our Tamil community in Girraween to remember all those who suffered unspeakable cruelty at the hands of the Sri Lankan State. I will stand with members of our Tamil community in the electorate of Prospect and across the world who still live with the wounds and scars of the conflict. I will stand with those who face trauma, who have lost their family or who still seek answers about the fate of their loved ones. I ask all members of this Parliament to also stand with us.

I commend the efforts of Tamil organisations across the world and the ones in my local community, such as the Australian Tamil Congress, the Tamil Arts and Cultural Association, the Independent Tamil Women's Association and many more who work tirelessly towards building accountability, seeking reconciliation and justice, and strengthening Tamil diasporas across the world. Our Tamil communities in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales are resilient. They have rebuilt their lives and families, travelling across the world to start again. Our Tamil communities have persevered through terrible hardship and have become a vital part of today's modern Australia. Valuing acceptance, tolerance and inclusion, above all, our Tamil communities make everyone feel welcome and at home in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales. On 18 May, today and every day, I stand with our Tamil communities. I pay my respects, I remember and I demand justice for all victims and survivors of the Tamil genocide.

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE WARTIME HISTORY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (17:46): Last month, on 25 April, we commemorated Anzac Day across our communities. It is an important day to reflect and appreciate the sacrifices of the Anzacs, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today. As part of the acknowledgement of Anzac Day, I feel it is extremely fitting that I take a moment to share a brief history of the Anzac spirit inherent within my community.

The Drummoyne electorate has a deep and proud connection to Anzac history and, in many ways, it has shaped the identity of our community. One of these symbols is our local public hospital, Concord Repatriation General Hospital, which was opened in 1941 as the Yaralla Military Hospital to treat wounded and sick service men and women. Its foundation of veteran care continues to this day. In 2022 Concord Hospital opened the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare, the first of its kind in Australia dedicated to the rehabilitation of veterans. It is a magnificent facility, offering holistic care and accommodation for veterans.

As a young person who has lived my entire life in the community I now represent in this place, I have a deep interest in our local history. That is why today in this House I want to acknowledge long-term Drummoyne resident Brendan Bateman and share his contribution in recounting the history of the men named on the Drummoyne War Memorial. I met Brendan when he spoke at the Five Dock RSL Sub-Branch's Anzac Sunday service. I was moved by the story he told at the service of a soldier from World War I who lived St Georges Crescent. For me and many others listening to Brendan's speech, it was a lightbulb moment that made us want to know more about these untold stories. I have now purchased a set of Brendan's books.

The stories of the 95 men who are recognised on the Drummoyne War Memorial are preserved in Brendan's books entitled *Drummoyne's Great War*. The three-volume biography encapsulates individual stories of courage, sacrifice and service. In April Brendan, who is an accomplished lawyer with a background and interest in modern history, launched *Drummoyne's Great War* with Peter FitzSimons at Clayton Utz and at Club Five Dock RSL with members of our community. Brendan's project began in 2009 when he visited a soldier's grave at Villers-Bretonneux in France. He came to know about the soldier because his name is acknowledged on the honour roll at the St Mark's church in Drummoyne, which was erected to acknowledge local parishioners who died in World War I. St Mark's is the church my parents got married at, and it is a church I have been to many times in my life. We have prayed for these soldiers but now, because of Brendan's work, we know more about the stories of these local men.

Over the next 15 years Brendan would go on to meticulously research the lives of each member of the St Mark's honour roll, before starting to research the histories of the 95 men remembered on the Drummoyne War Memorial. The biographies in *Drummoyne's Great War* reference many historical sources, including personal correspondence, service records, unit war diaries and photos that Brendan collected or was given. Since April I have had the privilege of getting to know more about Brendan and his work, and I have been truly moved to hear his passion for history and his deep respect for those who have served our country. His work reflects a genuine

and heartfelt commitment to honour the legacy of local men who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. It will ensure that their stories continue to be told for future generations.

On behalf of our community, I am sincerely grateful to Brendan for his extraordinary dedication to the project. His many years of research have made an immeasurable contribution to our local history and to the many families of those early Drummoyne residents, and it will serve as a lasting tribute for generations to come. *Drummoyne's Great War* is more than a historical record; it is a powerful reminder of how the stories of our past have shaped our present and our future.

I also acknowledge the role of the Five Dock RSL Sub-Branch, led by its president, Robert Ridge. I understand the sub-branch members provided invaluable support and resources to Brendan during the project, and they are why I know about the book and am sharing it with the Parliament today. I sincerely thank Brendan for his countless hours of hard work in bringing the stories of those 95 men to life. I know he is supported by his family and especially his wife, Ann-Marie, and his books are dedicated to her. I wish the Bateman family all the very best. I also acknowledge the presence of the Minister for Veterans in the Chamber. We are privileged to have the history of our community honoured and preserved through Brendan's work. We will remember them. Let us not forget.

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (17:51): This is another opportunity to celebrate a monumental achievement in Australian football, this time the Central Coast Mariners A-League Women team reaching its first ever grand final in the 2024-25 season. That milestone is a testament to the team's resilience and talent, and to the visionary leadership of head coach Emily Husband, the architect of success. Appointed in March 2023, Emily Husband brought a wealth of experience from her tenure at Sydney University Soccer Football Club, where she was named the New South Wales National Premier Leagues 1 Coach of the Year. Her commitment to developing talent and fostering a winning mentality has been instrumental in the Mariners' ascent.

The season has been defined by determination. It is the second season back for the Central Coast Mariners women's team after a long recess. Under Husband's guidance, the Mariners assembled a dynamic squad, blending youth and experience. Key players include Taren King, coming back from a really bad injury. She is our steadfast captain and defender, whose leadership has been pivotal. Jessika Nash is a Young Matildas captain whose defensive prowess has fortified the back line. Isabel Gomez is a midfield dynamo, contributing significantly to both defence and attack. She has just been selected for the Matildas after recovering from a mid-season injury. Midfielders Taylor Ray and Bianca Galic are known for their vision and control. Forwards Jade Pennock and Brooke Nunn have consistently threatened opposition defences. Finally, local girl Annalise Rasmussen and Young Matilda Peta Trimis are young talents making their mark in the attacking third.

The team's journey through the season was marked by resilience, finishing fourth in the regular season to secure a finals spot. The Mariners overcame Canberra United with a 2-1 victory in the elimination final, showcasing their ability to perform under pressure. The semifinal against the unbeaten Melbourne City was a true test of character. The Mariners had never been bettered by Melbourne City in their unbeaten run, having drawn their games during the season proper. In the first leg they again drew 2-2. The final game went to extra time and the Mariners won 1-0 in about the 121st minute, just before the penalty shootout, ending City's unbeaten streak and securing their place in the grand final. The Mariners now prepare to face Melbourne Victory in the grand final on Sunday 18 May at AAMI Park in Melbourne. This match represents more than just a championship. It is a celebration of the Mariners' journey, the growth of women's football and the unyielding spirit of the Central Coast community.

The Central Coast Mariners' journey to the grand final is a story of perseverance, teamwork and breaking new ground. Their success serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes. There are a huge number of young women, middle-aged women and older women who play football on the Central Coast. It is a really popular women's sport. There is great support for the Mariners when they play at home at the Central Coast Stadium. The travelling fans also offer great support. One of the great traditions of both the men's and women's teams is the family photo that is taken after a home game. All of the supporters get together in the grandstand with the team in front and take a photo. The Mariners are known as a family club.

A live site will be open at the Central Coast Stadium on Sunday afternoon for the many people who will not be able to get to Melbourne. Let us all get behind the Mariners as they take their final steps towards glory. The men's team has come off a very successful run, although they did not have a great season this year. In their first season back last year, the women's team made the semifinals. This year, they have made the grand final. I congratulate Emily Husband and her team. I thank them for helping to bind our community together. The team

is something we can all be proud of. We proudly wear the navy and yellow—go the Mariners! The match is New South Wales versus Victoria, so I am sure the entire State will be behind the Central Coast Mariners women as they play in their first ever grand final.

RIVERSTONE ELECTORATE DEVELOPMENT

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (17:56): I am excited to speak about the future of Riverstone tonight. We have a significant opportunity to reimagine it as the centre it deserves to be, not only for local residents but also for the broader North West Growth Area. I had the privilege of giving local residents a preview of the new Riverstone Town Centre master plan at the 2025 Riverstone Festival, which was held last Saturday. The plan for reimagining Riverstone was developed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, and its public exhibition phase is expected to begin in June. This marks an important milestone in a long overdue plan for the future of our community.

Riverstone has always been a place of great potential that is rich in history. It is home to a resilient and diverse community and is strategically located in the centre of one of the fastest growing regions in our State. But for many years, that potential has been overlooked. I acknowledge that some in the community have good reason to be sceptical. Riverstone and Riverstone West were identified as the first areas to be developed in the North West Growth Area back in the late 1990s to ensure that job infrastructure was in place to support the impending population growth, but politicians and town planners found it easier to develop greenfield areas. Other precincts were approved instead, and new housing projects began in surrounding suburbs. Tens of thousands of people moved into Marsden Park, Schofields, Tallawong, Box Hill and Grantham Farm. Riverstone was left behind, because an existing community combined with flooding challenges meant it was all too hard.

Blacktown City Council finally adopted and released a master plan for Riverstone Town Centre in 2017. It was promoted heavily throughout the community, and yet the plan was rejected by the planning department due to unworkable density, traffic management and high-rise residential towers below the one-in-100-year flood level. The council blamed Planning, and Planning blamed the council. This endless cycle lasted for many years and ultimately resulted in complete stagnation, with neither side prepared to progress to a workable solution. For well over a decade now, Riverstone, Schofields and districts, as it used to be known, has experienced rapid population growth. Infrastructure and services have not kept pace. Residents have become frustrated. They have watched surrounding centres evolve while Riverstone has waited for the investment and attention it has long needed. I share that frustration.

During my many years as the vice-president of the North West Business Chamber, I tried to get both parties to work together towards something everybody could agree on. My frustration became so acute that one of the largest contributing factors in my decision to try to get elected as the member for Riverstone was to get the master plan moving.

It gives me immense joy to let my community know that the Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job, and the Riverstone Town Centre Masterplan is now ready to go out for public consultation. Through this rezoning proposal, we are taking a balanced and forward-looking approach. It is informed by extensive studies and a recognition that growth must be matched by infrastructure, opportunity and a commitment to liveability. Community input via town hall meetings I conducted during 2023 has been invaluable. The vision is clear: to establish Riverstone as a connected, thriving and sustainable town centre that meets the needs of today and decades to come.

The new master plan does more than rezone land; it lays the groundwork for a well-planned, modern town centre that includes improved access to public transport, expanded housing choice, local jobs, open green space and walkable neighbourhoods. In short, it is a place for community. It builds on Riverstone's heritage and character while looking ahead to the future. It also positions Riverstone as the centre of the North West Growth Area; I believe Riverstone should become the jewel in the crown of that important region.

The strength of any growth strategy lies in not only its design but also its ability to bring people together. That is why the formal public consultation process will be critical. Over the coming months, residents, local businesses and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the proposal and provide feedback. Every submission will be carefully considered as part of the finalisation process. The Government's role is to listen, be transparent and deliver outcomes that are both ambitious and realistic. We are not interested in just ticking boxes; we are committed to meaningful engagement and to shaping a town centre that reflects the values and aspirations of the community.

I acknowledge the work of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and the department—in particular, Anthea Sargeant and Nicola O'Brien—for their work in getting us to this point. This is a detailed and thoughtful proposal, and it demonstrates we are serious about getting the fundamentals right for Riverstone and for Western

Sydney. Riverstone's story is still being written. We are ready to embark on the next chapter of a history of evolution spanning over 200 years. What we do now—how we plan, how we listen and how we invest—will determine whether that community thrives for many years to come.

TWYFORD THEATRE

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (18:03): On Saturday 12 April I was pleased to represent the Minister for Regional New South Wales, the Hon. Tara Moriarty, at the opening of the Twyford Theatre in Merimbula. The master of ceremonies was our local singer, actor, producer and television presenter Frankie J. Holden, OAM, of Ol' 55 fame. Frankie is also chair of the Twyford Hall Complex Ltd board. The New South Wales Government was a major funder of the project, with Bega Valley Shire Council acting as a trustee of this wonderful community asset. The new theatre includes a foyer with box office, a theatre office, two dressing rooms, a stage manager's desk and a control room for lighting, sound and visuals. I particularly recognise the board of management of Twyford Hall Complex Ltd, which has worked tirelessly to achieve this generational result. It has been a long time coming, with increased funding requirements, development application changes and a global pandemic all contributing to the delay. But here we are at last.

The adjoining Twyford Hall has a long history in Merimbula as a focal point for community events, celebrations, markets and the arts. Built in 1931, the building of Twyford Hall is, in itself, a celebration of community achievement. At that time, the population of Merimbula was around 150 people, and our nation was in the Great Depression. Despite that, the tireless efforts of the committee ensured that enough money was raised to build Twyford Hall. Since the official opening in December 1931, Twyford Hall has been much loved and well used for a diverse range of purposes. Some of the activities include ballet classes, church functions, weekend markets and, recently, the democracy sausage sizzle. The project is also being funded through private donations, corporate sponsorships and the resources of Twyford Hall Complex Ltd.

Due to additional costs caused by heritage delays, the impact of COVID and building delay costs, additional funding was successfully sought from the New South Wales Government to finish service connections, commissioning and final fit-out. I acknowledge the investment of \$9.5 million provided by the Government through the Regional Communities Development Fund for this new 199-seat raked theatre with a foyer, bar and cafe. The Twyford is a proud member of Performing Arts Connections Australia and the NSW ACT Performing Arts Centres Association. I acknowledge also the work of Minister Moriarty's department in facilitating the grant funding for this important project. The department's support for communities to develop workforce capability and attract skilled workers and new businesses to the region is invaluable. The New South Wales Government remains committed to ensuring that all communities such as Merimbula are supported to evolve and grow.

The New South Wales Government is a strong supporter of arts and culture, and the preservation of heritage in rural and regional New South Wales. The opening of the Twyford theatre marks the beginning of greater opportunities for arts and entertainment in Merimbula and the region. Local regional arts centres are a long way from the bright lights of the Opera House and other city stages and concert halls. But local bright lights attract things from far and wide, and the Twyford Hall complex will be a beacon on the far South Coast. It will be the premier destination for arts and entertainment on the Sapphire Coast. Centres like this build social cohesion, identity and pride, economic revitalisation and resilience. The community will have the opportunity to mingle with artists from all over the country and make theatre, music, dance, comedy, puppetry and every other art form accessible to anyone, regardless of their living situation, income or regional location.

I look forward to the opening season program, which will showcase the existing heritage-listed hall, new foyer, cafe and theatre. Current and forthcoming events at the theatre include an art exhibition, a play entitled *Tinderella and the Eight Unique Uses of Tinder* and the wonderful Flickerfest film festival. I congratulate everyone involved in that remarkable development. Sadly, the architect of the new Twyford theatre, Michael Marshman, passed away on 21 December 2024. He leaves a great legacy to Merimbula and the Sapphire Coast community.

CIVICS EDUCATION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (18:05): Speaker, I rise this evening to address a matter that strikes at the very core of our democratic society: The importance of civics education and the critical need for it to be a focal point of the HSIE curriculum in New South Wales. In an era of rapid social and political change, growing misinformation and declining trust in democratic institutions, it has never been more important to ensure that our young people understand how our system of government works and why it matters. Civics is not simply a subject in school; it is a lifelong foundation for informed participation in our democracy. A young person who understands their rights and responsibilities is more likely to engage in the political process, contribute to their community, respect the rule of law and hold public institutions to account. Civics builds critical thinking, cultural understanding and a sense of duty to something greater than oneself.

However, we are presently failing in this task in New South Wales. According to the 2023 National Assessment Program—to be fair—for Civics and Citizenship, only 28 per cent of year 10 students across Australia met the proficiency standard. This is the lowest result since national testing began in 2004. In year 6, just 43 per cent of students reached the benchmark. These results represent not only a decline in knowledge, but a weakening of the civic muscle that sustains our democratic society. In New South Wales the figures are only marginally better. In 2023, 44 per cent of year 6 students achieved the standard, but we are still seeing a long-term decline in civic understanding. Compared to 2019, when approximately 55 per cent of New South Wales year 6 students met the benchmark, the drop is stark.

Over the course of a student's education in New South Wales, the amount of structured civics education has not increased despite the mounting need. Our curriculum should reflect the values we want to instil. At present, civics is included in the HSIE key learning area in both primary and secondary school, but too often it is crowded out by other content or taught as a one-off unit with little follow-up. Indeed, in some schools civics education is delivered in as little as five hours per year; in others, it is left to the discretion of the school or teacher. Contrast this with other jurisdictions: Victoria includes civics education from years 3 to 10 with a clearer, more structured scope, and in the Australian Capital Territory students complete a dedicated civics and citizenship course in years 9 and 10.

We can and must do better in New South Wales. We cannot allow our students to graduate without knowing the difference between State and Federal governments, understanding the importance of voting, or knowing how laws are made and who makes them; nor can we ignore the need to teach respectful civic discourse, digital literacy and the role of the media in democracy. This decline in civic understanding is not abstract. It has real-world consequences. Young Australians are less likely to enrol to vote. They are less likely to understand their rights at work or how to seek help from government services. Some do not know who their local member is or how to contact them. The very mechanisms that connect citizens to their democracy are becoming rusty through disuse. To reverse this trend, we must act.

First, I call on the New South Wales Government to commission a comprehensive review of civics education across our State, examining how it is currently taught, identifying best practices and setting clear expectations for schools. Second, we should embed civics more explicitly and consistently across the curriculum from year 3 to year 10. This should include practical engagement, mock elections, visits to councils and parliaments, interaction with elected representatives, and student participation in decision-making. Third, we should invest in professional development for teachers to ensure that they, too, have the skills and confidence to teach civics effectively. Some educators have never been trained in this field, and we should support them. Fourth, we should partner with civic education providers, such as the Museum of Australian Democracy, the Parliamentary Education Office and the NSW Electoral Commission to develop engaging, accessible resources. Fifth, we must ensure every student should have at least 20 hours of dedicated civics education per year—not as an add-on, but as a core part of their learning.

This is not about politics; it is about preparing our next generation of citizens. Whether students grow up to be politicians, small business owners, nurses, engineers or teachers, they all need to understand how our democracy functions. They need to know how to participate in it, protect it and improve it. In the twenty-first century, civics education must evolve and grow. It must speak to the digital age, to global interdependence and to the lived experience of diverse communities across New South Wales, Australia and, indeed, the globe. But at its heart, it still must teach what it means to be an active citizen of New South Wales and of Australia. I believe this matters immensely. In so many ways, when one thinks deeply about it, our future depends on just this. Let us give our students the tools that they need to shape our collective future with knowledge, with confidence and with civic pride.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (18:10): With all due respect to the member for Willoughby, civics education has been strengthened in the Government's budget. As a former teacher—and I acknowledge another former teacher in the House, the member for Granville—I will say that one of the resources I lent into was the education unit in the New South Wales Parliament. I give that unit a shout-out for its fabulous work.

Mr Tim James: Yes. I referred to that.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: Yes. Particularly in history—not just Human Society and its Environment—students undertake a new mandatory civics study on the making of Australia. They learn about the Australian Constitution, the separation of powers, voting, referendums and all of our democratic traditions. I often think that when there is some criticism of a particular element within our curriculum, teachers are criticised.

NAKBA DAY

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (18:11): Today is Nakba Day, the day we commemorate the Nakba, or catastrophe. It is 77 years since the forced removal and permanent displacement of over 750,000 Palestinian people—more than half the population—from across what is now Israel. Five hundred and forty villages and towns were destroyed in the process. Once expelled, they moved to refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank and throughout the Middle East where many remain—four generations later. It is a day of enormous pain for the Palestinian members of my community and for displaced Palestinians the world over. Of course, this is made worse by the death and destruction in Gaza over the past 18 months after the disgraceful murderous attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023, and Israel's retaliatory slaughter, which commenced a few days later and thus far has taken at least 50 eyes for an eye. Just last night, at least 57 people were killed in Gaza.

For decades, many in Israel denied there had been a Nakba. In 2009 the Israeli Ministry of Education banned the use of the word "Nakba" in textbooks, and in 2011 the Knesset passed the Nakba law, which restricted commemorations of the Nakba, punishable as a criminal offence. Yet soon after 7 October, prominent right-wing Israeli leaders called for a Grand Nakba and threatened one far worse than 1948. On 9 October the then Israeli Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, declared in a televised speech, "We are imposing a complete siege on Gaza. There will be no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel, everything will be closed. We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly." Later that day, he doubled down and said, "Gaza will not return to what it was before. We will eliminate everything." Israel's Minister of agriculture and rural development, Avi Dichter, said in November 2023, "We are now rolling out the Gaza Nakba." It seems they have been true to their word.

Over 50,000 men, women and children have been killed in Gaza by the Israelis. Over 800 babies have been killed—children who had not yet reached their first birthday. Over 1.9 million people have been displaced from their homes. They are enduring forced starvation, and aid has been blocked from entering Gaza for the past two months. Schools and hospitals have been bombed, some repeatedly. Over 170 journalists have been killed, many seemingly targeted. The International Court of Justice called Israel's actions a probable genocide in January 2024 and directed Israel to change course; but it has not. At the very least the killing is ethnic cleansing. Israel is currently threatening to seize all of Gaza and force the residents into a tiny portion of land to encourage them to leave. It is important to note that, unlike the West Bank, most residents of Gaza are refugees who were expelled in the original Nakba and their descendants.

And it is not just Gaza; across the West Bank, Palestinians are constantly fighting to hold onto their land. Between 7 October and December 2023, settlers established 49 new illegal outposts across the West Bank. Just this week, Israel finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, called for the destruction of towns and villages in the West Bank. I encourage all members to seek out and watch *No Other Land*, the Israeli-Palestinian co-production that won the Oscar for the best documentary this year. The relentless struggle of the repelled settlers, who are illegally displacing people from land that has been their family home for hundreds of years, is incredibly confronting.

Over the past 18 months 3,000 refugees from Gaza have been accepted into Australia. They have been supported by newly emerging organisations like the Palestinian Australians Welfare Association and more established organisations like Palestine Australia Relief and Action. Most came here on temporary tourist visas and transitioned to humanitarian visas. Arriving on a tourist visa meant that, for some, many months passed before they were eligible for the normal support provided to newly arrived refugees. I was astounded by how the community rallied together to pay rental bonds and donate furniture to set families up.

Palestinians value education enormously; unlike their homes, it cannot be taken away from them. I recently met some Palestinian university students whose studies had been interrupted by the war. They are now at university here and are finally resuming their studies and can realise their dreams. Their tales of feeling alternately terrified and bored during the bombardment and, of course, no longer being able to study in Gaza were really confronting. Australia has repeatedly called for a ceasefire and that must continue. In June 2025 the United Nations is hosting a conference on the two-state solution, when they can possibly welcome Palestine as a permanent member. That can be a turning point for peace that we should all embrace.

PITTWATER ELECTORATE HOUSING

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (18:16): I start by making one thing clear: I am not, nor is Pittwater, opposed to development. Nor am I opposed to meeting our fair share of housing targets on the northern beaches. In fact, I am fully committed to the National Housing Accord, and I support the Northern Beaches Council's housing strategy to deliver 5,000 new dwellings by 2029. However, I am opposed to poor, uncoordinated planning that takes away community voice and council planning, and risks damaging the character of our local communities. The Government's Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy is a one-size-fits-all approach, blanketed across the State, that takes power away from local councils and communities, and instead hands it over to developers. That is not how good planning works, particularly for my community of Pittwater. It is certainly not

how we will get good outcomes that are appropriate to our electorate, which has significant geographical limitations, being on a peninsula, and which has incredibly high bushfire, flooding and coastal erosion risks, as well as lacking infrastructure. In fact, the Government's State Disaster Mitigation Plan lists the northern beaches as number one in 2060 in terms of costs associated with extreme weather due to bushfire and flooding, and particularly due to coastal erosion.

Pittwater is defined by our connection to the natural environment, by our coastal village character and by strong local values that prioritise liveability, sustainability and thoughtful development. Those values have been reflected time and again through extensive community consultations, through the recent *Mackellar Matters Report* and through our history when we fought fiercely against inappropriate development, such as the Delmege building in the 1980s. People in my electorate understand we need more housing, especially diverse housing for young people and downsizers. But they also know that overdevelopment or poorly planned development will not solve the housing crisis. It may simply create new problems, particularly by putting strain on infrastructure and causing traffic congestion, a loss of character and environmental impacts. That is why I support the work already been done by council that has included community groups, in particular the Mona Vale Place Plan, the Newport place plan, and the Northern Beaches Council's Local Housing Strategy. They were all developed or partially developed with community input and expert guidance.

Pittwater had five villages at risk of the low- and mid-rise policy: Narrabeen, Warriewood, Newport, Avalon and Mona Vale. Only one was selected, when other electorates, including Manly and Wakehurst, had eight villages impacted. I am thankful that strong advocacy led to those declarations not proceeding as well as recognition of risks associated with climate change—bushfires, flooding and coastal erosion—and the geographic limitations of the electorate. However, the R3 medium-density zones are of concern. They are scattered in pockets of Mona Vale and, under the new reforms, could see developments of up to six or seven storeys inserted into quiet, low-rise neighbourhoods without proper transition, adequate design standards or the setbacks and other controls that our local plans have already outlined.

The first proposed development to take advantage of the Government's Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy in Mona Vale illustrates why it is an entirely inappropriate policy for the area. A development application in Golf Avenue has increased its height due to the policy. Instead of delivering diverse housing, which is the intention of the policy, the development proposes luxury two-bedroom apartments, selling for \$3 million to \$4 million. That is hardly addressing diverse housing needs. It is also important to recognise that the northern beaches lacks heavy rail, light rail and a metro system, and relies almost predominantly on buses for public transport.

That limitation means that our public transport capacity is significantly lower than other areas equipped with better infrastructure. Consequently, larger scale residential developments will exacerbate traffic congestion because many new residents will depend on private vehicles without adequate public transport. Our streets are experiencing high traffic volumes. Mona Vale Road remains unfinished and is a congestion point. The policy's design specifications outline 0.5 parking spaces per dwelling, when it should be closer to two parking spaces per dwelling to avoid a lack of parking, which is already scarce, particularly on weekends and during holidays due to being a beachside area. There are examples of good planning and locations close to transport, but Pittwater is not one of them.

POPE FRANCIS AND POPE LEO XIV

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (18:21): Habemus papam! We have a pope! Those are the words that over 37,000 Catholics in the Camden local government area were thrilled to hear after waiting to see the white smoke. After only two days of the conclave and the fourth ballot, we were given a new pope. It followed the death of the beloved Pope Francis on 25 April 2025, aged 88. It was interesting to find out that at his passing, Pope Francis is no longer referred to as Pope Francis; he reverts back to his baptismal name, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. He served as Pope for 12 years after being elected in 2013 at the age of 76. His papal name was taken in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi, representing his commitment to simplicity and service to the poor. He was the first pope named after Saint Francis.

I was lucky to attend two masses for the repose of the Pope. The first was at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Wollongong on Thursday 24 April and the second was at St Mary's Cathedral on 1 May. They were both respectful, beautiful requiem masses. The music was of an incredibly high calibre. At both of those services, it struck me that the mass that was celebrated for the repose of the Pope at the Vatican was the same as for any Catholic who passes away.

One of the special things about the Pope's funeral was its simplicity. Rumour has it that after the funeral of the previous pope, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis spoke to the cardinals serving him about the need for his funeral to reflect what he wanted to represent: simplicity. One of the markers of that was that when his body was taken to its final resting place at Santa Maria Maggiore church in Rome, he was not greeted by 10 dignitaries,

which is the tradition. The tradition is that dignitaries are whisked from the funeral in the Vatican to just downstairs but, in this case, it was to be through Rome. Pope Francis said that he did not want to be greeted by dignitaries and that 12 people were to be invited from the homeless shelters in Rome to be the last to thank and farewell the Pope and accompany him to his final resting place. That is the kind of man he was. He was a man of the people.

Now he has been followed by the new Pope Leo XIV. As an aside, I make special note of the fact that he took the name Pope Leo just days after my family and I named our new puppy Leo, so that was very exciting in my house. Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, previously from Chicago, had done a lot of missionary work. He chose Pope Leo as his name to reflect the work that Pope Leo XIII started during the Industrial Revolution. Pope Leo XIII actually wrote an encyclical on the importance of unionised workers. The new Pope is a pope of the worker.

Pope Leo's inauguration mass is scheduled to take place on 18 May. I understand the Prime Minister, a proud Catholic, has been invited. He will be going, and I hope to be in one of the first public audiences with the new Pope in August. I am a little bit excited about that. Hopefully that will go ahead. The new Pope is 69. He speaks five languages. He is an incredible choice, completely out of left field—one might say from the left wing. He is an incredible choice as the new Pope. I congratulate Pope Leo XXIV. We pray for him and cannot wait to hear what he has to say.

HAWKESBURY SHOW

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:27): The 2025 Hawkesbury Show was held on 9, 10 and 11 May. Individuals, schools, community organisations and businesses all contributed produce, livestock, entertainment, time and effort to the show, which culminated in a hugely successful, community-driven event. Held at Clarendon Showground, the 138th Hawkesbury Show was embraced by all. Large crowds flocked to the event to enjoy action-packed days, marvelling at displays that included artworks, baking, plants, vegetables, craft, produce, livestock, hot rods and tractors, and then, of course, the live entertainment, from busking beauties to talented dancers and singers, all ready to serenade show participants.

If carnival acts and rides are of interest, the Hawkesbury Show is the place to be. Fabulous rides, carnival-style games and, of course, the delicious food and refreshments are all there ready to be indulged in. The show is also renowned for several displays and competitions, including showjumping, woodchopping and other demonstrations showcasing the important agricultural elements of our semi-rural and rural regions. As always, booths and stallholders were in abundance this year, including local businesses; craft and activity stalls; insurance services such as private health care; government and non-profit organisations, like the Scouts and Girl Guides; and local radio stations. The show is aimed at people of all ages and offers entertainment, ideas and information in a fun and innovative manner.

I had a stand this year, and I felt that, more than ever, people just wanted to come and have a chat. I think that reflects the mood of the country. People just want to connect and see a friendly face that may be keen to listen. Special mention must go to RAAF Base Richmond, which had an interesting interactive display, as did the police, the SES, the RFS, Fire and Rescue and paramedics.

St John Ambulance NSW must also rate a mention for continuing to provide a presence and offering first aid support. The Hawkesbury St John depot is located on the showground, so when the show is not on there is already a fertile relationship. St John Ambulance has been operating for over 140 years and is a highly recognised and trusted registered charity. Composed predominantly of voluntary staff, St John Ambulance operates alongside emergency services in various crisis situations, including flash flooding, bushfires and other extreme events. We have had eight floods in 4½ years as well as the Black Summer bushfires of December 2019 and January 2020, and their contribution has been amazing. The support and efforts afforded to the people of New South Wales by St John has been and continues to be invaluable. I am certain that fellow members of the House will join me in thanking them for their selfless service.

Outside of major events, staff of St John Ambulance work to support communities at major events such as the Hawkesbury Show, where being proactive to the potential medical needs of people at large gatherings is a sensible and often necessary measure. Heatstroke, dehydration, accidental injury and exacerbation of existing illnesses are possible occurrences where the good people of St John Ambulance can step in and discreetly provide help with minimal interruption to the event at hand.

One of the highlights of the Hawkesbury Show was the crowning of the 2026 Hawkesbury Young Woman Ambassador, which was awarded to Madison Luke, and Jack Mayhew was awarded the 2026 Hawkesbury Rural Ambassador crown. Those two outstanding young locals will hopefully emulate the exceptional performance of the previous 2025 Hawkesbury Ambassadors, Laura McKillop and Andrew Scarsbrook. I congratulate Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association President Lyn Hudson, her committee and the hundreds of volunteers who made the event such a record-breaking success. The logistics of managing more than

60,000 visitors to the show over three days takes great skill and coordination. I recognise the contribution of each volunteer to deliver excellent traffic control, parking guidance and an all-round fabulous experience.

LEPPINGTON ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (18:31): I speak on behalf of the families, workers and residents of Austral, a growing community that has been overlooked and let down for far too long. Once a quiet, semi-rural area, it is rapidly becoming a thriving suburban community. Families are moving in, businesses are growing and schools are quickly filling up. But while the houses go up, roads remain unsealed, parks remain unbuilt and basic infrastructure remains undelivered. For 12 long years the former Liberal-Nationals Government green-lit new housing, collected stamp duty and let councils charge developer levies. But Austral received very little in the way of parks, footpaths and upgrades to heavily potholed roads and intersections. It was a government that prioritised dollar signs over local families.

Since being elected I have fought hard to reverse that neglect. The \$1 billion investment in Fifteenth Avenue—jointly funded by State and Federal Labor governments—and upgrades to Austral Public School are two massive steps forward. But only two levels of government are pulling their weight. Parents push prams along grass verges and kids walk to school through dirt and gravel. What little is proposed is years away. By 2024 Edmondson Avenue was supposed to be upgraded by council through a government-funded grant. The revised project, which now only covers design and land acquisition, runs from 2025 to 2028. In next year's council budget, \$5.68 million was announced for park upgrades across the local government area but the announcement did not include which suburbs and which parks. It was another glossy announcement and another round of promises.

In September 2023 council said it had acquired land at 160 Fifth Avenue to renew the local park. It released a draft plan, alongside similar plans for Craik Park, which went on public exhibition until 20 June 2024. Still, nothing has been done. Earlier this year Liverpool City Council advised that \$4.74 million in State funding, granted through the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund to upgrade Fourth Avenue, will be handed back due to "funding shortages and significant design implications". That is a stark indication of a council unwilling or unable to deliver, even when there is money on the table.

At the front of Unity Grammar, where that funding was meant to go, pick-up and drop-off is a daily gridlock. The roads are too narrow. Because they remain unsealed and underdeveloped, even basic safety measures like pedestrian crossings cannot be installed. Teachers and staff do their best, but there is only so much a school can do when the surrounding roads are falling apart. At Austral Public School, parents circle the block repeatedly just to find somewhere to stop. Without adequate parking or drop-off zones, parents are regularly fined by rangers for simply trying to collect their children. The other three schools in the area are not much different. That is not just inconvenient; it is a safety risk.

The proposed Austral Aquatic and Leisure Centre exists only on paper. There is no timeline, no funding commitment and no start date. Why would the community expect otherwise? Just one suburb over, the Carnes Hill pool has been promised for more than 20 years. Despite funding from the Minns Labor Government in 2023, construction has not started. If council cannot deliver that, how can the people of Austral expect any different? Liverpool City Council's contributions plan for Austral and Leppington North is expected to raise more than \$1 billion, which is meant for roads, drainage, open space and community facilities. However, residents are not seeing those benefits. Adding to the frustration, the council has repeatedly failed to apply for State and Federal government grants that could have funded those much-needed parks. The grants were available, timely and targeted, but infuriatingly ignored. Meanwhile, ratepayers watch millions of dollars being spent by the council on consultants, restructures and a bloated communications team.

In December 2022 the council held a forum in Austral. Another consultation is planned for later this month. However, residents have told me that they are tired of the window-dressing. We need real delivery, not more talk. Austral is no longer a rural community on the edge of the city; it is a thriving, growing community and it deserves to be treated like one. Council has collected the money, held the meetings and made promises, but it has failed to deliver time and again. The people of Austral work hard. They pay their rates and contributions. They should not have to beg for basic services. The State Government is doing its part, and so is the Federal Government. It is time Liverpool City Council finally did its part, with no more excuses or delays. It should fix the roads, build the parks and deliver the infrastructure Austral has already paid for and has long deserved.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ABERDEEN HAY, MBE, FORMER MEMBER FOR MANLY AND MINISTER OF THE CROWN

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:36): I honour the life of David Aberdeen Hay, MBE, the former mayor of Manly, member for Manly and a proud lifelong Manly local. He passed away on the weekend. David led a life defined by service to his community, his State and his country. A six-time mayor of Manly, a member

of this Parliament, a Cabinet Minister and a Royal Australian Air Force pilot, David was a man whose leadership was defined not by personal ambition, but by an enduring commitment to the public good. From the council chambers of Manly to the floor of this place, he always brought a deep sense of duty to the people he served.

Born on 26 October 1933 in Manly, David grew up in Manly, attended Manly Boys High School in North Curl Curl and completed national service as a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force. He came from a family with deep roots in Manly's business community. His father, Cecil Hay, was well known locally. He ran several hotels before opening Hays Jewellers on the corner of Darley Road and the Corso. David joined the family business and, through that work, developed a strong connection to the people of Manly. That connection led him into public life.

In 1954 David met his future wife, Jean Hay, AM, who is also a former mayor of Manly. Fittingly, they met at a dance at North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club. While they might not have known it at the time, that fateful meeting would mark the beginning of a lifelong devotion and partnership. They married in 1958 and raised three children—Virginia, Gretel and David—as they embarked on a life of service and community leadership together. At just 27, David was elected to Manly Municipal Council in 1960. He went on to serve as an alderman for 23 years, including six terms as mayor and eight as deputy mayor. In 1984 he carried that commitment to public service into State politics, and was elected as the Liberal member for Manly in the New South Wales Parliament. He was re-elected in 1988 and served as Minister for Local Government in the Greiner Government.

As Minister, David helped drive several key State reforms, which included overseeing the non-compulsory vote that led to the creation of Pittwater Council, re-establishing the City of Sydney as a local government body, amending council rating laws and restructuring the management of what we now know as Darling Harbour.

One of David's most notable local contributions was his vision to transform the former Manly Gasworks site at Little Manly Point into public open space, creating a place for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the natural beauty of our coastline, which people still do today. He played a leading role in shaping the Government's broader management strategy for Sydney Harbour, ensuring it remained a shared and protected asset for generations to come. As a part of that, he pioneered the conversion of Little Manly Point into public open space, overturning the previous Government's plans to develop the site into a commercial complex. In a 1990 media release, David said, "As the member for Manly, I have had a longstanding interest in the future use of this site." He declared that, once completed, it "would be transformed into an important and attractive regional park"—and transformed it was.

Today Little Manly Point Park stands proudly as a much-loved space for residents, visitors and families, including my own, to come together and enjoy the beauty of the harbour. It is a true testament to the legacy David has left behind. After losing his seat in 1991, David continued to serve. He was appointed chairman of the State Local Government Grants Commission by the then New South Wales Government. When he found time, he was a passionate golfer, jogger, windsurfer and swimmer. His contributions to the community, both locally in Manly and across New South Wales, were recognised with a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to local government.

Outside of politics, David remained a passionate community member. He was a member of the Manly Rotary Club and Manly Life Saving Club. He also served on the board of the Royal Far West Children's Service. He was always a steadfast supporter of his wife, Jean, and her own distinguished service as the mayor of Manly until the council's amalgamation in 2016. David leaves behind a proud legacy of civic leadership, quiet dignity and decades of service to Manly and New South Wales. He will be remembered with gratitude and respect for a life lived in service of others. On behalf of the Manly community and the Parliament, I offer my deepest condolences to the Hay family and I thank David for his outstanding service to the people of Manly and the people of New South Wales. Vale, David Hay, MBE.

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:41): While rain might be falling here in Sydney, conditions are very different across the south of the State. Across the Cootamundra electorate, drought has taken hold. At the end of April, the New South Wales primary industries department formally declared drought across much of our region. For many farmers, it came as no surprise. They had already begun shipping in water and fodder. With feed costs high, markets are being flooded with livestock. On 5 May and again on 13 May, a staggering 8,700 head of cattle went under the hammer at Wagga's Livestock Marketing Centre. It was described as unprecedented, a record few would wish to see repeated.

That is what drought looks like. It creeps in, stripping paddocks bare, draining dams and bank accounts, and exhausting people to the core. But, unlike a flood or bushfire, there is no warning on the Hazards Near Me app. No-one rushes in with hoses or sandbags. And, still, our farmers are expected to bear the burden until it becomes politically convenient to act. We have an opportunity to change that. We cannot keep responding to disasters by waiting for them to break us. We must continue the shift from response and recovery to mitigation and preparedness.

As a State, we have already begun that shift in other disaster contexts in a multi-partisan, non-political way. The creation of the NSW Reconstruction Authority in November 2022, with its own Act, was one of my proudest achievements as the then Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery. It followed years of devastating floods, fires and storms. We do not have to look too far to see what is possible. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is regarded as nation-leading, with the authority, funding and whole-of-government focus needed to drive long-term resilience. It is time for drought to be treated the same way—not as an exception but as a recurring risk requiring the same level of coordination, investment and forward thinking. I listened closely to Minister Janelle Saffin's flood recovery update during question time today. She said:

We cannot just keep doing recovery; we have to do resilience. We have to turn it around ...

She is right, and it is a sentiment I have long shared. As I have often said since the Productivity Commission's 2014 inquiry, we spend 97¢ of every dollar on post-disaster recovery and only 3¢ cents on mitigation and preparedness. This imbalance demands a strategic shift, and we are beginning to see that change. We know the value of co-design and the importance of all three levels of government working with communities to deliver practical, place-based solutions. In the Northern Rivers, 36 projects are being delivered under the \$152 million Commonwealth Recovery and Resilience Program. They are small, community-driven initiatives but they make a big difference. Drains, pumps, raised bridges and awareness tools are modest but impactful investments.

Our farmers are doing their part. Many learned the lessons of the 2017-2020 Tinderbox Drought and invested in hay and grain storage, water and feeding-on-farm infrastructure. But farmers cannot store what does not grow. Right now, what crop is in the ground is at risk. Many in my electorate already need immediate relief, including transport subsidies for stock, water and fodder. But more than that, they need a coordinated, well-funded, long-term drought preparedness strategy that builds infrastructure, empowers communities and strengthens resilience. A fodder reserve initiative is well worth considering. The Premier, the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Recovery are welcome to visit the Cootamundra electorate to hear directly from producers about the pressures they are under from input costs to the emotional toll of waiting for rain that may not come.

Above all we must recognise that drought—like any other natural disaster—requires a serious, structured and sustained response. For many parts of New South Wales the next drought is already here, but it is not too late. We can rethink our approach and back our farmers and communities with the urgency and seriousness we would apply to any other emergency. By preparing now the task of rebuilding is not insurmountable later.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:46
until Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 12:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

LARRY WHIPPER

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Congratulations to Larry Whipper on 20 years with Community Links Wellbeing in Wollondilly. Larry's calm leadership, integrity and commitment to serving others has ensured that Community Links continues to be the trusted local organisation it is today, providing support and connection to many in our community. As Manager of Community Relationships, along with Greg Duffy Executive Officer and the broader team, Larry is deserving of the appreciation expressed by so many for the selfless work of Community Links. A quiet achiever with a strong moral compass, Larry has made an enduring impact—not just through his work achievements, but through the genuine care he shows to colleagues and community members alike. Larry's ability to lead by example, and to reflect the same qualities he once wrote about—patience, perseverance, belief and commitment—has left an enduring legacy. It's clear that his work has always been more than a job—it's been a vocation of service. Congratulations on this significant milestone, and for everything you've done, and continue to do, for our community. Larry, thank you for your dedication and wisdom, it has always been a great pleasure working with you and Wollondilly is lucky to have you.

NGUNUNGULA'S ANNUAL FOUNDATION GALA FUNDRAISER

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Ngununggula is a regional art gallery located in the historic grounds of Retford Park in the Southern Highlands. This not-for-profit gallery was established in collaboration with the State Government, the National Trust NSW, Wingecarribee Shire Council, and the local community. The gallery, its learning spaces and beautiful grounds are used and visited extensively by locals and visitors to the area, and it was the setting for the Annual Foundation Gala Fundraiser. This event raised money to provide support for the gallery's school education and community outreach programs, which are making art more accessible to the local community and allowing students to enjoy the creativity and self expression that comes with exploring the world of art. I enjoyed spending the evening with familiar faces, enjoying fine dining, art, culture, music, and

conversation about what matters to people in NSW and Wollondilly. Thank you to all the generous donors who donated prizes. Well done to the Ngununggula team for not only your hard work in bringing the night together but also your work throughout the whole year - the gallery is outstanding, and goes from strength to strength thanks to you and the support of the community.

BOWRAL MITTAGONG ROTARY CLUB

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—I was delighted to be invited to be the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong meeting on 15th April at Annesley Retirement Village. This club is involved in so many programs and projects supporting the Southern Highlands and many other regions. These include Shelterbags for the Homeless, a charity that aims to provide shelter and warmth to the homeless people of Australia by distributing portable protective sleep bags. Rotary also hosts the Model United Nations Assembly, held at Wingecarribee Shire Council for teams of Year 11 and 12 students. This event encourages students to learn about the workings of the United Nations, while they develop debating skills and gain self-confidence in public speaking. Another youth-focussed event facilitated by Rotary is the Science and Engineering Challenge and Discovery Day, held at Mittagong RSL Club. I am looking forward to attending Tulip Time in Corbett Gardens in Bowral in September this year, which is supported by the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong. Thank you to the members of Bowral Mittagong Rotary Club for your time and effort in caring for others and creating opportunities for connection.

TOMATOES WIN 9TH YEAR IN A ROW

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Ricardoes Tomatoes and Strawberries have once again proven that the Mid North Coast produces some of the finest fruit in the country, taking out first place for their Flavorino tomatoes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. To be declared "faultless" by the judges in a national competition is big surprise, as it's the ninth time Ricardoes have claimed the top tomato title! It speaks volumes about the quality of our local produce and the dedication of farmers like Anthony Sarks, his son Anthony Jnr, and Dylan Styles, who grow their crops with incredible care at Blackmans Point. Their tomatoes aren't just visually stunning, they're also packed with flavour, thanks to the team's simple philosophy of picking them ripe, just as nature intended. The win was part of a broader triumph for the Central District display, which won Best Display out of all NSW regions. With over 10,000 items and 81 crop types represented, it was a brilliant showcase of the agricultural strength we enjoy from Macksville to Gosford and beyond. Congratulations to Ricardoes Tomatoes and Strawberries!

TRAUMA TEDDIES FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—In the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, as our neighbours to the north faced floodwaters, evacuation orders, and uncertainty, a different kind of relief began its journey. Not in the form of food parcels or sandbags, but in the form of 110 hand-knitted teddy bears. Stitched with care, purpose, and compassion by the dedicated volunteers of the Australian Red Cross, the Trauma Teddies were made right here on the Mid North Coast. It was Nambucca Valley Deputy Team Leader, Helen Mower, who stepped in as the Teddy Taxi Driver, diverting her journey north to Brisbane to deliver these precious passengers. Thanks to a handful of phone calls, some logistical magic, and a whole lot of heart, those Trauma Teddies made their way into the arms of children in the Northern Rivers and Tweed Valley—regions that had been through more than any child should ever have to face. To every Trauma Teddy knitter across the Mid North Coast, I'd like to thank you. You bring comfort in a time when families are surrounded by uncertainty, giving children a soft, silent companion to hold tight.

THE 113TH WAUCHOPE SHOW

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—From the colourful creativity of the Pavilion to the horsepower and heart in the equestrian arena, the Wauchope Show was bursting with talent, tradition, and community pride. This year's Grand Parade was a beautiful display of everything we love about our rural lifestyle, featuring proud parades of cattle, horses, community groups, and the shining faces of our Showgirl and Young Woman of the Year entrants. A special congratulations to Brianna Ducker, the 2025 Young Woman of the Year, whose confidence and passion represent the very best of our region's future. Despite some challenging weather, the equestrian entrants didn't falter. The show arena's energy was high, from the elegance of Hack classes to the thrills of Show Jumping and the skill of Campdrafting. Across the grounds, there was something for everyone. The raw strength of the woodchop, live sheep shearing, and the chaos of the Smash Up Derby kept crowds entertained. To the dedicated Show organisers, volunteers, stewards, and judges, thank you. Your tireless efforts behind the scenes are what make the Show such a success every year.

DANICA TYRRELL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Following her father's footsteps to a career in mining has led to Orange's Danica Tyrrell making a significant impact on the industry. Raised in a mining family, Danica's first job

was as a confined spaces entry officer at Cadia Valley Operations in 1999, an experience which confirmed her interest in mining as a future. She has since moved through different areas of the industry where her problem-solving skills and commitment to safety have been matched by her love of mining's fast-paced working environment. Danica's commitment is highlighted by becoming one of only six people in Australia to hold a Level 3 Modular Specialist Dispatcher certificate while she is now the senior site asset operations centre analyst at Newmont after being the only female in the role of dual concentrator control room operation. Danica is an advocate for women in mining, has been heavily involved in the WIMnet network, has a passion for wellbeing in the workplace and is involved in Cadia's peer-to-peer support program. Danica's impact was acknowledged in March 2025 with the Exceptional Tradeswoman/Operator/Technician award at the NSW Minerals Council's women in mining awards - worthy recognition for a trail-blazing woman.

ORANGE YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I would like to applaud Orange's Youth Action Council for pointing a spotlight on issues affecting the city's young people, and by doing so, promote diversity and acceptance within the city. With the backing of Orange City Council and through the Youth Action Council's subsidiary group Sincerely Queer, Orange has now hosted two annual Rainbow Festivals with the second building on the breakthrough success of the first. To get the ball rolling, the Orange Youth Action Council secured funding through the NSW government's 'Our Region Our Voice' Regional Youth Investment program. The 2025 festival echoed the community's overall willingness to accept diversity when its length was extended, and it garnered support from the local business community. Mr Speaker, mental wellbeing for a growing number of our community is being heavily, and negatively, impacted by forces beyond its control and this is evident in our young people, particularly those grappling with sexuality. I congratulate Orange's Youth Action Council and Sincerely Queer for their willingness to start a conversation about issues important to the younger members of Orange.

PARKES QUE CLUB

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, volunteer organisations are the foundations our communities are built upon and today I would like to bring to your attention the Parkes Que Club. Formerly a branch of Quota International, Parkes QUE Club has been doing tremendous work backing their community while also celebrating women, their careers and their advancement. While the name may have changed, QUE representing quality, understanding and empathy, the club maintains its work ethic for Parkes' younger people by throwing its support behind initiatives like Paint the town Read, Books for Babies, QUETie Teddies, the Life Education Van. Boasting around 50 members, Parkes Que Club also provides school backpacks for kids from struggling families and has helped provide 40 hearing systems to schools in Parkes, Peak Hill, Tullamore and Trundle. Their scope includes work with Safe Haven in the domestic violence sphere and QUE also works within Parkes and Forbes high schools, providing funding for the 'Making Good Choices' program. Advancing women's equality is the core of QUE Club Parkes' actions with International Women's Day Luncheon promoting the work of Parkes women. I commend the Parkes CUE Club on its wonderful work.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - KARINA MARTIN

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the fantastic entries submitted for the Ryde Electorate Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. This initiative was designed to bring families together, spark creativity and celebrate the joy our furry, feathered and fluffy companions bring us – all with an Easter twist. I want to thank every participant who shared their special snapshots, including Karina Martin, who submitted a delightful photo of her bird nestled in a beautifully decorated Easter nest. The image was accompanied by a charming caption: "Our chick likes nesting with her Easter eggs. She would love to win an Easter basket to have a bigger nest." It brought a smile to many faces and captured the light-hearted spirit of the competition perfectly. These community initiatives help foster a sense of local pride and connection, and seeing so many residents of all ages engaging in them is encouraging. I thank Karina for her creativity and participation and for making this year's competition all the more memorable. Let's continue celebrating the joy, imagination and community spirit that makes Ryde such a special place to call home.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - LARA DIN

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the creativity and community spirit shown during this year's Ryde Electorate Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. The competition invited young residents to share snapshots of their beloved pets and treasured plush toys dressed up for Easter - and the response was heartening. One standout entry came from Lara Din, who submitted a delightful photo of "Belly the Bunny," a plush toy adorned with a stylish, drawn-on outfit and cradling a beautifully drawn Easter egg. In her submission, Lara shared that Belly's birthday falls on Easter and that Belly has loved her since kindergarten. It was a sweet and thoughtful reflection of the bonds we form with our cherished toys and the joy that imagination brings to our lives. I thank Lara for participating in the competition and sharing Belly's story with the Ryde

community. Events like these remind us of the innocence, humour and warmth that children bring to our public life. I commend all the families and young entrants participating in this celebration. Their enthusiasm brought smiles across our electorate and made this Easter a little bit more special.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - LEO YUROVSKIY AND ELLA YUROVSKAYA

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating the many families across Ryde who participated in this year's Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. This fun, local tradition once again brought out the creativity of our youngest residents - and their beloved pets and plushies. I particularly thank Leo Yurovskiy and Ella Yurovskaya for their outstanding entries. Leo's Easter photo featured a plush Yoshi with bunny ears and colourful eggs, crafted by a talented 7-year-old Super Mario fan. Ella, aged 9, brought us a charming Toadette plush surrounded by festive décor. Their creativity didn't stop there. They also submitted a delightful photo of their dog dressed for Easter and another featuring a very clever magpie standing before a festive backdrop. Their captions included "She is so cute, little bunny!" and "He is looking so good in the picture with the bunny and easter eggs", which perfectly captured the season's joy. Leo and Ella's efforts were an excellent reflection of the spirit of our Ryde community - fun, imaginative, and full of heart. I thank them both for participating and for helping make this year's competition such a special one.

RYDER PETTIT COUNTRY LEAGUE RISING STAR

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—In a historic achievement for Western Country Rugby League, West Wyalong's own Ryder Pettit has officially signed a three-year development contract with the NRL Sydney Roosters. This announcement, made by Caliber Sports Group, has been met with overwhelming excitement throughout the Western Region rugby league community. Ryder, a proud team member of West Wyalong and the Western Region Junior Rugby League, has long been recognised for his standout talent. Known for his relentless work ethic, humility, and drive to improve, he now has a remarkable opportunity to pursue his NRL dream on one of rugby league's grandest stages. This milestone is a moment of immense pride for both the West Wyalong community and the Pettit family. Ryder's signing is not only a personal triumph but also a significant achievement for country athletes, highlighting that elite talent can emerge from regional NSW. Ryder has become an inspiration to aspiring athletes everywhere. His journey serves as a powerful reminder of the potential in rural communities, and as country rugby league's newest rising star, Ryder Pettit's future is bright.

COOLAMON'S YOUNG CLUB MANAGER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—John Pitiz, President of the Coolamon Sport and Recreation Club, spoke of the fantastic achievements of Tristan O'Brien over the past two years with the club since assuming the role of Secretary/Manager. His enthusiasm and "can do" attitude since saw him awarded the Young Club Manager Achievement Award. Tristan's outstanding work at the club started 2 years ago when he was offered the role when the previous manager moved to Gundagai. At this stage, Tristan was a casual bar worker who displayed initiative. The club is the local hub for gatherings, from wakes to competitions and meals with family and friends. Under his leadership, the club has become more vibrant with an income increase of over 50%, which in turn benefits the local community. This award formally recognizes Tristan's dedication, commitment, and management skills, evident in all his endeavours. CEO of the Mouties Group, the largest registered club group in Australia, Mr. Dale Hunt, and Jenny White, an industry-leading consultant in the Club industry, presented the award to Tristan. Congratulations Tristan, on your achievement as Young Club Manager of the Year.

ADDRESSING PARENTING, TRAUMA AND GENERATIONAL CYCLES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Cowra born and former NRL star Joe Williams is featured in "SEEN," a documentary about parenting shown at the Cowra Civic Centre over the Easter break. Filmmakers Hailey Bartholomew and ParentTV founder Sam Jockel challenge how we understand parenting, trauma, and generational cycles. The stories told are backed by cutting-edge research and leading experts. SEEN reveals the urgent need for parents to be genuinely present- showing that even 20 minutes of genuine connection daily can rewire the brain and foster emotional resilience in children. Mental Health crises have been on the increase and SEEN spotlights healing for families everywhere with new data show how healing the past creates a better future. Cowra's Joe Williams, aged 41, an Indigenous man and previous NRL player with the South Sydney Rabbitohs, Roosters, and Canterbury Bulldogs, battled mental illness and addiction. His attempted suicide led him to transform his approach to fatherhood and he now helps others break the cycle. To open yourself and your story to help others is a courageous and generous sharing, which I must commend.

KIAMA SLSC

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges Kiama's volunteer surf lifesavers and their contribution to keeping our local beaches safe. Monday 28th April 2025 marked the final day of the summer season for Kiama's volunteer surf lifesavers – but they were on duty right until the

final moment, rescuing a rock fisherman just three days earlier. Kiama SLSC patrolling membership grew from 84 to 102 members. I acknowledge the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club President Mr Phil Perry and all of the patrolling members. On Anzac Day Friday 25th April 2025, a man in his 40's was swept into the water near the Kiama Blowhole. Two patrolling members, Ben George and Dave Gorman, launched the inflatable rescue boat and found a fisherman floating in the water, conscious. George and Gorman transported the man to Kiama Harbour, where paramedics and emergency services were waiting. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The rescue capped off a busy and successful season for Kiama SLSC, which recorded 46 rescues and approximately 770 preventions. The club will celebrate the season's achievements at its annual presentation night this Saturday 17th May 2025 at the Kiama SLSC auditorium.

KIAMA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Kiama and District Historical Society Inc. Malcolm Bedford – An Afternoon of Old Photos and Films is on this Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2pm at Kiama Library Auditorium, Railway Parade, Kiama. Last year's event with Malcolm was so enjoyable the group has decided to tap into his store of memorabilia once more with photos of Kiama's past and present. Andrew Wilson: The History of Golf in Kiama on Saturday 21st June 2.00pm at the Kiama Library Auditorium. This presentation will cover Kiama Golf Club's 122 years its early years at Chapman Point, brief High School site and at Minnamurra. It will review some of the anecdotes and reports of interesting events and people who have shaped the club and photos from sites and highlight the challenges faced by an amateur historian in finding, recording and presenting historical information. I acknowledge and thank the Kiama and District Historical Society President and Secretary Sue Eggins, Vice President and Treasurer Tony Gilmour, Gillian Spooner, Brian Keast, Gail Taylor David Hadick, along with the two new committee members Andrew Wilson and Ros McKinnon.

LIONS CLUB OF KIAMA

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Lions Club of Kiama. The Lions Club of Kiama Inc. Cancer Care Trust recently received a much welcome \$10,000 boost from Tour de Cure. The cheque was presented during at Kiama Leagues Club. The donation formed part of the Tour's Woolworths Wheels and Walks fundraising campaign and recognised the Lions work. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the Trust were chair Gerry McInerney, current Lions Club president Cheryl Moses and Ian Chellew. McInerney, who has chaired the trust for more than 30 years, told guests how the fund began in the early 1990's as a way to honour Lions members who had died from cancer. The trust has now grown to \$300,000. Tour de Cure's Woolworths team rolled into Kiama with more than 100 riders and volunteers. All were taking part in a ride to raise funds. Since 2014, Woolies Wheels and Walks has raised over \$7.7 million and helped fund 18 cancer research breakthroughs. For the Lions Club of Kiama and for Tour de Cure, the goal is just as much about community as it is about a cure.

RAYMOND HANCOCK 2025 NSW SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I commend the outstanding service of Mr Raymond Hancock, affectionally known to the local community as 'Biggles'. Ray was presented on 9 May 2025 with a NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Award. At 97, Ray's life stands as a testament to service, dedication, and community spirit. At the age of 17, Ray enlisted in the Royal Navy as an apprentice aircraft mechanic and went on to serve as a Fleet Air Arm fighter pilot, flying Corsairs in the Pacific during the Second World War. After the war, he contributed to post-war industry as Land Rover's chief mechanic and later advised on Donald Campbell's Bluebird land speed record project. Migrating to Australia in the 1950s, as a troubleshooter for Rover Motors. Ray retired in Kenthurst, where his service continued through the Rotary Club of Kenthurst and Rural Fire Service. Ray continues to Ray remains a proud presence—supporting Rotary events and marching each ANZAC Day in full uniform, a living link to our national history. Alongside his wife Jenny, also an RFS volunteer, Ray exemplifies humility, quiet leadership, and lifelong service. I acknowledge Ray's contributions and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.

HILLS DISTRICT LITTLE ATHLETICS AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Hills District Little Athletics Centre on a record-breaking 2024-25 season. The Club registered an outstanding 940 athletes—the highest in its 53-year history and an increase from 830 the previous year. This milestone reflects the Club's continued growth, commitment to inclusion, and dedication to developing young athletes. A total of 115 athletes qualified for the Little Athletics NSW State Championships, securing 4 Gold, 8 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals—an exceptional achievement. I congratulate Savannah Cox, Cameron Batey, and Weiyi Tang of the under 13 age group, who were selected to represent New South Wales at the Little Athletics Australia National Championships in Adelaide on 26–27 April 2025. I acknowledge the induction of two new Life Members, Gavin Hilton and Greg Marshall.

I commend Club Captains Isabella West and Keegan Free for their leadership and for raising \$1,610 for Ronald McDonald House Charity. Congratulations to Athletes of the Year: Ellie Benefield, Ryan Panich, Weiyi Tang, and Savannah Cox. I also recognise Adrian West, recipient of the Keith Gray Award, and the Muscat family—Carolyn, Daniel, Caitlyn, and Mikayla—recipients of the President's Award. I thank President Nathan Scott-Rogers for his dedicated leadership.

GLENORIE DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—On 6 April 2025, I had the pleasure of attending the Glenorie District Cricket Club Annual Awards Presentation held at the Glenorie RSL Club. The event brought together members, families, and supporters to reflect on a successful season and celebrate shared achievements. This season marked several key milestones for the Club. It secured a lease with The Hills Shire Council for exclusive Saturday access to the Les Shore Pavilion—a significant step for the Club's future. The Club was awarded a \$25,000 Cricket Australia Infrastructure Grant to upgrade the nets at Les Shore Oval. This was generously matched by Mary and David Beard, who contributed an additional \$25,000, further strengthening the Club's facilities. The junior program continues to excel, with 14 of 76 players selected for Representative cricket with the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association—an achievement reflecting the dedication of Club Coach Ian Cooper and the volunteer team. Initiatives such as Cricket Blast and Glenorie Cricket Trading Cards promote engagement and inclusivity to the Club's culture. I commend the players, coaches, parents, volunteers, committee, and sponsors—and thank President Amanda Fraser—for their tireless efforts in supporting Glenorie District Cricket Club.

MS ANNABELLE HANNAN

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Ms Annabelle Hannan. Recently awarded Gunning Show Young Woman of the Year, Ms Hannan has been recognised for her unfailing and conscientious recognition of just how important community is to her. She has been an integral member of the Gunning Show Committee, bringing a revitalised sense of youth, enthusiasm, and commitment to connecting the community. Ms Hannan is currently studying her Bachelor of Radiography at Charles Sturt University and has recently been accepted into the Australian Defence Force [ADF] through a Defence University Sponsorship. It is without doubt that Ms Hannan has become a role model for young women in her community and more broadly. Ms Hannan will represent Gunning at the regional 2025 Young Woman Final that will be held in mid-March, with the winner going on to compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. I congratulate Ms Hannan on her achievements thus far and wish her well in her studies and commencement with the ADF.

LIZ PERKS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Liz Perks. The Southern NSW Local Health District [SNSWLHD] was proud to acknowledge and recognise the significant service and contribution of midwives on the International Day of the Midwife, which is celebrated on the 5th of May each year. Originally training as a general nurse at the Campden Hospital in Sydney and then heading off to experience working life in Darwin and Catherine. Following the birth of her two children Ms Perks completed further training as a midwife and took on a position at Yass. She has now been there for twenty-seven years having worked in the maternity service, the emergency department and wards. Now working as a community midwife, Ms Perks has been nominated and recognised by her colleagues for her authentic person-centred caring approach and outstanding clinical expertise being announced as the 2025 Southern NSW Local Health District Midwife of the Year. I congratulate Ms Perks on her award and wish her well at the 2025 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards that will be held in Sydney. Thank you for your outstanding service.

OTIS TRIGAS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Otis Trigas. Otis has demonstrated his strength, athleticism, and pure raw talent in gaining selection in the 2025 Freestyle Kayaking World Championships, to be held in Germany in June. Otis's passion for the sport can not only be defined by his selection to the national team, but by the gruelling and unrelenting training required to reach this level of competition. Visiting the many local waterways and rivers of Crookwell and the Penrith Whitewater Stadium to continue to develop and master his skills and techniques to adapt to assorted water conditions. It is without a doubt that Otis's family, friends, and the Crookwell community will be cheering Otis on at the World Championships. I take this time to recognise Otis's wonderful achievements thus far and wish him and the National team every success in Germany.

ELLA PEGRUM, ASHLEIGH PEGRUM, AND BRONTE KIPPAX

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to congratulate Hallidays Point athletes Ella and Ashleigh Pegrum, and Bronte Kippax, who have been selected to represent Australia at the Asia Pacific Sprint

Cup in Japan this May. The trio, who train on the Wallamba River guided by Martin Cowper and Jarred Waite, competed at the 2025 Paddle Australia Canoe Sprint Championships in Penrith earlier this year, bringing home an impressive medal haul. Bronte won five gold and two silver medals, including victories in all three under-16 women's sprint distances. Ashleigh and Ella also secured multiple podium finishes across individual and team events. All three are members of the Avoca Kayak Club and were accepted into the Hunter Academy of Sport last year. They also represent the NSW under-16 team. I wish Ella, Ashleigh and Bronte all the best as they prepare to race internationally, and I know our community will be proudly cheering them on from home.

IAN CRAN

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Hallidays Point resident Ian Cran, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday and a life of service through medicine. Born in 1925 in what is now Pakistan, Ian spent his early years in the Middle East before studying medicine in Aberdeen, Scotland. He went on to serve as a surgeon in the British Army's medical corps, with postings across Europe, the Middle East and Asia. In 1970, Ian and his family made the move to Wingham, where he accepted a role at Taree Base Hospital. At the time, he was the first fully-qualified surgeon in the region. Ian shaped surgical care locally, supporting staff training and helping bring in modern equipment. I thank Ian for his wonderful work, and wish him continued good health and happiness as he celebrates a remarkable century of life.

KANNIKA BROADBENT

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Kannika Broadbent, a talented young dancer from Forster. At just 14 years old, Kannika has been accepted into the associate program at the National College of Dance in Newcastle - a competitive program focused on commercial and contemporary dance. A student of Forster Dance Elite and Year 9 at St Clare's High School in Taree, Kannika has been dancing since the age of six, developing her skills across a wide range of styles including jazz, ballet, lyrical, and aerial work. Balancing her school studies and regular travel to Newcastle for intensive training, Kannika continues to perform locally, most recently in Camp Rock at the Manning Entertainment Centre and at the Taree Eisteddfod. Her love for dance is clear. Whether performing, training in her backyard, or encouraging her peers in class, Kannika brings energy and focus to everything she does. She is a quiet achiever with a bright future.

SHIRE RUN CARNIVAL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I acknowledge the success of the Shire Run Carnival held last Saturday in Kurnell. The event is becoming a highlight of the local sporting calendar and featured the inaugural SHIRE 10K and Shire Aquathlon alongside the returning 6km run. More than 360 runners and walkers took part, travelling from across Sydney and regional NSW to enjoy the fast, flat and scenic course along the Kurnell foreshore. The event brought together participants of all ages and abilities, supported by a great team of volunteers and the event sponsors. The Shire Run Carnival partnered with the Love Mercy Foundation, which was co-founded by Cronulla's Olympian Eloise Wellings. Proceeds from merchandise and the 6km run will support life-changing projects in Northern Uganda, helping communities rebuild after decades of war through access to clean water, healthcare, food security, and sustainable incomes. I recognise event founder Nathan Breen and everyone involved in the event that showcased the best of local spirit, fitness and fun.

DARKNESS INTO LIGHT CRONULLA

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate everyone involved in the Darkness into Light walk held in Cronulla last weekend. This event unites our community in a symbolic five-kilometre journey from darkness into sunrise, raising vital awareness and funds for suicide prevention and mental health support. Darkness into Light began in Ireland in 2009 and is now a global movement spanning more than 15 countries and five continents with more than 150,000 people participating. The Cronulla walk is part of this international show of solidarity, hope, and remembrance. Special recognition goes to chairperson of the Cronulla Committee Donna Campbell whose personal loss has driven her strong commitment to this cause and I also acknowledge her fellow volunteers whose efforts helped make the event a success. Youth mental health provider headspace, which has a hub in Miranda, is the event's primary beneficiary, with funds raised helping it providing early intervention mental health services to young people aged 12 to 25. Headspace CEO Jason Trethowan says the event is a powerful reminder that no young person should face their struggles alone.

CRONULLA POLAR BEARS WINTER SWIMMING CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I was again uplifted by joining the Cronulla Polar Bears Winter Swimming Club recently as it kicked off another season. The club was founded in 1953 and has become a fixture of our community, dedicated to promoting ocean swimming, camaraderie and fitness through the colder months. Its Sunday morning swims from May to September at the Cronulla Rock Pool bring together generations of swimmers from six-year-old Luka Tam to 88-year-old "Corncob Harry." The club is now recognised as a 'Men's

Shed' and it continues to offer connection, wellbeing and community spirit to over 200 members. With close ties to the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club, the Polar Bears have also proven to be formidable competitors, winning at least 24 of 26 South Metropolitan Championships and securing back-to-back Australian Winter Swimming Championships in 2023 and 2024 — their first consecutive national titles since the 1990s. The Club invites anyone interested to join them during the season at 9.30 on Sunday mornings. I acknowledge the efforts of president Michael Dalton and his fellow executive and committee members and wish all members a successful and invigorating season of winter swimming ahead.

TIME IS PRECIOUS 2025 BALL

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Saturday 5 April, Time is Precious held their charity ball to raise funds and awareness for bowel cancer. I was honoured to attend this event at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. The ball was a tremendous success, raising \$106,678.24 for Bowel Cancer Australia. I recognise Amy Graham and Sara Jones, for their dedication and tireless advocacy. Since 2019, they have passionately promoted awareness, encouraged early detection, improved GP engagement and advocacy for better access to colonoscopies. Australia has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world, with 1 in 15 Australians expected to develop the disease in their lifetime. I recognise and remember Sara's stepdad, Rob Bosch, who died of bowel cancer aged 50 after a lengthy battle. Time is Precious is powerful movement is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with compassion and purpose. The ongoing support from friends and families has been vital in driving meaningful change and offering hope to those affected by bowel cancer. I thank all the sponsors, donors, volunteers and speakers who made this event possible. It is a privilege to recognise and support their inspirational work.

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Saturday 3 May 2025, the people of Mackellar on Sydney's Northern Beaches voted in an election to elect members of the 48th Federal Parliament. The Davidson electorate includes parts of the Mackellar electorate, namely the people that reside in Belrose, Davidson and Frenchs Forest. I recognise Dr Sophie Scamps MP on her re-election as the Member for Mackellar, having first being elected in May 2022. I congratulate Dr Scamps and wish her every success in the years ahead serving our community. I look forward to working with Dr Scamps for the betterment of our shared community. I also recognise those who put themselves forward for election. In the order they appeared on the ballot: Lisa Cotton (Independent), Brad Hayman (Pauline Hanson's One Nation), Ethan Hrnjak (The Greens), Justin Addison (Libertarian), Amber Robertson (Trumpet of Patriots), James Brown (Liberal), Mandeep Singh (Independent), Sophie Scamps (Independent), and Jeffery Quinn (Labor). I thank each and every candidate for participating in our democracy, which is a hallmark of our Australian values.

THE HONOURABLE NEAL RAYMOND BIGNOLD 1946-2025

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise the Honourable Neal Raymond Bignold, a true public servant. Justice Bignold significantly shaped environmental and planning law in New South Wales for more than five decades. Justice Bignold is one of the fathers of the NSW Land and Environment Court. Firstly, he was part of the team that developed major reforms which led to the establishment of the Court. Secondly, he was appointed as the Court's first Senior Conciliation and Technical Assessor in 1980. Finally, he was sworn in as a judge of the Court in 1985. He served until his retirement in 2007. In 2005 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Court, Bar News reported, "Environmental law has been Neal's life. He and John Whitehouse were the founding fathers of the legislative package passed by the parliament in 1979. Neil represents the corporate memory of the court. His knowledge of case law is encyclopaedic." Beyond his legal intellect and commitment to public service, Justice Bignold was a devoted husband to Marie, a loving father to Alicia, and a cherished grandfather to Thomas. Justice Bignold will be missed, but never forgotten. His legacy will remain for generations to come.

TAMMIE CASTLES

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Tammie Castles, from Oak Flats, for being selected for the Incubator Artist Residency, at the Imaginarium in Shellharbour. Tammie, an educator and artist is a National Art School graduate specialising in drawing and sculpture. Her work explores themes of home, place, and shared memory, and in recent years, she has combined her drawing practice with ceramics to create functional art. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Tammie on this wonderful achievement.

LYN & PETER OLDFIELD

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Lyn and Peter Oldfield, from Oak Flats, for receiving an Honourable Mention at the Shellharbour City Council's Good Neighbour of the Year Awards 2025. For over two decades, the Good Neighbour Awards have recognised the

unsung heroes of Shellharbour, part of Relationship Australia's National Neighbour Day celebrations, held each year on the last Sunday of March. These awards highlight the immense value of kindness and community connections that make our neighbourhoods so special. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Lyn and Peter on this fantastic achievement.

JOHN & MITZ PEREZ

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of John and Mitz Perez, from Shellharbour, for receiving an Honourable Mention at the Shellharbour City Council's Good Neighbour of the Year Awards 2025. For over two decades, the Good Neighbour Awards have recognised the unsung heroes of Shellharbour, part of Relationship Australia's National Neighbour Day celebrations, held each year on the last Sunday of March. These awards highlight the immense value of kindness and community connections that make our neighbourhoods so special. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate John and Mitz on this wonderful achievement.

50 YEARS CAMPBELLTOWN UNITING CHURCH SOCCER CLUB

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—Congratulations to the Campbelltown Uniting Church Soccer Club, who are celebrating 50 years in our community this year. Established in 1975, CUCSC have been responsible for providing many locals with the opportunity to get involved with soccer. Currently led by Natasha Gomez, the club boasts 6 titles in their trophy cabinet and I'm sure there are many more to come. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise all of the club's life members who have contributed so much of their time and passion to the betterment of the club and the sport. Campbelltown has a proud sporting culture, and clubs like CUCSC are the backbone of this culture. So congratulations on 50 fantastic years and I look forward to seeing many more.

CAMPBELLTOWN CAMDEN GHOSTS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—I want to recognise the Campbelltown Camden Ghosts Cricket Club for their 40th anniversary this year. The Ghosts are an absolutely iconic Campbelltown team who have won 29 Premierships across all competitions, both men's and women's in their storied history. Based out of the iconic Raby Oval, which recently received the Ground of the Year award at the NSW Premier Cricket Awards, the Ghosts are going from strength to strength and continue to bring pride to our region. In their 40 years, the Ghosts have produced five Australian representatives being Ian Davis, Sarah Coyte, Lauren Cheatle, Belinda Vakarewa and Hannah Darlington, in addition to 26 state representatives and a number of international and indigenous representatives. This speaks volumes of the quality of the systems in place at this great club, currently lead by Morris Iemma and Chris Patterson, two men who understand the valuable role of sports clubs in our community. Congratulations again to the Campbelltown/Camden Ghosts on 40 wonderful years, and I look forward to seeing many, many more.

CENTRE COURT CAFÉ

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—For 21 years Tony and Roula have run the Centre Court Café on Queen Street, but next week they are moving on to new adventures. The Centre Court Café will remain under new management, who I am sure will live up to the legacy of friendliness, great coffee and great service that has been left by Tony and Roula. I thank them for their decades of service to our community and I wish them all the very best on their future endeavours.

KIRA TURNER, 2025 7NEWS YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS FINALIST

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—Congratulations to Lismore's Kira Turner on being named a finalist in the 2025 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Kira was one of four finalists in the OSMEN Furniture Creative Designs category, eventually won by Isabella Bain, of Chippendale. Kira's profile read: Kira Turner, of Lismore, is inspiring future generations and elevating First Nations representation in fashion. Kira is a Dunghatti designer who founded Choo Choo Designs, transforming Indigenous fashion. Starting with six handcrafted products in 2022, she has grown her brand to 26 unique items, collaborating with First Nations artists like Aunty Val Smith and Tywana Caldwell. Kira already has earned major recognition, including the Young Change Agents Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She supports her community through cultural events and sponsorships while promoting Indigenous artistry. Featured by ABC News and a keynote speaker at the Indigenous Empowerment Summit, Kira hopes to become Australia's first Indigenous bridal designer. The 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards are a celebration of youth achievement, recognising and rewarding young individuals up to and including 30 years of age who have made outstanding achievements in their chosen field of endeavour.

UKI'S VIC BIANCHETTI CLUBHOUSE RESTORED

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—Congratulations to Uki Sport and Recreation Club and Tweed Shire Council on the recent completion of the Vic Bianchetti Clubhouse restoration and resilience project. In Council's Tweed Link magazine's lead article detailed the handover of keys from Acting General Manager Naomi Searle and the club president Duaine Bianchetti. The flood-resilient clubhouse restoration, worth more than \$1.2 million, included a new roof, improved drainage and plumbing, an upgraded electrical system and replacement solar panels. This project was funded by the Office of Sport's Priority Needs Program and Essential Community Sports Assets. Naomi said the clubhouse was inundated with several metres of water and to be able to return it to the Uki community with improved flood resilience measures is a credit to all involved. Duaine said the project result was leaps and bounds above anything his committee thought would happen. "With this facility, not only will it benefit our Uki sports clubs, but it is a facility for the entire Tweed community," Duaine said. "We now have the capacity to hold and host functions of all types, from weddings to presentation nights and fundraisers." External work will continue on-site with an official opening later this year.

PCYC LISMORE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY A SUCCESS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I wish to congratulate PCYC Lismore on its successful community open day held on Saturday, 5 April. Established in 1937, the Lismore PCYC has had as its mission to 'empower young people to reach their potential through police and community partnerships'. This great organisation is a registered charity with volunteers running many of its activities, including gymnastics, martial arts classes, Safer Drivers courses, and police programs such as Fit for Life and Fit for Change. The community open day, held in the former Trinity Catholic College carpark, was a fundraiser with money raised invested in youth through a variety of programs. These programs include: Fit for Life – an early morning intervention program focussing on physical and mental wellbeing and nutrition. Fit for Change – a school-based program combining fitness activities with a healthy lunch. Improved access to the Safer Drivers Course. Workplace training initiatives such as the recent fully-funded barista course with students from Lismore High School and an upcoming first aid training course with Casino High School students. Highlights of the open day were a gymnastics showcase, kids' come-and-try sessions, martial arts and boxing demonstrations, a fundraising barbecue and raffle, and face painting.

MRS PAM LEOV 40 YEARS ON

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Mrs Pam Leov from Culcairn Public School, who has reached an incredible milestone - 40 years of dedicated service in teaching. From a very young age, teaching was Mrs Leov's childhood dream, nurtured through many hours of imaginative play with her dolls and toys. In 1990, Mrs Leov and her husband Mark along with their four children, made Culcairn their home, where she continued her remarkable journey as an educator. Throughout her career, Mrs Leov has witnessed and adapted to many significant changes in the education landscape - from the early days of teaching students using cassette tapes and phone calls to the introduction of video lessons later in her career. Mrs Leov found great joy in teaching kindergarten, cherishing the opportunity to guide young students as they grow and flourish both academically and personally within in a single year. Well done Pam, 40 years of great service!

LISA & HOPE CHATER – KETTLEBELL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate both Lisa and Hope Chater who have proudly earned their places on the 2025 Girevoy Sport Australian Association [GSAA] National Team. This marks the third time the mother-daughter duo will represent Australia on the world stage. Lisa and Hope are fundraising to help cover costs of representing Australia at the WKSF Kettlebell Sport World Championships in Milan, Italy this June. Thanks to the generosity of the community, their past fundraising efforts have enabled them to compete internationally in Portugal (2022) and Hungary (2023), where they proudly brought home a combined total of 5 Gold, 5 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals for Australia. In addition to their success, Hope was honoured as the Joss 2024 Young Achiever of the Year for her sporting achievements in Kettlebell Sport in 2023. I wish Lisa and Hope continued success and all the very best in their upcoming competitions.

TUMBA BIKE AND BLOOMS CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Emma Ernst and the dedicated team at 'Tumba Bikes and Blooms' as they celebrate five remarkable years of growth and resilience since opening their doors in 2020. This milestone is a testament to their inspiring journey, particularly given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Emma's innovative vision, supported by her team and the Tumbarumba community, has transformed a modest nursery into a thriving hub of activity. What began as a nursery, expanding into a florist, is now offering e-bike rentals for exploring the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail, board games for all ages,

and a variety of community programs, bringing people together. With a passionate team of five staff members, along with regular work experience students, Emma and her team have made significant contributions to the local town. Their efforts also include supporting disability groups, cultivating produce and sharing knowledge – all of which enrich Tumbarumba's community spirit. Thank you, Emma and Team, for the positive impact you are having on Tumbarumba! Your contributions are the petals that make our community bloom, and your passion carries us forward!

ATTENDING THE ANZAC DAY SERVICES AT MOUNTIES CLUB - MT PRITCHARD 2025

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 25 April 2025 I also had the honour of attending the ANZAC Day Services at the Mounties Club in Mount Pritchard. The day began early, with a quiet, reflective atmosphere as members of the local community gathered to pay their respects. The Mounties Club, known for its strong ties to the area, was a fitting location to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. As the ceremony unfolded, a sense of unity filled the air. The sounds of the Last Post echoed through the gathering, sending a wave of solemnity through the crowd. Veterans stood proudly, their faces etched with both pride and the weight of history, as they were surrounded by their families and friends. The younger generations and students, showed up in support, eager to learn about the sacrifices made by the men and women who fought for our freedoms. The service was a reminder of the importance of remembering our history, not just for those who lived it, but for those of us who carry its legacy forward. I thank the Board of Directors and Management of Mounties Club for the kind invitation.

MS THUY VINH NGUYEN

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Ms Thuy Vinh Nguyen's life story reminds us of the power of resilience, perseverance, and how small acts, carried out with a positive mind, can make a big difference to ourselves and those around us. Ms Nguyen arrived in Australia in 1981 from Vietnam after the war. She survived a perilous journey while pregnant and faced immense challenges during her early settlement. With quiet strength and a deep resilience, nourished by her love for family and the hope of a better future, she navigated those early hardships and built a new life. Embracing life with renewed spirit after a personal loss, Ms Nguyen rediscovered her strength and sense of purpose. She joined the Vietnamese Women's Association, where she actively takes part in a range of activities. Through this involvement, she learns and performs traditional Vietnamese dance at community events, contributes to charitable efforts, visits hospitals and nursing homes, and helps bring joy to children and the elderly with songs and gifts during special occasions such as Christmas. I recognise and thank Ms Nguyen for being a gentle source of inspiration and for all the wonderful work she continues to do for our community.

COMMEMORATING ANZAC DAY AT TRIGLAV MOUNTIES - ST JOHNS PARK 2025

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—In the afternoon of 25 April 2025 I also attended the Triglav Mounties in St Johns Park. This event, though different in its own way, held the same level of reverence and solemnity. The community gathered once again, united by a shared purpose, to honour the men and women who fought in the wars, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Triglav Mounties, a place with deep historical significance, created a setting that felt both familiar and sacred. These ceremonies transcend time and place. The stories of bravery and the sacrifices made during the wars were brought to life through moving speeches, and the sharp sound of the bugle resonated in the room, reminding us all of the cost of freedom. The atmosphere at Triglav Mounties was intimate and deeply moving, and it was clear that this ceremony, like the others in my local area, was more than just a ritual it was a vital expression of gratitude and remembrance that connected the past with the present. I thank Mr Peter Krope and Triglav Mounties for the kind invitation.

ROCKDALE UNITING CHURCH

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism)—I rise to commend the Rockdale Uniting Church for its strong commitment to building a welcoming, multicultural community in Rockdale. Easter, a time of renewal for many—religious and secular alike — is a fitting moment to reflect on the Church's role in bringing people together. For over 40 years, its congregation has become increasingly diverse, reflecting the richness of modern Australia. Today, it includes members from Nepalese, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Korean, and Fijian backgrounds. The Church's spirit of inclusion extends beyond worship. It hosts a range of cultural activities—Irish dancing, Chinese line dancing, Flamenco—and offers English classes to support new arrivals. I also want to recognise Ms Dorothy Mammatt, the Church's Council Secretary, who recently celebrated her 98th birthday. Dorothy has been part of the Church for over 80 years. She was married there, had her children Rodney and Julie christened there, and later saw her daughter married in the same church. Her story speaks to the deep sense of belonging the Church nurtures across generations. I commend the Rockdale Uniting Church for uniting people through kindness, community service, and shared humanity.

TIM WATSFORD

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism)—I congratulate Tim Watsford on his appointment as CEO of the St George Illawarra Dragons. With nearly 20 years in professional sport, major events, and commercial strategy, Tim brings valuable experience to the role. His background includes senior positions with Supercars, the Northern Territory Major Events Company, and the NRL—where he helped deliver major events like the State of Origin and the Grand Final. As a lifelong supporter of the St George Dragons, I'm pleased to see the club gain such strong leadership. Tim has a proven ability to grow commercial opportunities, boost fan engagement, and deliver high-quality sporting experiences. He joins a proud club, built on the hard work of former leaders, players, and supporters. I look forward to seeing the Dragons thrive under his guidance and wish him every success in the years ahead.

BAYSIDE MEN'S SHED

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism)—I take this opportunity to recognise the remarkable skill and generosity showcased by the Bayside Men's Shed. Each year, the hardworking volunteers at the Shed spend countless hours using their carpentry skills to build colourful toys for children in need. For the past four months, a team of six volunteers have worked tirelessly to make over one hundred different toys, from planes to miniature furniture for doll's houses. This year, these toys will be donated to the Samaritan's Purse charity which sends shoeboxes full of toys and necessities to disadvantaged children to countries all around the world. The Bayside Men's Shed provides opportunities for men from all walks of life to come together to spend time with each other and work on meaningful community projects. Year after year, the men at Bayside Men's Shed demonstrate what skill, teamwork and kindness can achieve. I sincerely thank the volunteers for their craftsmanship and generosity.

STEPHEN FORD

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Stephen Ford for their remarkable performance at the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the Northern Beaches hosted the State's premier Surf Life Saving Competition, where thousands of dedicated competitors, spectators and volunteers gathered to take part in a wide range of surf lifesaving activities. It was a true celebration of skill, teamwork, and community, showcasing the incredible talent and commitment of all involved. Stephen placed 2nd in the 40-44 Single Ski, 40-44 Ironperson and 130 Ski Relay, and received a bronze medal in the 40-44 Board Race and 130 Taplin Relay alongside Nathan Croal and Stew O'Regan. This remarkable achievement demonstrates is a testament to their exceptional skill, determination, and relentless commitment to excellence in surf lifesaving. It reflects not only the high level of performance but also the value of discipline and perseverance that are so integral to the surf lifesaving community. Congratulations Stephen on your exceptional effort, you are asset to the surf lifesaving community, and your dedication and hard work are inspiration to us all. I look forward to your continued contributions to and excellence in the surf lifesaving.

STEW O'REGAN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Stew O'Regan for their remarkable performance at the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the Northern Beaches hosted the State's premier Surf Life Saving Competition, where thousands of dedicated competitors, spectators and volunteers gathered to take part in a wide range of surf lifesaving activities. It was a true celebration of skill, teamwork, and community, showcasing the incredible talent and commitment of all involved. Stew was awarded State Champion in the 45-49 Double Ski, placed 2nd in the 130 Ski Relay and received a bronze medal in the 130 Taplin Relay alongside Nathan Croal and Stephen Ford. This remarkable achievement demonstrates is a testament to their exceptional skill, determination, and relentless commitment to excellence in surf lifesaving. It reflects not only the high level of performance but also the value of discipline and perseverance that are so integral to the surf lifesaving community. Congratulations Stew on your exceptional effort, you are asset to the surf lifesaving community, and your dedication and hard work are inspiration to us all. I look forward to your continued contributions to and excellence in the surf lifesaving.

THOMAS CHALMERS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Thomas Chalmers for their remarkable performance at the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the Northern Beaches hosted the State's premier Surf Life Saving

Competition, where thousands of dedicated competitors, spectators and volunteers gathered to take part in a wide range of surf lifesaving activities. It was a true celebration of skill, teamwork, and community, showcasing the incredible talent and commitment of all involved. Tom was awarded State Champion in the 2x1km Beach Run, U15 2km Beach Run and the U15 Board Relay alongside Mitchell Chalmers and Will Munro. This remarkable achievement demonstrates a testament to their exceptional skill, determination, and relentless commitment to excellence in surf lifesaving. It reflects not only the high level of performance but also the value of discipline and perseverance that are so integral to the surf lifesaving community. Congratulations Tom on your exceptional effort, you are an asset to the surf lifesaving community, and your dedication and hard work are an inspiration to us all. I look forward to your continued contributions to and excellence in the surf lifesaving.

MOREE DUO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Moree duo Alf Newman and Darrel Smith, on be named in the in the first ever Australian Aboriginal over 50s cricket side. Their team competed against over 55s players from across Australia and New Zealand to play in the tri-nations series held in Mackay. The competition enables cricketers veterans to continue their sporting journey, to celebrate competitor's unique heritage, for the enjoyment of players and spectators alike. I congratulate Alf and Darrel on their successful selection, with Alf opening the bowling at the series and Darrel named Vice-Captain for the national Aboriginal team. The pair have a long history of playing cricket and have tested success, playing in an all-Indigenous team that was the best in Moree in the early 90s. Congratulations also to those behind this initiative, with this being a year long collaboration between Veterans Cricket Australia Over-50s Board and the Australian Aboriginal team committee. I commend Alf and Darrel for their hard work and commitment to the sport of cricket over many years, taking up this challenge and representing your team and country.

RECOGNITION OF SALAM QARO

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Salam Qaro on his tireless advocacy for the local Ezidi community and support for new Australians. Salam and his wife Fyral moved to Australia in 2019, as part of the refugee resettlement program from northern Iraq and now calling Armidale their home. I congratulate Salam on his significant contribution to assisting the lives of others. Salam draws from on his own experiences to represent his community, being their voice to politicians about issues affecting Ezidi people, both in Australia and abroad. Similarly, Salam has taken on profession roles to support Ezidi people, including working in Settlement Services International, as well as for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors [STARTTS], a non-for-profit organisation assisting refugees suffering trauma to rebuild their lives in Australia. I commend Salam on his hard work and commitment to bettering the lives of others, whilst embracing all that Australia has to offer. Salam and Fyral have started their own family here and established a bakery business in Armidale, being a true refugee success story, sharing their Ezidi traditions and cultures with their local community.

RECOGNITION OF TILEAH MCGRADY

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Tileah McGrady on being the first woman of Moree Boars team to play 100 club games and being part of the winning side of the first ever Ladies Tackle team, against Dungowan Cowboys in the Group 4 competition. I congratulate Tileah on this historical milestone for the Boars, where Tileah was Vice Captain and half-back against the Cowboys squad, with the side overpowering Dungowan 28-4. Since starting with the Boars in 2014, Tileah has scored an amazing 36 tries, kicked three goals and has won two premierships in League-Tag previously. I commend Tileah on her hard work and commitment to her team and sport and importantly, on being a leader and inspiration to her fellow team members and to each of the younger players coming through.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY AWARDS

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—It is with pleasure that I congratulate our local nurses and midwives who were recognised at the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Awards as part of International Nurses Day. Director for nursing and Midwifery Kim Maddock recognised the extraordinary compassion and commitment to excellence that the award winners demonstrated in their profession. International Nurses day celebrates nurses and midwives whose talents extend not only to an immediate emergency but far beyond clinical care. At NBMLHD we know our all nurses and midwives have a depth of skill and unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of quality. We have the reassurance of knowing that at times when we in Penrith need it most we are in the very best hands. Congratulations to Midwife of the year: Caitlin Brown; Aboriginal Nurse of the Year: Jemma Sutton; Nurse of the Year: Rukshana Sheikh; New to Practice Nurse of the Year: Asmita Thapa and Nicolas Graham; Lifetime Achievement Award: Glenise Shelley.

GUY KELLY

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Mr Guy Kelly, a firefighter in my electorate, who recently received a Unit Commendation For Courageous Action award. This Commendation is awarded to those who act courageously during dangerous or difficult situations. The commendation is specifically for a group of firefighters acting as a unit who have distinguished themselves through courageous actions in challenging circumstances. I would like to thank Mr Kelly for his extraordinary service and congratulate him on this well deserved award.

FAÇON CONSCIOUS COUTURE FESTIVAL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—On April 12 2025, Crown Street, Newcastle became a runway for sustainable fashion. Façon's inaugural Conscious Couture Festival aimed to raise awareness of slow fashion and mindful decision-making as well as provide a platform for local and emerging designers to showcase their talent and creations. The festival included three runway shows, second-hand fashion markets, and workshops to get the community involved in sustainable style and conscious consumption. The event brought so much joy, colour, and creativity to our streets. Thank you to the team at Façon for organising this festival and making high-end couture more accessible to my community.

HAMILTON FIRE STATION 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Hamilton Fire Station is marking its 100th birthday this week. The station originally opened on the 14th of May 1925. For over 90 years, Newcastle firefighters worked out of this building and dispersed from it at times of emergency, saving the lives of Novocastrians every day at any hour. Following the 2016 construction of a new, modern headquarters in Lambton, the station sounded its final siren and the Hamilton firefighters moved to the new building. I thank all of the former and current firefighters that rescue the people of Newcastle from dangerous situations. You are the unsung heroes of my community and your hardwork and service does not go unnoticed.

STRONG PILATES

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Jake Harris and Lily Barnett from STRONG Pilates Broadmeadow who hosted a massive pilates session on Dixon Park Beach, to mark International Pilates Day and to promote the new LKSD store opening in Kotara. The massive pilates class attracted more than 750 registrations and despite the wet weather, hundreds still turned up on the beach for the sunrise session. Mr Harris and Ms Barnett are striving to make pilates accessible to all and what better way to do that than inviting everyone to join them on our beautiful coastline. I hope to see more events like this in the future. I commend everyone that got involved and I thank the whole team at STRONG Pilates and LSKD for organising this class.

BADGERYS CREEK SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I thank and commend the Badgerys Creek senior school leaders who visited NSW Parliament yesterday and for partaking in my annual Badgerys Creek Senior School Leadership Forum. The forum was comprised of approximately 50 student leaders from Caroline Chisholm College, Erskine Park High School, Glenmore Park High School, Irfan College, Mamre Anglican School, Oran Park Anglican College, Oran Park High School, St Benedict's Catholic College and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College. I thank the staff members from the respective schools who attended to supervise their students. I was delighted to talk to the students about my background and life as a Parliamentarian, followed by a tour of NSW Parliament House. I extend my gratitude to my Parliamentary colleagues Shadow Minister The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Shadow Minister Stephanie Cooke MP and Stephanie Di Pasqua MP for attending as guest speakers and enthusiastically sharing their knowledge and background with the students. I thank the Parliamentary staff for assisting with the logistics required for the day. I wish all the student leaders the very best in their academic endeavors.

GLENMORE PARK HIGH SCHOOL P&C

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend the Glenmore Park High School P&C for organising a barbeque on election day and raising over \$1200 for new school resources. This is an extraordinary effort and achievement which will provide better tools and opportunities for the students. This outcome is a testament to the care and passion the members of the P&C and all involved have towards the education of the children. I recognise the great effort required on such a busy day to man the grill, serve up delicious food and have everything running smoothly. I wish the Glenmore Park High School community the very best.

WOW DAY 2025

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—Wednesday 21st May 2025 is Wear Orange Wednesday [WOW] Day, a day in which we recognise the importance and extraordinary work of our NSW State Emergency Service units in my electorate of Badgerys Creek and across NSW. We are grateful for what our emergency services continuously do to save lives and create safer communities, particularly before, during and after storms and floods. This year marks the incredible milestone of the 70th anniversary of the NSW SES. I was pleased to have met with some NSW SES personnel in NSW Parliament yesterday and show my appreciation for all that they and their colleagues do. On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I thank all NSW SES volunteers and wish them the very best as we celebrate this historic anniversary.

WELLINGTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE DANCING WITH THE STARS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge four members of the Wellington Correctional Centre's team, who changed their uniform for dancing shoes to raise funds for the Cancer Council on Saturday 3 May 2025. Kirra Downey, Jorge Dearmer, Aimee Kennedy, and Darcy Ryan stepped out of the centre, their comfort zones and onto the stage, driven by a cause that holds deep personal meaning for each of them. With the Stars of Dubbo event not being held this year, the passionate team committed to dancing in the Stars of Orange event. Coached and guided by the talented Zoe from Orana Dance School in Dubbo, and with just one group rehearsal under their belts, the team not only wowed the audience with their performance, but they also raised over eight thousand dollars for an incredibly important cause. Already committed to dancing their hearts out, the team became even more motivated to make Zoe proud after learning their beloved coach was facing her own battle with a cancer diagnosis. Congratulations Kirra, Jorge, Aimee and Darcy on your courage, commitment, and community spirit in stepping up and dancing for a cause you believe in.

SNARE'S NEWSAGENCY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge the Snare Family who celebrate seventy years of their Newsagency business in Dubbo. On 9 May 1955, Joe and Connie Snare opened the doors to their first newsagency on Tamworth Street in Dubbo. What began as a humble venture would grow into a legacy. One that would not only shape their family's future but leave a meaningful mark on the Dubbo community. While Joe and Connie worked tirelessly to build a successful business, they were also proudly raising their family of eight children. Snares Newsagency was the second newsagency in NSW to adopt a computer, and the business has continued to progress and innovate throughout its seventy years of operation. Although Joe sadly passed in 2015 and Connie in 2019, their legacy lives on through Snare's Newsagency, now located on Talbragar Street, where their son Peter is one of the familiar faces behind the counter. I extend my congratulations to Peter and the Snare family on this remarkable milestone. While many changes have shaped the landscape of small business over the years, one constant has remained. The warm welcome and friendly greeting that customers can always count on from the Snares!

ALEX MCGRATH

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Alex McGrath who has been selected to represent Australia in the Virtus Global Games. The Virtus Global Games are the world's largest elite sporting event for athletes with intellectual impairments, held every four years. Seventeen-year-old para-athlete and Dubbo Christian School student, Alex is a rising star in track and field, driven by a deep passion and love for his sport. His commitment to training is second to none, dedicating himself to rigorous sessions three to four times a week. On Australia Day 2025, Alex was honoured as Dubbo Regional Council's Young Sportsperson of the Year, a recognition of his already impressive list of athletic achievements. Most recently on 10 April 2025, he competed in the under-twenty's para men's shot put, earning a silver medal with a new personal best. Alex is certainly one to watch! His selection for the Virtus Global games is incredibly well deserved and there is no doubt he will make everyone proud! Congratulations Alex, I look forward to following your journey at the games.

SIERRA SEALE – STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I am pleased to recognise the outstanding achievement of Sierra Seale of North Willoughby, who has represented New South Wales with distinction on the national stage. Sierra earned selection to the NSW PSSA Athletics Team and proudly competed at the School Sport Australia Track & Field Championships. Taking part in the long jump, she demonstrated great athleticism, focus and determination, performing at the highest level against some of the nation's best young athletes. In recognition of her efforts and excellence in competition, Sierra received a State Representative Award. This well-deserved honour reflects not only her talent and hard work, but also her commitment to representing her state and community with pride. We

are proud of Sierra and her accomplishments. I congratulate Sierra on this remarkable achievement and wish her every success as she continues to pursue her sporting ambitions.

NORTH SHORE MULTIPLE BIRTH ASSOCIATION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I want to acknowledge the North Shore Sydney Multiple Birth Association and their outstanding Easter Eggstravaganza, held at Artarmon Kids Cottage. The Association has long been a vital source of support, connection and advocacy for families raising twins, triplets and more across Sydney's North Shore. Run entirely by volunteers — all of whom are parents of multiples themselves — the Association offers peer support, parent education, playgroups, and community events that help families navigate the unique challenges and joys of raising multiple children. Their Easter Eggstravaganza is one of the highlights of the year — a chance for families to come together, meet others walking the same path, and share in the spirit of community. From crafts and games to the Easter Bunny's visit and the beloved egg hunt, the day brought smiles to children and parents alike. I thank President Lianda Stoel and the dedicated team behind the Association for their commitment and care. With over 40 years of service, their contribution to our community is deeply valued, and I am proud to support their continued work to connect, uplift and empower families with multiples.

BUPA WILLOUGHBY ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I am pleased to acknowledge the Bupa Willoughby Anzac Day Ceremony, a heartfelt tribute held within our local aged care community. This ceremony brought together residents, staff and families to honour the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women. Bupa Willoughby, situated on Sydney's Lower North Shore, is more than just a care home. It is a vibrant community where respect and remembrance are integral to daily life. The Anzac Day ceremony provided an opportunity for residents — many of whom have personal or family connections to military service — to reflect and share their stories. The event featured traditional elements such as the Ode of Remembrance, the Last Post and the laying of wreaths, creating a space for collective reflection and gratitude. Ceremonies like this are vital in preserving the legacy of the Anzacs and ensuring that their contributions are never forgotten. I commend the staff and volunteers at Bupa Willoughby for their dedication to honouring our veterans and fostering a spirit of remembrance within the home.

LAWN BOWLS SUCCESS FOR LYN BRIGGS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations must go to Lyn Briggs of Iluka, for her outstanding win in the 2025 NSW Senior State Women's Singles Championships for lawn bowls on April 7. Mrs Briggs is a member of Club Iluka and plays lawn bowls twice a week. She qualified for the Championships after her much-deserved successes at local, regional and state levels. At the Cherry Street Sports Club in Ballina, Mrs Briggs succeeded in a close match against her opponent, Raweang Namutwong from Charlestown, with a 25-20 win. Mrs Briggs took up the sport of lawn bowls seven years ago, and while she has won smaller tournaments, the Championships title is her biggest sporting achievement to date. Mrs Briggs credited her win to the unwavering support of Club Iluka, her friends and her husband. When Mrs Briggs returned home after the competition, her husband was waiting with a bottle of wine, however she decided on a cup of tea instead after her exhausting day on the green! Congratulations on your efforts and remarkable achievement in the Championships Mrs Briggs. I'm sure we will see more successes in the future.

YAMBA CWA CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise and congratulate Yamba CWA on their remarkable 80-year milestone. Yamba CWA members, along with members from Maclean and Grafton branches, enjoyed a celebratory lunch at the Argyle Hotel in Maclean. Yamba CWA was formed on 6 March 1945, with Mrs A Cook as the first branch President. Early meetings were held in the Literary Institute Building. Mr William Agar, a well-known Yamba identity, left the CWA a parcel of land at the end of Clarence Street when he passed in 1944. The CWA William Agar Park is in this spot today, under the stewardship of Clarence Valley Council. Between 1968 and 1977, the CWA owned and met at two shops in High Street that were home to the Baby Health Clinic and a local hairdresser. The Yamba Lions and Rotary Clubs, Yamba Bowling Club and Chamber of Commerce helped with the building maintenance. Many fundraisers have been held over the years, and members have always enjoyed a variety of activities, such as handicrafts, cooking, and studies on countries, flora, fauna and foe. The branch currently meets monthly in the Community Health Centre. Congratulations on your 80 years of history!

FAREWELL INNER WHEEL CLUB

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise the Grafton Inner Wheel Club for their valued contributions to the community for almost 30 years. Chartered in November 1995, the Grafton Inner Wheel Club has been a foundation for friendship, service and fundraising for the local community and national

and international emergency relief. The Club has regularly donated funds to Cord Blood research and the Cancer Council, local flood and fire emergencies, plus annual donations to the Westpac Helicopter Service, United Hospital Auxiliary and many other local charities. Funds have mostly been raised at the Club's very successful annual Jacaranda Luncheon that saw many guests and other Inner Wheel Club members travelling from afar to attend. Recently, the Club held a morning tea to present donations to local charities that provide vital critical care assistance. Recipients were Carol Bailey and Annemaree Pye from Grafton United Hospital Auxiliary, Sharon Ahrens and Cheryl Mawhirt from Grafton SES and Reeve West from the Westpac Helicopter Service Support Group. Unfortunately, due to declining memberships, the Grafton Inner Wheel Club will hand in their charter at the end of June. I congratulate and thank all the members who have worked tirelessly in their fundraising efforts.

GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AT ST CHARBEL'S PUNCHBOWL

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to attend the Good Friday Liturgy Service at St Charbel's Church in Punchbowl. This event brings together people of all ages from across the Maronite Catholic community. The Good Friday service is a significant moment in the Easter calendar, marking the passion and crucifixion of Christ. This is an important time, not only for the Maronite Catholic Community in New South Wales, but for Catholics and Christians right across the globe. Christ's sacrifice reminds us of the importance of showing grace and kindness to all, as well as serving others in all that we do. I would like to thank the Monks of St. Charbel's, Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, alongside Reverend Father Assaad Lahhoud, Superior of Saint Charbel's Monastery, who were gracious hosts on the day. They continue to lead the congregation with great wisdom and faith. It is always a pleasure to attend this sacred service and I thank St Charbel's for their warm hospitality on the day. I look forward to attending again next year.

MARONITE CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to John Chedid on his re-election as President of the Maronite Catholic Society of Australia. John's strong leadership continues to inspire the Maronite Church and its many faithful across Australia, particularly throughout New South Wales. Being re-elected unopposed is a true reflection of the trust and deep respect he has earned within the Lebanese community. I also warmly congratulate the newly elected Board Members: Joseph Mekary, Dr Anthony Hasham, Anne Farah Hill, Lichaa El-Chidiac, Amal El-Hamwy, Nadia Obeid, Laudy Farah Ayoub, Jocelyne Charbel, Joseph Zalloua, Barry Barakat, Pierre El Sokhn, Joe Younan, Lanya Chedid, Damian Kaltoum, and Elie Dib. Each of these individuals brings with them not only valuable experience and skill but also service, faith and pride in their history. Their dedication will no doubt strengthen the mission of the Maronite Catholic Society. As this new chapter begins under the guidance of His Eminence Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay, I wish the entire board every success. I hope that your work will be marked by unity and compassion as you continue to serve the Church and the broader Maronite community.

NAHED SOLIMAN - MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary member of our community, Nahed Soliman, Service Manager of St George Meals on Wheels in Peakhurst. For over five decades, St George Meals on Wheels has been a cornerstone of support for the elderly and disabled in the St George and Rockdale areas. They have provided support to thousands of individuals. Under Nahed's leadership, the service has flourished, coordinating over 150 volunteers to deliver meals, companionship and care to those in need. In 2017, Nahed's unwavering commitment was formally recognised when she was named the Local Woman of the Year for the Oatley electorate. This highlighted her exceptional contribution to our community. Her tireless efforts ensure that vulnerable members of our society can maintain their independence and dignity. She embodies the very best of what it means to serve others. Once again, I would like to thank Nahed for her dedication over the years. Her work reminds us of the impact that one individual can have on the lives of many.

PAUL MCGRATH

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I wish to congratulate Paul McGrath for his 20th anniversary as a radio host for the Kogarah community radio station 90.1 NBC FM. Paul started out in the scheduling and programming department at 2SM, worked as a Program Director at 4BK in Brisbane then 2KY, 2GB, 2UW, 2DAY FM before joining 90.1 NBC FM in 2005. Paul has spent 20 years as a broadcaster because he believes in radio's power to give people a voice and foster community participation. Paul is amazed at the progress he and the station have made, evolving from analogue broadcast desks to a fully digital broadcast chain. Overall, he believes the most significant change over the past 20 years has been the rapid advancement of technology. Paul knows that his 74,396 listeners trust 90.1 NBC FM because the radio station is rooted in community, broadcasting with the belief that true radio thrives when it serves the heart of its people. Once again, I wish to congratulate Paul McGrath for 20th anniversary as a radio host for the Kogarah community radio station 90.1 NBC FM.

BEXLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to recognise Bexley Public School's 138-year history of leading young Australians on the right track in life. Founded in 1887 with 103 students in two classrooms, the school expanded in 1892 to accommodate 310 students. A new building was added in 1917 and by 1921 enrolment had grown to 1,340 students. Unfortunately, during the war, the school suffered a resource shortage, with 28 classes and only 22 classrooms. However, after the war, a new two-storey brick building was constructed on the other side of Forest Road, with an infants' building added next to it in 1934. A pedestrian bridge was needed to get the children over Forest Road safely, but because of the second war, it was only completed in 1953. Finally, in 1995 came the amalgamation of the school on the eastern side of Forest Road. The school has seen many great students and teachers alike, including former Olympic gymnast Bruce Sharp and Ron Rathbone, former Mayor and councillor on Rockdale City Council. Again, I would like to recognise Bexley Public School's rich history and remarkable contributions to our local community as a cornerstone and foundation for growth.

ANZAC DAY EXHIBITION BY ST GEORGE ART SOCIETY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to congratulate the St George Art Society on their recent ANZAC Day Exhibition. The idea started online during COVID by past President Don Kibble and was reignited by SGAS Committee Member Peter Michalandos. The St George Art Society, led by President Jan Schuster-Callus, approached Ramsgate RSL ANZAC Committee with the idea of an ANZAC Exhibition at their club. With the cooperation of Ramsgate RSL and the commitment of the SGAS committee and members, it all came together and was held at the Ramsgate RSL Club on April 17th in the Gallipoli Room with 19 artists and 33 artworks from several different mediums. Judge Keith Wells (Director of Ramsgate RSL) awarded Yvonne Ferguson the winner with Jillian Jessen and Jan Schuster-Callus as finalists. On Anzac Day, the winning artworks were displayed alongside a slideshow featuring all the pieces in the exhibition. The artists had written what had inspired their artworks, including stories of family members that were there, which was very emotional to both the Judge and viewers. I wish to thank the SGAS artists who paid tribute to our veterans through this special exhibition.

BEECROFT FIRE STATION - OPEN DAY 2025

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—Firefighters are essential in protecting NSW communities, responding annually to emergencies such as fires, rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and severe weather events. On the 10th of May 2025, I had the privilege of attending the Beecroft Fire Station's Annual Open Day. There was a great turn out of families, with many young children excited by the prospect of seeing the inside of a fire truck. Beecroft Fire Station has been integral to the community's emergency response infrastructure, providing essential fire and rescue services to the local community. We owe significant gratitude to the firefighters who put their lives on the line for our safety. I therefore commend Beecroft Fire Station for their efforts to ensure community safety in Epping. Its ongoing presence underscores the commitment to community protection and emergency preparedness in New South Wales.

SEBASTIAN JAMES BALL – NATIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I acknowledge Sebastian James Ball, a Year 12 student from The King's School located in the Epping electorate. James has been selected to represent New South Wales at the 30th National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra this year. Chosen from a highly competitive field, Sebastian is one of 120 students nationwide to attend this prestigious forum at the Museum of Australian Democracy. Sebastian's selection followed a rigorous two-stage process, including an advocacy submission on discrimination law and a successful vote at the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention. At the national event, students will examine the role of Sections 51(ii) and 90 of the Constitution in shaping Australia's fiscal federalism. Sebastian's interest in constitutional law reflects a deeper commitment to public service and reform. Through leadership roles such as Debating Captain and participation in academic forums like the Twelve Club and Student Colloquium, Sebastian has developed a thoughtful and informed voice. He credits the support of his teachers, particularly his NSCC mentor Ms Squillacioti, for nurturing his understanding of law and governance. I commend Sebastian on his achievement and look forward to his continued contributions to civic life.

ARDEN ANGLICAN SCHOOL – HIGH RANKING IN TOP 100 SCHOOLS

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—Arden Anglican School in Beecroft has been recognised as one of Sydney's top 100 primary schools, securing 6th place in the 2024 Better Education survey. This achievement underscores the school's strong academic performance, which is complemented by its commitment to providing an affordable, faith-based education. Arden's focus on academic excellence, combined with its Christian values, offers students a solid educational foundation in a supportive environment. The school's affordable fees set it apart from many other private institutions, providing families with quality education at a lower cost—an essential factor

for many in the community. The Better Education analysis highlights Arden alongside top-performing independent and government schools, reflecting the school's dedication to both intellectual and spiritual development. Arden's success is a direct result of the hard work of its educators, the support of its families, and its strong, values-driven approach to learning. We congratulate Arden Anglican School for this recognition and commend its continued commitment to delivering an affordable, faith-based education that prepares students for future success.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—Last month I was most fortunate to welcome student leaders across my electorate as a part of a Secondary Student Leadership program at NSW Parliament. This unique experience invited students to tour Parliament House, having the opportunity to observe Question Time firsthand and immerse themselves in a full Parliamentary experience. These leaders exemplified an abundance of responsibility, initiative, and maturity. Hearing their stories, it was evident to see the deep passion and potential these young people bring to their schools and communities. Their eagerness to engage in thoughtful dialogue was both impressive and inspiring. Together, we spoke of the need for strong leadership and the need to foster the skills and resilience required to face the challenges of tomorrow. It was inspiring to see such enthusiasm and curiosity from the next generation of changemakers. I have no doubt that the leadership skills they are developing will serve them well in the years to come. I thank the students from St Euphemia College, LaSalle Catholic College, Wiley Park Girls High School, Bankstown Senior College, and Bankstown Girls High School for their participation and look forward to seeing the great things they will accomplish!

CHESTER HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE 55TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre on its 55th Anniversary. Reaching this incredible milestone is a testament to the dedicated service the Centre continues to provide. On April 5th, 2025, I celebrated this special occasion with my colleagues David Saliba MP, Lynda Voltz MP, Councillor Rachele Harika, and the wider Bankstown community. For 55 years, the Centre has been a vital part of our community, offering essential services to children, youth, families, and older residents in Bankstown and the surrounding areas. From parenting programs and early intervention services to youth and family support, emergency relief, OOSH childcare, vacation care, and respite care, the Centre truly impacts lives at every stage. Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre remains committed to addressing poverty, distress, and misfortune in Canterbury Bankstown and beyond. It collaborates with other agencies and guides individuals to the necessary support. The Centre works to create an inclusive, equitable community, empowering people to shape their futures while actively seeking funding to meet local needs and ensure it can continue to provide essential services. Once again, congratulations to the management and team on this remarkable achievement!

CHEMIST DISCOUNT CENTRE BASS HILL

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On 4 April 2025, I had the pleasure of visiting Chemist Discount Centre in Bass Hill, a trusted local pharmacy providing accessible and essential health services to our community. Tracey Alexakis, Director of Chemist Discount Centre, gave me a tour of the centre, which is far more than just a chemist. It's a one-stop health hub, offering a range of services under one roof. I even braved the needle as Narmine Daniel, the Pharmacist in Charge, conducted a quick diabetes and lipid screening. It was a great reminder of how pharmacies are making it easier for people to stay on top of their health without needing to visit a GP. One of the most impressive services offered is Point-of-Care Testing [POCT], which provides fast, convenient checks for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, COVID-19, Strep A, Influenza A & B, and more. Services like this are helping detect health issues early, improving outcomes and easing pressure on the broader healthcare system. Community pharmacies are often the first stop for healthcare advice and support. I commend the Chemist Discount Centre team for their commitment to improving health and for ensuring in our area.

NEPEAN VIEW CLUB

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I wish to acknowledge the remarkable work of the Nepean VIEW Club for their outstanding contributions to the local community but particularly their recent Cake Stall initiative. The dedication and hard work of the Nepean VIEW Club in organising and running their cake stall not only showcases the spirit of community but also highlights the importance of coming together to support meaningful causes. The funds raised will support the education of disadvantaged Australian students through The Smith Family's Learning for Life Program. This event not only brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate and enjoy delicious homemade treats but will also demonstrates the power of grassroots action in creating lasting

educational opportunities. The Nepean VIEW Club continues to demonstrate the power of collective effort, and their work enriches the lives of many in our area. We applaud the members of the Nepean VIEW Club for their continued dedication and generosity. Your contributions are deeply valued, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of your ongoing efforts. Thank you for all that you do for the Penrith community!

ALAN MCCLURE

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—I would like to acknowledge one of our last surviving World War Two veterans, Alan McClure, who at the age of 101 turned out for a special pre-Anzac Day commemoration at the Wagga Wagga Men's Shed on April 24. Queensland-born Mr McClure served in the Light Anti-Aircraft Unit on Thursday Island, remembered as a dangerous place that was the second-most bombed site in Australia. He served bravely and well but is quoted as saying, "I don't believe war achieved anything and no good ever comes from it." After being discharged from the army, Mr McClure moved to England where he met his wife Cherry, the couple going on to have children Chris, Lyn and Karel. A talented artist, Mr McClure worked as a cartoonist in metropolitan and regional newspapers and is treasured by his friends at the men's shed for his excellent sense of humour. Mr McClure had compassion for Vietnam veterans, so it was appropriate that the event at the men's shed was also attended by veterans, Tony Robinson, Werner Folke and Tony Mason. Thank you to all for their service and thank you also to men's shed member Colin Neyland for sharing Mr McClure's story.

JILLIAN FERGUSON

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Congratulations to Humula's Jillian Ferguson, recipient of a NSW Government Community Service Award recognising decades of service to her community. It was an honour to present this award to Jillian in April to recognise her tireless contribution. For more than 20 years, Jillian has been active in the Humula RFS, serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Catering Officer and Communications Officer. As part of a dedicated team, she has helped to protect her community and is particularly proud of her role in the creation of a striking and unique mural on the fire shed, representing the fight against fire and recovery after the fire is out. Jillian is active in the Humula Progress Association and a former volunteer with the Humula Public School P&C. Always working for the betterment of her community, Jillian has acknowledged her husband Ian Ferguson for his support and thanked her friend Alma Anderson as a key partner in their community development work. Jillian says her award is representative of a can-do community which always "comes together to support each other". Small communities thrive because of people like Jillian, and on behalf of Humula and surrounds, I thank her for doing so much for so many.

CHALDEAN BABYLONIAN NEW YEAR

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On 6 April, I had the honour of attending the 7325th Akitu Festival—also known as the Chaldean Babylonian New Year—in Edensor Park. This vibrant celebration was not only a tribute to thousands of years of history and culture, but also a moment to recognise the academic achievements of outstanding HSC and university graduates within the community. The Chaldean people, with roots in ancient Babylon and Mesopotamia, carry a proud legacy of contributions to civilisation—excelling in fields like architecture, law, astronomy, and the arts. Despite enduring displacement and persecution, the Chaldean community remains strong, united by a shared commitment to preserving its identity and traditions. Led by the Chaldean League, this festival is a powerful reminder of resilience, renewal, and cultural pride. It was inspiring to see the next generation honoured alongside a celebration of heritage that spans millennia. Events like this shine a light on the enduring spirit of communities who continue to enrich Australia.

GREENWAY PARK HARMONY DAY VISIT

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—I recently joined the wonderful community at Greenway Park Public School to celebrate Harmony Day — and let's just say, I now have a newfound respect for the art of making snow cones. It was a pleasure to help out on the snow cone stall alongside the dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students. Between working the ice machine (which I may or may not have wrestled into submission) and handing out armfuls of syrupy orange goodness, my hands may have been stained orange, but it was all part of the fun. Schools right across the Leppington electorate marked Harmony Day this year with food, music, colour and connection — celebrating the many cultures and communities that make our area so special. Harmony Day is more than a date on the calendar — it's a powerful reminder that everyone belongs. A big thank you to the Greenway Park PS community for inviting me to share in such a fun and meaningful day.

MIDDLETON GRANGE PRINCIPAL HALLIE BAXTER FAREWELL

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—We all know that teachers are the quiet architects of our future—shaping young minds, nurturing confidence, and lighting the spark of lifelong learning. So today, it's with a heavy heart that my community says farewell to one of the finest among them—Miss Hallie Baxter. Hallie has led Middleton Grange Public School in my electorate with strength and warmth since its very first day back in

2009. She didn't just build a school—she built a community. The presence of a dedicated teacher can change the course of a child's life. Hallie has done that time and again—offering not just education, but encouragement, belief, and care. Now, after 16 years, she's heading north to greener pastures—quite literally—to be closer to her partner, her cows, and her next adventure as Principal of Coffs Harbour Public School. Hallie, we wish you every success. You leave behind a legacy that will last long after your final day at Middleton Grange Public School, and I have no doubt that the young minds at Coffs Harbour will be in good hands.

THE PAGE FAMILY

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—The Page Family have been involved in the Pittwater Baseball Club for over 10 years. Katie and Jayson, along with their children Jocelyn, Jaxon, and Kolton have each contributed to the success of the club. Katie and Jayson both serve on the board of the club where they help to improve the experience for all players. Katie manages uniforms, merchandise, and sponsors while Jayson helps with day-to-day operations. Both umpire on the weekend and have coached teams over the years. All three children have played for the club, with Jocelyn and Jaxon also representing at higher levels. Jocelyn now helps to coach a junior team and hopes to encourage other girls to get involved in baseball. Having come from the US where baseball is a national sport and ubiquitous, the Page Family has so much knowledge to give back to the club and help grow baseball on the Northern Beaches. They have also found a real sense of belonging in the Pittwater Baseball community. I would like to thank Katie, Jayson, Jocelyn, Jaxon and Kolton for their dedication to Pittwater Baseball Club and all their hard work to make our community a better place.

JENNY PARKES

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—Jenny Parkes is an outstanding community member who has been heavily involved in the State Emergency Service for the past 6 years. Look for something that was engaging and exciting, Jenny signed up to the SES and has never looked back. She runs an annual 'Women Helping Women' workshop where women are taught skills that can be used in emergency situations. The idea for a workshop was born out of a catastrophic storm that caused torrential downpour on our Northern Beaches where several elderly women called for help. These elderly women had recently had tradesmen visit their house to clear out the gutters and pipes but now found that the work had not been completed properly. These women spoke to Jenny who gave them tips on how to release the water pressure, ultimately saving the roof of three homes. Jenny was recently nominated for the Innovation Award at the SES International Women's Day Award Ceremony for her work in this area. I would like to sincerely thank her for her innovative contribution, hard work and service to the Pittwater community as we celebrate Wear Orange Wednesday next week to celebrate our SES volunteers.

CALLUM MUNNS

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—He might only be a youngster, but Callum Munns is already "giving back" to the sport he loves. Callum was a worthy nominee in the category for the June Darke Refereeing/Umpiring Distinction (Junior) Award held as part of the recent Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council Annual Sports Awards. He is a junior Aussie Rules umpire with the Bathurst Giants AFL Club and Central West AFL. In 2024 Callum umpired at all levels of the AFL Central West competition from Under 10s, U12s, U14s and Youth Girls in the junior competition. His debut as a senior umpire came when he was appointed to officiate as the central umpire for the Senior Women's competition and he was also appointed as a boundary umpire for the Senior Men's Tier 1 competition. As a result of his exceptional performances, Callum was rewarded and given duties officiating in the Under 12s and Under 14s Preliminary Finals and Under 12s and Under 14s Junior grand finals. Well done Callum and good luck with your career in charge of the whistle.

JASMYN NANKERVIS

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Congratulations to Jasmyn Nankervis who has been named the 2025 Bathurst Young Woman Ambassador. Faced with an extremely tough competition and impressive entrants, Jasmyn was shocked and humbled to win the competition and begin a 12 month journey that will take her across the state to various shows and the next level of competition at zone finals. Jasmyn was a member of Bathurst Guides for more than 12 years and an ongoing contributor to the Royal Bathurst Show and Evans Arts Council. As a former Bathurst Youth Mayor and councillor as well as a volunteer for many local community groups, Jasmyn has cemented herself as an integral part of the Bathurst Community. After finishing school in 2024, Jasmyn is the first in her family to take on tertiary education by studying for a Bachelor of Sports Management at the International College of Management, Sydney. Her dream is to, one day, get into an events or operations role within motorsport. A very fitting career for Bathurst, the home of the car racing. Congratulations Jasmyn, enjoy this opportunity to showcase your knowledge and contributions to the community, learn important life skills and meet new people.

ELIZABETH MILLIGAN

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—One of the highest honours a sportsperson can receive in the Bathurst region is the Jean Alexander OAM Award for Administrative Excellence. I am proud to acknowledge that Elizabeth Milligan has taken out this award as part of the recent Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council Annual Sports Awards. Elizabeth won the accolade for her services to the sport of hockey having been an outstanding member of the Bathurst Hockey Association for several decades. Her passion for administration has always been clear, lending her accounting expertise to all aspects relating to finances of the Association. Elizabeth has also been a past president of the Bathurst Hockey Association and has been honoured with Life Membership to the organisation while also being acknowledged with Life Membership to Bathurst Women's and South Bathurst Hockey Clubs. On the playing field, Elizabeth also plays for Bathurst at club, district and Masters, but also represents the Australian Capital Territory at nationals and has done so for many years. Last but not least, Elizabeth also organised the umpiring for juniors and seniors which is a role that all too often goes without recognition. Congratulations Elizabeth on a job well done.

BRETT MCKENZIE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—I would like to congratulate Brett McKenzie of Millers Forest for his outstanding achievement in the NSW WesTrac Global Challenge Heats. The Global Challenge Heats pit heavy machinery operators against each other to showcase their skills across a range of challenges. Nationally, two winning operators are chosen to compete overseas for the Global Challenge Trophy. Brett was one of 10 finalists in the state competing in challenges designed to test the skill, accuracy and agility of competitors on their equipment. Brett performed superbly in the NSW Heats, finishing first in the Compact Track Loader challenge, securing his place in the finals where he placed fifth overall. Three machines were used in the NSW Final event: a Cat 320 Medium Extractor, a Cat 972 Next Generation Medium Wheel Loader with Payload, and a Cat 255 Compact Track Loader While Brett didn't ultimately take out first place, his success to date was a tribute to his skill and work ethic. Well done Brett.

DR TERRI PETERS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—I would like to commend Dr Terri Peters for her 35 years of service to the East Maitland community. Dr Peters achieved her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Sydney in 1977. She subsequently practiced at the Royal Newcastle Hospital for three years before moving overseas to Malaysia for two years. On returning to Australia she joined the George Street Family Medical Clinic with her husband Dr Robert Peters, taking over the practice in 1984. For thirty six years she has engaged in all aspects of general medicine with her particular interests of mental health care, men's health and preventative medicine. Dr Peters has steadfastly cared for the East Maitland community until her recent retirement at the end of 2024. Dr Peters is a highly skilled physician who will be sorely missed by the community. We wish her well in her retirement from general practice.

MAITLAND AQUATICS CENTRE MELISSA SWEENEY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to Maitland Aquatics Centre staff who were nominated in key awards at the recent Royal Life Saving Awards. The national awards were held in Sydney with a staggering 66 finalists across 14 categories being recognised. The Aquas, as the awards are known, are designed to honour excellence across the sector, from lifesaving sport to leadership and cultural inclusion. Maitland Aquatic Centre staff member Melissa Sweeney who won Pool Lifeguard of the Year for her proactive leadership, lifesaving skill and dedication to safety, beating a field of 24 finalists. Another finalist from Maitland was Aquatics officer Kathleen Weldon who was a finalist for Swim Teacher of the Year. The larger team at the Maitland Aquatic Centre also made the finals for Excellence in Training and Education. Congratulations to Melissa and all the Centre staff for their recognition at the Aquas.

50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise several members of our community who have been performing the role of Justice of the Peace for 50 years. Local residents, Philip Hogan, Robert Gilligan, Barry Hacker, Faye Eldridge and Michael Ryan have been witnessing and certifying documents for members of the community since the mid 1970's. The main role of a Justice of the Peace in the community is to witness a person making a statutory declaration or affidavit, and to certify copies of original documents for any number of legal purposes. The community is indebted to each of these outstanding citizens for their remarkable dedication to serving the community for more than five decades, with many called upon after hours to perform this vital role. More than 150 Justices of the Peace, from the Class of 1974, were honoured recently at a special

ceremony at NSW Parliament House, marking their 50 years of service to the community. I would like to thank Philip, Robert, Barry, Faye and Michael for their faithful service to the community.

MRS JILL HISCO – LOCAL LEGEND – LORD HOWE ISLAND

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise a legend of the Lord Howe Island community. For the past 50 years, Mrs Jill Hisco, now in her 87th year, has been a stalwart of the community and has been passionately involved in organising wreaths for Anzac Day for the local school and the RSL. Jill is also a part of the island's successful Australia Day Sandcastle competition and Christmas Nativity Scene. Jill and late husband, Ken initially came to the island in the 1980's to support the Adventist Church community and their love for the island, and its community, grew stronger and stronger. After a brief time away, Jill, Ken and the family, returned to the island in the 1990's to call the island home. Jill's son, Dean, who spent 16 years as the island's ranger, is married to Roslyn, a fifth-generation islander and shortly Jill will become a great grandmother to a seventh-generation. Dean, Roslyn and daughter Kayla now run the successful Lord Howe Environmental Tours, which Jill and Ken helped establish in 1999. A true community legend, I thank Jill for her faithful service.

AUSTRALIAN TALENT FILM INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 10th of May 2025, it was a pleasure to join leaders of our film, media and performing arts sector at the Australian Talent Film International Awards [ATFIA] in Blacktown. A night of glitz and glam, the ATFIA celebrates outstanding talent across our community. The ATFIA encourages aspiring filmmakers, musicians, artists, directors and crew. The ATFIA provides a platform to acknowledge the dedication of these individuals and showcase their masterpieces with our domestic and international media community. It was exciting to think that the next A.A. Rahman, Pallavi Sharda or even Shah Rukh Khan might have been amongst us! I was proud to see diverse voices from our Western Sydney community recognised at the Awards ceremony. Our community feature people from all walks of life, and it was wonderful to see this translated into their work. Sharing these unique stories in film and tv, not only offers a fresh and creative perspective, but helps to empower individuals. Congratulations to Prasath Varatharajah, CEO of AP Group and ATFIA Founder, and the hardworking ATFIA team for orchestrating this fantastic event. I commend you on your efforts to support our local artists.

SMITHFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH - ANZAC DAY 2025

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 25th April, I was honoured to address hundreds of veterans, students and families at the Anzac Day Dawn Service hosted by Smithfield RSL Sub-Branch. More than 100,000 Australians have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our freedom and values. 8,141 Australians lost their lives in the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, from 62,000 Australian deaths throughout the First World War. The annual Dawn Service at Smithfield RSL is a moving service to honour their memory. Commencing at 4:30am, I joined Smithfield RSL Sub-Branch members and families on the walk from the RSL to McCarthy Memorial Park. I was honoured to give the keynote address and lay a wreath alongside active and returned Australian Defence Force personnel, as well as students from local schools, including Smithfield Public School and St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School Smithfield. Together, we remembered all those who continue to serve our nation in times of war and in peace keeping efforts. Thank you to Bill Cruwys OAM, President, and all members from Smithfield RSL Sub-Branch for organising this important commemoration for our Prospect Electorate community. At the going down of the sun, we will remember them. Lest we forget.

HARMAN FOUNDATION - HER HOUSE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Sunday 11th May, I was pleased to address hundreds from our Western Sydney community for the Harman Foundation's annual fundraiser, HER House, at Bowman Hall, Blacktown. Founded in 2013, the Harman Foundation is a conscientious, giving and driven community organisation that supports our multicultural community and offers culturally-sensitive support services in the Prospect Electorate and across Western Sydney. The Foundation aims to alleviate human suffering in our multicultural community resulting from grief caused by trauma and loss. In their selflessness, Harman Foundation Co-founders Harinder Kaur OAM and Maninder Singh have taken their personal experience of loss and brought comfort to people all around us, who live and work in our community and who are in need. Throughout the last decade, I have been immensely proud to see the Harman Foundation's range of services develop to include direct peer support with trained volunteers, bereavement and family support services that build harmony and resilience, through to seniors and disability support services frameworks to foster confidence and enable independence. My heartfelt congratulations go out to Harinder and Maninder, as well as all Directors, contributors and volunteers at the Harman Foundation on another year full of accomplishment and success.

TONGA NETBALL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—What a day for Liverpool, as we welcomed the second Mo'onia Gerrard Netball Cup to our community—hosted here for the very first time! I offer my warmest congratulations to the incredible team at NSW Tonga Netball for putting together such a powerful celebration of culture, sport, and community. Kicking off with an Anzac opening service and courtside march led by Tevita Levaki and the Tonga Parish Brass Band, the day featured food stalls and teams representing various Pacifica communities. It's not just about what happens on the court. It's about creating opportunities for young women—particularly from our Pacific communities—to lead, to play, and to thrive. I had a chance to chat to some of the amazing women on the executive committee about their vision to empower young women through netball. NSW Tonga Netball has been going from strength to strength, and I look forward to working alongside them to grow participation and access to sport across South West Sydney. Special thanks go to the Liverpool City Netball Association, the players, volunteers, and sponsors who made the day possible. It's proof that Liverpool is the place to be for inclusive, grassroots sporting excellence.

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Every year, our community comes together and dons orange for Wear Orange Wednesday or WOW Day, to celebrate the fantastic work of our local SES units. Our State Emergency Service (SES) units are the quiet heroes of our communities—always ready to step in whenever and wherever disaster strikes. They work around the clock in some of the toughest conditions to keep people safe, protect homes, and support recovery efforts. Their selfless service is a reminder of the strength and solidarity that defines our emergency response in New South Wales. Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of seeing the dedication of Liverpool's SES unit—ably led by Gunnar Hardy—up close and I can definitely say that they are local heroes. As Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services, I have been lucky enough to see that spirit statewide. Our units aren't just active during a crisis, there is weekly training and preparation work, and ongoing community engagement and education that is done by our units across NSW. Today and every day, we say thank you to all our SES units and volunteers for the fantastic work that you do.

SRI OM CARE MOTHER'S DAY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Mother's Day is a special occasion in all of our communities. We recognise and celebrate the mums, grandmothers and mother figures that form the backbone of our support systems. However, for those disconnected from family geographically or otherwise, local organisations play a huge role. Sri Om Care—a remarkable community organisation committed to supporting seniors with care, dignity and cultural connection. I had the pleasure of attending their beautiful Mother's Day celebration at the Hilda Davis Senior Citizens Centre in Liverpool. It was full of joy and honoured the mothers, grandmothers and carers who have given so much to their families and our communities. Sri Om Care plays an invaluable role in the lives of older Australians, particularly those from South Asian backgrounds. Through aged care services, wellbeing programs, and community gatherings, they foster connection, respect and inclusion—values that were on full display during Monday's celebration. Events like this remind us how important it is to honour our elders, not just with words, but with care, time and respect. I thank Sri Om Care for their ongoing work and for the warmth and hospitality they extended to all of us on the day.

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School in North Strathfield. Our Lady of the Assumption first opened their classrooms in Term 1 2015 to just 70 students and six staff members. The school has since flourished into a thriving community and now welcomes over 430 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 each day. I acknowledge the school leadership including Principal Ms Siobhan Van Den Nieuwenhuizen and Assistant Principal Ms Carmen Gulli. Siobhan and Carmen care deeply for their students and are truly passionate about education in all that they do. I sincerely thank the dedicated teachers and support staff at OLA for their tireless work ensure that our students are offered the very best foundation for their educational journey. The success of the school is a testament to their hard-work and commitment to their students. Congratulations to the teachers, staff, students, and families of Our Lady of the Assumption North Strathfield. I wish the entire community all very best as the school continues to grow.

ESPRESSO 2047

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge Espresso 2047, a beloved café in Drummoyne that has become a community hotspot for their freshly brewed coffee and warm hospitality. Since taking over the business in 2024, owner John Christopoulos has brought fresh energy and vision to the café. One of his first moves was to introduce the iconic \$2.47 espresso, an affordable nod to the Drummoyne postcode that

has resonated with the local community. John and the Espresso 2047 team's commitment to quality, service and community connection has made Espresso 2047 an outstanding local establishment. It has become more than just a café, serving as a place for friends and family to gather over an affordable cup of coffee. On behalf of our community, I sincerely thank John, his family and the staff at Espresso 2047 for their tireless efforts. I wish them all the very best.

DUE PASSI ITALIAN STREET FOOD

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge a beloved local café and eatery in Abbotsford, Due Passi Italian Street Food. Due Passi has grown into more than just a café, offering freshly brewed coffee and delicious Italian flavours that have become renowned in our community. Each meal is made with only the freshest ingredients that are prepared in house by the team of masterful chefs. The success of Due Passi would not be possible without the tireless dedication of owner Gus, and his family. Gus moved to Sydney in November 2013, bringing with him a deep passion for food and a dream to operate a small coffee shop that delivered a taste of Italy in his new home. It's an inspirational story. I sincerely thank the hard-working Due Passi staff for their commitment to friendly customer service that leaves an impression on every customer. Congratulations Gus, his family and the Due Passi team. I wish them all the very best.

LANE COVE MEN'S SHED

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker - I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work that the Lane Cove Men's shed do not only for the community but also for men's mental health. I commend them for their innovation and creativity. I hope their stall at Lane Cove Plaza makes plenty of trade this Saturday.

THE LANE COVE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – Female Football Week was a tremendous success in highlighting the growth of women's football, particularly in Lane Cove. The Lane Cove Football Club celebrated the rapid growth of female participation last week and I wish to congratulate them in bringing more women into the sport and strengthening the community.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – Last Sunday was Mother's Day. Truly mothers are the driving force of our world's progression. As we children get older our mothers let us go and spread our wings. Despite their worry that we may fall, they pick us up again and then cheer us on even more. Nothing compares to the role mothers play in the development of our future.

RESCUE OF THE MONTH - SPENCER WATSON

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate Spencer Watson and his efforts with fellow lifesavers and lifeguards in Surf Life Saving NSW February's rescue of the month. February's award was given to a joint effort between North Bondi SLSC and Bondi Surf Club. The rescue involved several members of the two clubs showing astute teamwork. On February 15th a man who had evaded police on land entered the water near North Bondi surf club. With significant concern for his safety four individuals took action. Spencer, a Bondi patroller, was key in communication lines during the rescue as the man looked to be floating into their flagged area. Thanks to Spencer and the other individuals involved the man was safely transported by ambulance. We appreciate their tremendous work in fostering the safety of NSW's beaches. Thank you Spencer

PAULINE GARRAWAY - WENTWORTH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I would like to acknowledge Pauline Garraway of Wentworth for her remarkable contribution to community life through over three decades of volunteer service. Since 1994, Pauline has been a dedicated volunteer with Wentworth District Meals on Wheels—delivering meals, supporting staff, attending committee meetings, and helping to coordinate events and fundraising efforts. Her 31 years of continuous service are a testament to her steadfast commitment and generosity. Pauline's community spirit extends far beyond Meals on Wheels. She gives her time to Murray House Aged Care Facility, volunteers weekly at the Old Gaol, and plays an active role on the committees of both the Wentworth Rotary Op Shop and Pioneer Homes. In every role, she brings compassion, leadership and tireless energy. Pauline is a quiet achiever whose efforts have enriched the lives of many across Wentworth. She exemplifies the true meaning of service. Thank you, Pauline, for your outstanding dedication to the wellbeing of others.

KOORI KNOCKOUT CRS

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government)—I rise to commend the forthcoming installation of a Blue Plaque at Camdensville Park in St Peters, commemorating the first Koori Knockout—the largest annual First Nations sporting event in Australia. What began in 1971 as a grassroots rugby league carnival

founded by Aboriginal players excluded from other competitions, has grown into a powerful celebration of community, culture and connection. Since then, the Knockout has flourished. Each year, it draws over a thousand players from across the country across men's, women's and youth divisions. More than 40,000 spectators gather to share in this joyous display of talent, pride and kinship—making it one of the largest gatherings of First Nations peoples in the nation. I thank Blue Plaques NSW for recognising the Knockout's extraordinary legacy through this unique program—one that not only signposts our area's rich history but inspires present and future generations to engage with it. I congratulate the Redfern All Blacks and the broader Koori Knockout community on this well-deserved honour. This plaque doesn't merely mark a location—it enshrines a story of resilience and cultural strength for generations to come.

NORTHERN BEACHES WOMEN'S SHELTER 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, 2025 is a significant year for the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter, marking 15 years of providing crisis accommodation, safety, and essential services to women across the Northern Baches fleeing domestic and family violence. The impact of the Women's Shelter cannot be overstated. It is about more than just providing crisis accommodation — it is about restoring hope. It is a lifeline for women facing unimaginable circumstances, offering them a pathway to rebuild their lives, reclaim their independence, and rediscover their dignity and joy. Like all great organisations, the team behind the Shelter - staff, volunteers and board members - are some of the most dedicated people you'll ever meet. Their work doesn't make headlines, but its impact is deeply felt by every woman whose life is changed. Mr Speaker, the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter was established by the community, for the community – but it also the community that ensures its survival. As we acknowledge this 15-year milestone, I implore the Members of this House to ensure that organisations like the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter are properly supported so that they may continue their work — not just now, but well into the future.

MARIA GENFORD

Mr JAMES WALLACE (Hornsby)—It's not often that a short stretch of fence becomes a landmark in the community. However, that's certainly been the case with Maria Genford's back fence. During COVID lockdowns, Maria and her family could no longer hold the driveway dawn service that they hosted at their home in Mount Colah each Anzac Day. Instead, she set up a display on her fence and the surrounding nature strip with flags, poppies and crosses. She also asked her neighbours to share photographs and stories of their family members who had served, which she displays on the fence along with tributes to members of her own family. Maria's displays have continued to grow in the years since, as the community continues contributing tributes to their loved ones. And while her Anzac and Remembrance Day displays will always be the most meaningful and well-loved, Maria has also begun creating displays to mark Halloween, Christmas, and Easter, as well as a special dinosaur display for the school holidays recently. These displays have become a staple of Mount Colah, with neighbours and visitors often stopping to take in the displays. Thank you Maria for sharing your creativity with the Mount Colah community.

CONGRATULATIONS ARIA DOR-SHIFFER, JOSH CATTERALL AND KIEREN TEAGER - GREY WOLF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr JAMES WALLACE (Hornsby)—Congratulations to Aria Dor-Shiffer, Josh Catterall and Kieren Teager, Cub Scouts at the 1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group, who have achieved the Grey Wolf Award. The Grey Wolf Award is the highest award for Cub Scouts. To receive the award, Aria, Josh and Kieren assisted with activities, participated in camps, demonstrated their skills in Bushcraft, Bushwalking, Camping, and six special interest areas, and led a four-hour adventurous journey. During their time in Cubs, both Aria and Josh spent 16 nights on camp and hiked more than 60km, while Kieran spent 19 nights on camps and hiked 76km. To do this by the age of 11 is outstanding. These hikes and camps, often in challenging conditions and weather, helped Aria, Josh and Kieran to grow and develop great resilience during their time in Cubs. I also want to acknowledge their Cub Scout Leader Darren Heath for his strong leadership of the group and his work in guiding these Cub Scouts to this excellent achievement. Aria, Josh, and Kieran's achievements are very impressive. Congratulations Aria, Josh and Kieran, and all the best on the next stage of your Scouting journey.

GYMEA COMMUNITY AID AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise Gymea Community Aid and Information Service ("GCAIS") for receiving nearly \$50,000 in funding through the NSW Government's Youth Opportunities Program. As one of only 16 organisations to receive a grant under this program, GCAIS will deliver the Uniting Generations project which aims to empower young people to lead and participate actively in their communities. The Uniting Generations project came about as a result of GCAIS' already successful Empowering Youth to Inspire Change program which brings student leaders together to focus on social inclusion and anti-racism. It will see young people facilitate public showcases with elders and utilise storytelling to bridge the generational divide.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard-working team at GCAIS. I recognise team members Renee Hall, Rita Napolitano, Jenny Grey, Shane Demir, Inna Bourikova and Leanne Muir, along with board members Kaye Herald, Terry Likidis, Jacqui Knight, Board Members Tracey McDonald, Tim Jenson, Eleanor Gough, Rajkumari Navis for their efforts. I commend the wonderful team at Gynea Community Aid and Information Service for their dedication to empowering and engaging our youth.

NATIONAL BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS - PARRAMATTA CITY BAND

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—I would like to extend my congratulations to the Parramatta City Band for their incredible achievement at the 2025 National Band Championships in Melbourne. Placing equal 1st in B Grade and finishing 2nd overall on count-back is an outstanding result that represents the best national outcome in the band's history. This success speaks to the exceptional talent and dedication of the band members. A special thank you to the President of the band Mitchell Issacs, Vice - President, Daniel Johnson, and Secretary Bob Clucus, whose leadership and work behind the scenes has been crucial in guiding the band to this point. My gratitude also goes out to Brendan Vella, the overall organiser, who played a key role in making this achievement possible, ensuring the band's successful trip to Melbourne and back. A massive thank you to the band's musical leader Luke Bradbury, whose direction has been invaluable to the band's performance. A special thanks to all dedicated players and everyone behind the scenes - your hard work, extra rehearsals, and passion have truly paid off. I look forward to listening to and watching the bands success in the future!

SPORTING SUCCESSES AT DUNDAS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—In today's world, where kids are often glued to their screens, it is more important than ever for students to have opportunities that encourage physical activity and outdoor play. Dundas Public School is doing just that, and it is incredible to see the amazing talent emerging from their sports programs. A huge congratulations to Kaiden for being selected for the Merrylands Parramatta Primary Schools Sports Association's Touch Football team! A great achievement. I would also like to applaud April and Aayden for their outstanding performances at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships. April, coming second in the 50m freestyle is no small feat, and Aayden, finishing fourth in the same event, will now compete in both the 50m freestyle and the 4x50m relay team in Melbourne later this year. This is truly impressive! With these results now, I cannot wait to see what the future holds for them. I have no doubt that we will be cheering for them as they compete on a bigger stage. Wishing you all the best in your upcoming competitions - keep up the great work and continue reaching for those big goals!

SYED ATIQ UL HASSAN

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—In reflecting on the remarkable life of Syed Atiq Ul Hassan, I express my deepest respect for his contributions to our Australian multicultural landscape. His passing on April 26, 2025, marks a significant loss. Syed Atiq Ul Hassan was not just a community leader; he was a force of nature who enriched our society in countless ways. His roles as a social activist, journalist and advocate for human rights paint a picture of a man deeply dedicated to making the world a better place. His legacy is demonstrated by his founding of the Chand Raat Eid Festival hosted in various locations over the years including Prince Alfred Square in Parramatta and Rosehill Racecourse. This wonderful family focussed celebration, now woven into the fabric of Australian Eid traditions, stands as a powerful symbol of his commitment and ability to bring people together. The accolades Syed Atiq Ul Hassan received, included the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 Premier's Multicultural Communications Awards. This recognition is a testament to his tireless contributions to multiculturalism, media, and community-building in New South Wales over three decades. Syed's spirit and his enduring contributions to multicultural Australia will not be forgotten.

SURF LIFE SAVING CENTRAL COAST - END OF PATROL SEASON

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—With the closing of the 2024–2025 Surf Life Saving season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the 1,917 incredible volunteers of Surf Life Saving Central Coast. Across 15 clubs, you've contributed an extraordinary 97,000 hours of volunteer patrols, safeguarding 1,178,083 beachgoers and performing 350 rescues, 2,280 first aid treatments, and over 18,000 preventative actions. We especially thank the dedicated club presidents and volunteer patrol members whose commitment to service ensures the safety of our coastline. Your efforts have resulted in no lives lost between the flags this season—a remarkable achievement. Tragically 39 tragic drownings occurred in unpatrolled areas, and this is heartbreaking statistic is something SLSCC is taking action on. Initiatives such as new 'beyond the flags' patrol programs, enhanced surveillance technologies, and accessible rescue equipment will help improve safety, particularly around rock fishing sites. With 8,248 members and a proud 86-year legacy, SLSCC continues to be a pillar of strength and leadership. Being named SLSNSW 'Branch of the Year' six times in the last decade is a testament to your unwavering excellence. Thank you volunteers for keeping our beaches safe, season after season. We are endlessly grateful.

FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I want to take this opportunity to commend the outstanding work of our local firefighters across the Central Coast. Our dedicated RFS volunteers and Fire and Rescue NSW personnel play a vital role in protecting lives and property in our community. Over the weekend, I had the pleasure of visiting the Terrigal and Saratoga Fire and Rescue stations during their annual Open Day. It was a fantastic chance for the community to meet our local fireies, explore the equipment, and learn more about fire safety and emergency preparedness. These Open Days are not only fun and informative—especially for children and families—but also a timely reminder of the broad role our firefighters play. Beyond battling fires, they respond to road accidents, perform complex rescues, and manage hazardous material incidents. I extend my sincere thanks to all our local Fire and Rescue teams for their ongoing commitment, courage, and professionalism. Your service ensures the safety of our community, and we are deeply grateful.

COAST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I was delighted to recently attend a church service on to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Coast Christian School in Bensville. It was a heartfelt and uplifting occasion, bringing together alumni, families, and community members in thanksgiving and reflection. What began as a dream to serve the community every day of the week has grown into a thriving Christian School dedicated to partnering with families in raising children in the way of Jesus. For 25 years, Coast Christian School has been more than a place of learning—it has been a nurturing community where students' faith is strengthened, lives are shaped, and families are supported. The school's journey is far from over with plans now underway to develop a high school which is great for our community. I thank Coast Christian School Principal Matt Drennan, church leaders and the congregation for including me in this celebration and commend the leadership, staff, and families—past and present—for all they have sown into this vibrant and enduring community.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Wyong Family History Group are taking part in the Australian Heritage Festival 2025. Across 4 days in April and May The Wyong Family History Group facilitate guided tours around the historic Wyong learning about its establishment and development since 1887. Commencing from 4 Railway Square next to Wyong Train Station, the tour takes about 90 minutes passing most of the town's historic buildings along the way and guides showing photographs of early Wyong. The walk will follow the Pacific Highway, before heading up Alison Road and finishing on Margaret Street at the Post Office. Wyong Family History Group was formed in 1983 by volunteers to promote, research and preserve the family history of members, visitors, and Wyong Shire pioneers. Preserving and understanding local history is crucial for community identity, engagement, development, and connecting with the past.

DR NATALIE GORDON

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—I want to congratulate Broken Hill intern Dr Natalie Gordon on winning the 2025 Fay Newell Scholarship. Dr Gordon is a Ngunnawal woman whose family hails from Goulburn. Originally a teacher, after surviving a cancer scare Dr Gordon she studied medicine, which took her to a placement at a hospital in the Northern Territory before moving to Broken Hill for an internship. She has a great passion for Aboriginal health, and firmly believes that rural people need to have better access to doctors who care about their community. Dr Gordon has therefore applied to become a Rural Generalist, through the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Dr Gordon is the first doctor to win the scholarship which is an annual award of \$5000 funded though a gift provided by Fay Newell OAM who had a distinguished nursing career of more than 30 years. Congratulations Dr Gordon and I hope you have a long and successful career in country medicine.

100 YEARS OF BALGOWNIE FIRE BRIGADE'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—On the 28th of June 2025, the Balgownie Fire Station will be celebrating its 100th year of unwavering service to our community. This centenary celebration is a milestone for a legacy of courage and bravery. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible firefighters for their tireless commitment, whether responding to emergencies, battling intense fires, or providing calm in moments of crisis, they consistently demonstrate extraordinary strength and resolve. It is also important to acknowledge that behind these courageous firefighters are the supportive family members who offer their encouragement and strength in times of need. Not only do the firefighters protect us from danger and disaster but they educate and participate in school visits and community workshops on fire safety programs for local businesses and homes. The station plays a pivotal role in equipping residents with the knowledge and tools needed to stay safe. We are all proud and

grateful to have such a vital and outstanding part of our electorate keeping us safe every day. Your courage, resilience and commitment continue to inspire and ultimately protect us all.

INTRODUCTION OF VIRTUAL REALITY AT REDDAM HOUSE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I am proud to acknowledge Reddam House North Shore for embracing cutting-edge technology in its educational offerings. The introduction of a dedicated Virtual Reality (VR) classroom at the school is a game-changer for the future of learning. This state-of-the-art classroom, equipped with Inspired Metaverse technology, provides students with immersive experiences that extend beyond traditional learning methods. By incorporating VR into the curriculum, Reddam House is giving students the opportunity to engage with complex concepts in an interactive and dynamic way, enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It is this forward-thinking approach that I want to celebrate. This will help students to prepare not only for the challenges of today but for the innovations of tomorrow. I especially want to Reddam House Principal, Dave Pitcairn, and the broader leadership and teaching teams at Reddam House for their commitment to forward-thinking education. Your vision and dedication to academic excellence and student engagement are helping prepare young people to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Congratulations to Reddam House North Shore for their vision and dedication to bringing learning to life in extraordinary ways.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF NUTCOTE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I am delighted to commemorate the centenary of Nutcote, the cherished home of Australian author and illustrator May Gibbs, located in Kurraba Point. This milestone was celebrated with a special exhibition at Nutcote, highlighting the enduring legacy of May Gibbs and her beloved characters. Nutcote, designed by architect B.J. Waterhouse and built between 1924 and 1925, served as May Gibbs' residence and studio for 44 years. It was here that she created the iconic Bib and Bub comic strip and drew inspiration from her garden and the surrounding bushland. Following her passing in 1969, Nutcote faced the threat of demolition. However, through the dedicated efforts of the May Gibbs Foundation and the community, the house was preserved and is now a heritage-listed site open to the public. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those involved in preserving Nutcote and bringing May Gibbs' legacy to life for future generations. This centenary celebration serves as a testament to the enduring impact of May Gibbs' work and the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.

SYDNEY BY KAYAK ECO HUB

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise the incredible work of Sydney By Kayak, Director and Founder, Laura Stone and co-founder, Benjamin Pike, who have once again shown what sustainability in action looks like. In collaboration with Reshaping Waste, they have now launched Eco Hub—a project built with heart, purpose, and a commitment to community and the environment, located in McMahon's Point. From salvaging beautiful old hardwood floorboards to reimagining how to build and use spaces, this initiative champions circular economy principles and local ingenuity. More than just a physical space, the Eco Hub is a platform for education, awareness, and connection, showing how small businesses can lead the way in waste reduction and climate-conscious action. With the launch party taking place yesterday evening, I sadly could not attend as I was in Parliament, but I encourage locals and sustainability advocates to support this milestone. Thank you to Laura, Benjamin, and all of the Sydney By Kayak team for continuing to inspire others to think creatively and act responsibly. Your vision is shaping a more sustainable Sydney for us all.

SIMON WAIT

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Shortland resident, Simon Wait, emigrated from Scotland with his family when he was eight. He attended Shortland Public School, Jesmond High School, going on to study economic history and visual arts at Newcastle University. He has since made a name for himself as a talented local artist and cosplayer who has done much for charity over 25 years. Father of three, Simon, has always loved art and movies. His Wallsend pop culture shop Heroes and More traded for seven years. During this time, popular theme days involving Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Back to the Future, Ninja Turtles and Ghostbusters were held. Simon's cosplay started with an Iron Man suit he made for his fancy dress 40th birthday party. He later added characters like Predator, Bumblebee and the mascot for the 2025 Newcastle Show, Astro. Simon finds creative activity rewarding and healthy, sharing and making people happy. Accolades include Finalist in the 2000 Doug Moran Portrait Prize, the FX Award at Oz Comicon Sydney, the Supernova Most Creative Award in 2024, and as a special guest at The Levee in Maitland and Lake Macquarie Pop Bam Festival. Thank you, Simon, for bringing joy to our community.

SISTER DI SANTLEBEN

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Newcastle Citizen of the Year in 2017, and social justice stalwart, Sister Di Santleben has given her life in service to others. Sister Di established the refugee centre Zara's House in

Jesmond with friends in 2016, aiming to help refugees navigate the complexities of settling into a new country. Her motto: "Never see a need without doing something about it". As a Primary School Teacher and Dominican Sister, Sister Di began her refugee advocacy whilst working with deaf children in Lidcombe in 2000. In 2005, she and Sister Anne Walsh moved to Newcastle planning to retire. This changed after meeting Sister Betty Brown and, in 2008 they opened the refugee outreach and support service, Penola House. Newcastle welcomes around 300 refugees each year and now Zara's House runs vital programs for women and children, English lessons, citizenship test practice and, sewing classes. Zara's House also helps to clothe and feed refugees and provide advice on immigration law. Since stepping back, Sister Di has been taking a less active role in day to day running of the organisation. Thank you, Sister Di, for your tireless community spirit, compassion, resourcefulness, tenacity, and honesty.

NOAH AND ZACH WHIDDON

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Brothers Noah and Zach Whiddon, aged 6 and 5, have raised over \$1,000 by collecting bottles and cans in their Lambton neighbourhood. To feed them into the "Return and Earn machine at Waratah, they stand on a trolley. Inspired by their dad's leadership on a school trip to Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, the money has funded the purchase and installation of soccer goals and netball posts for the Girls Shine Lilongwe School. Noah and Zach both play for Broadmeadow Magic, support Arsenal FC in the Premier League and are Newcastle Jets season ticket holders. They love Lego, reading books, playing Yahtzee and attending their local church. Between them, they have also donated over half of their Easter eggs to Jenny's Place, a local shelter for domestic violence. The Whiddon family has been humbled by community spirit and support in Lambton, including local business owners. With this mission accomplished, the next is raising money by doing jobs around the house to sponsor children through Compassion Australia. Congratulations, Noah and Zach. Your family, friends and community are proud of you.

DR NATALIE GORDON

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—I want to congratulate Broken Hill intern Dr Natalie Gordon on winning the 2025 Fay Newell Scholarship. Dr Gordon is a Ngunnawal woman whose family hails from Goulburn. Originally a teacher, after surviving a cancer scare Dr Gordon she studied medicine, which took her to a placement at a hospital in the Northern Territory before moving to Broken Hill for an internship. She has a great passion for Aboriginal health, and firmly believes that rural people need to have better access to doctors who care about their community. Dr Gordon has therefore applied to become a Rural Generalist, through the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Dr Gordon is the first doctor to win the scholarship which is an annual award of \$5000 funded through a gift provided by Fay Newell OAM who had a distinguished nursing career of more than 30 years. Congratulations Dr Gordon and I hope you have a long and successful career in country medicine.

FASHIONING THE FUTURE

Ms KOBİ SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the recent launch of 'Fashioning the Future: Innovating Design Practices for a Sustainable Tomorrow' in the Parliament House Fountain Court. This exhibition, presented by the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Fashion + Textiles in collaboration with the Parliamentary Friends of Sustainable Fashion, shared details of the innovative partnership between UTS and TAFE NSW as they work together to support the local fashion industry's transition to sustainability through education and research. On display were examples of industry upskilling through short courses, undergraduate fashion design projects using industry 'waste' textiles, and research projects that use AI and advanced manufacturing technologies to create Australia's future fashion industry. It was a wonderful evening that gave us the chance to meet with many students who created pieces in the exhibition and their families, and learn more about innovative and sustainable design. Thank you to everyone from the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Fashion + Textiles, and in particular the Centre's Director Dr Lisa Lake, who organised and took part in this important and informative event.

INNER SYDNEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL'S ANZAC SERVICE

Ms KOBİ SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I acknowledge the Inner Sydney Montessori School who recently held a commemorative Anzac service to honour the courage, sacrifice, and service of the men and women who have served in the Australian and New Zealand Armed Forces. The school welcomed students, staff and guests to a commemorative ceremony led by their Upper Primary students, where the significance of ANZAC Day was thoughtfully and respectfully reflected through a moving service. I want to thank Principal Jenny Hall and her deputy Charisse Sweeney for the invitation to attend. Thanks also to Miles, a parent in the school community, for his poignant rendition of the Last Post, and to Kate, a member of staff, who's relative served in World War I and is recorded in the school's Roll of Honour. Of course, thank you as well to all the wonderful students who hosted the service. I know the school holds great pride in how their students organised the event and conducted

themselves on the day. They are thoroughly deserving of praise. Thank you for such a thoughtful and respectful service.
