LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday 27 June 2025

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Bills

CONVEYANCING AND REAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT BILL 2025

First Reading

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

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

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS) BILL 2025

Returned

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

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL DEED TERMINATION) BILL 2025

Returned

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

Documents

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the Special Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Cyber security insights 2025*, dated 27 June 2025 and received that day.

Petitions

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to an ePetition signed by 500 or more persons:

The Hon. Penny Sharpe—Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum—lodged 3 June 2025 (Ms Trish Doyle)

[*Notices of motions given.*]

Bills

WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (REGISTER OF STATE AND COMMONWEALTH WATER ACCESS LICENCES) BILL 2025

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mrs Helen Dalton, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (10:18): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I speak for the people in the bush, the farmers, irrigators and small-town communities who have been doing it tough while water policy is made behind closed doors. Every day I get a comment about water. The general public and members of Parliament of all political persuasions regularly say to me, "Keep up the fight, Helen. I'd really like to understand water, but it's just far too complicated." Too often bureaucrats are calling the shots because members of Parliament do not understand the issue. The Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Bill 2025 simply states that if governments hold water, the public should know where, how much and why. Right now, we do not.

The bill forces the Minister for Water, the Hon. Rose Jackson, to set up a public register showing every licence, including the tracking of rules-based water, held by the New South Wales or Commonwealth governments, including how much is owned, where it is from, what it is used for and how it is traded. The register must be online, easy to find, easy to understand and located in one department area. Why does this matter? It matters because, as of December 2022, governments held over 2.5 million megalitres, which is 2,505 gigalitres, of water licences across New South Wales yet there is no central, transparent record of what has been done with it. There is no way to track trades. There is no consistency in the data. There is no way for the public or irrigators to check whether rules are being followed. Some licences are not even marked as environmental. Some water trades show transactions for zero dollars. The department's answers do not match their own public registers. It is a mess.

Meanwhile, the same Government is happy to slug our irrigators with fees and rules. Just yesterday we were told of a whopping 8.3 per cent increase in water charges, up from the affordable 1.9 per cent increase. Does this Government value our irrigators and our irrigation communities? In the 2000s, farmers were asked to surrender up to 15 per cent of their licences for the environment with the promise of a review in five years. It never came. Farmers are still paying charges on water they will never get back. We are still waiting for the review. I am still urging the Government to review that. Even when allocations are supposedly high, the Murrumbidgee River barely reaches 85 per cent unless there is a flood. Add to that the rise of special purpose access licences—I will call them SPALs—that are set aside for cultural or high-security purposes, which is a worthy idea, in theory. But these SPALs are growing, uncapped and with no public record and no information on what happens to unused water. It is just more secrecy.

While we are demanding strict metering from farmers, government-held environmental water rarely gets metered at all; or, if it is, the data is not made public. We do not know whether the water actually reaches the wetlands. We do not know how much is lost in transit. We do not know whether it is doing what it is supposed to do. Farmers must comply with tough metering laws, yet when it comes to environmental water it is, "Just trust us." That is not good enough. If the aim is to protect the environment, show us the evidence—meter it, report it, and prove it. Current practice is not good governance. It is government hoarding, cloaked in confusion. This bill fixes that. It makes governments' water use public, which is the least we can do in a democracy. It is not just about fairness to farmers and rural communities but about building trust in a broken system. Without transparency, we breed suspicion. Without public data, we get public cynicism. Water is too precious—and too political—to be hidden away in bureaucratic black holes.

There is one more thing. The Water Management Act requires sign-off on several provisions from the environment Minister, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, but not from the agriculture Minister, Tara Moriarty. That is unbalanced. Rural livelihoods should matter just as much as environmental paperwork. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. A public register will not solve every problem, but it is a fair start. If governments can hold water, the people deserve to see the books. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY

Reports

Debate resumed from 4 June 2025.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (10:25): The report entitled *Community safety in regional and rural communities—Interim report: Addressing the drivers of youth crime through early intervention* made a number of findings. They include that effective early interventions for First Nations young people need to be co-designed with Elders, and that connecting young people with their passions and helping them develop a sense of purpose is an effective way to prevent offending behaviour. The report recommends the New South Wales Government consider further investment in targeted mental health programs, as well as early intervention programs that effectively engage young people at risk of offending behaviour, including young women; and

consider investment in youth hubs to provide holistic support, enhance social cohesion and divert young people from crime.

It recommends that the Department of Education collaborate with schools in disadvantaged regional and rural communities to identify and implement programs that holistically support the school community, including wellbeing hubs. It also recommends that TAFE NSW explore opportunities to expand face-to-face learning in regional and remote areas to support sustained engagement, and that the New South Wales Government consult with communities on the feasibility of local on-country diversionary centres for young people, offering accommodation, alternative education pathways and cultural enrichment. That will all assist with the community's safety going forward.

I thank everyone who has participated in the inquiry thus far. A lot of the stories told were very raw. I appreciate people's honesty. There were hundreds of stakeholders, including private citizens, police officers, community service providers, advocacy organisations, academics, representatives from local government and First Nations community leaders and young people. There is still a lot to do as part of the inquiry. But we are hopeful that the recommendations in the report are given serious consideration so that we can translate them into positive action.

Report noted.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

Reports

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

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (10:27): As Chair: On 29 May the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety tabled the report entitled *Religious exemptions for the wearing of helmets*. The law in New South Wales is that you must wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle or bicycle, with no exceptions. However, members of the Sikh community have raised concerns that wearing a helmet conflicts with a core tenet of the Sikh faith: the requirement to wear a turban. For that reason, the committee began its inquiry into religious exemptions for the wearing of helmets.

We looked at the risks and benefits of religious exemptions from mandatory helmet laws, and how to support safe participation in active transport by members of the Sikh community. We listened to members of the Sikh community, road safety experts and health professionals, with the aim of hearing all perspectives and striking the right balance between participation and safety. We heard that wearing a turban has deep significance for practitioners of the Sikh faith. Members of the Sikh community told us that the turban symbolised honour, spirituality, self-respect, responsibility and a commitment to keep the tenets of the Sikh faith. We also heard that wearing a helmet in place of a turban conflicts with the requirements of the Sikh faith.

Further, and based on careful consideration of what we heard, our report recommends that the current mandatory motorcycle helmet laws in New South Wales should be maintained. Health and road safety experts told us that helmets significantly reduce the risk of serious injury and death. We also heard that there is no safe speed or safe environment to ride a motorcycle without a helmet. I acknowledge that mandatory helmet laws may restrict members of the Sikh community from being able to ride a motorcycle. I deeply respect their faith, and I deeply respect their traditions and culture. However, the risks are too high and, on balance, the committee concluded that the mandatory helmet laws should remain in place.

We heard mixed evidence about exemptions for the mandatory wearing of bicycle helmets. Most Australian States and Territories have some form of religious exemption from bicycle helmet laws in place. Some States, such as Queensland, submitted to the committee that it had not encountered any issue stemming from the exemption. On the other hand, health and road safety experts were strongly opposed to introducing bicycle helmet exemptions, for reasons of rider safety. Having considered the range of evidence, the committee recommended that Transport for NSW review our bicycle helmet laws and study how bicycle helmet exemptions have worked in other Australian jurisdictions as part of the review.

We heard that some work has been done to develop helmets that are compatible with wearing a turban or reinforced cloth turbans that provide greater protection. For example, there is currently a New South Wales-approved helmet for children that fits on top of the patka. However, there is currently no product available for adults that meets the New South Wales safety standards. We also heard mixed evidence on whether such new technology would meet Sikh religious requirements or provide an adequate level of protection. On the basis of what we heard, we recommended Transport for NSW investigate new technologies as they continue to develop.

The fundamental role of the Staysafe committee is to keep the people of New South Wales safe on our roads, and that role forms the basis of each recommendation in the report. I and other members of the committee

have the utmost respect for the Sikh community and other communities of faith in New South Wales. Many of the Sikh stakeholders that attended the public hearing have been recognised for their volunteer work and philanthropy. I thank them, and the broader Sikh Australian community in New South Wales, for the valuable contribution they have made to our State.

On behalf of the committee, I sincerely thank all inquiry participants who took the time to prepare a submission or give evidence at the hearing. I also thank my fellow committee members for their invaluable input and all the committee staff for their support. I am delighted that I am able to commend this report to the House. At the end of the day, we were trying to find a balance, but it is a road safety committee. Its key priority is keeping people safe in every way we can on New South Wales roads. I commend the report to the House.

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (10:33): I take note of the report entitled *Religious exemptions for the wearing of helmets* undertaken by the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety—the Staysafe committee. It was a particularly challenging inquiry because we had to balance the known benefits of wearing a helmet while riding a motorcycle—or, indeed, a bicycle—versus the religious tenets observed by, particularly, the Sikh community. For the Sikh community, the wearing of a turban—or a dastar—is far more than a fashion choice or an item of clothing. As it was so well put by Mr Amar Singh, the president and founder of Turbans 4 Australia:

> Our turban is part of our body. It's an extension of who we are, not just a hat or a cap that we put on occasionally.

For Sikhs, a turban symbolises important values, including equality, honour, spirituality, self-respect, responsibility and a commitment to keep the tenets of the Sikh faith. The challenge is that helmets simply do not fit over the top of dastars. So we found ourselves in a situation where we are trying to balance the safety needs of people on roads in New South Wales with the religious requirements of people within our community. Through the inquiry, we discovered that mandatory motorcycle helmet laws were introduced in 1971 and that, though they initially had exemptions for religious reason, these were removed in 1991, which means that in New South Wales there are absolutely no exemptions when it comes to wearing helmets while motorcycling. That is the case for all Australian jurisdictions, where there are no exemptions for religious reasons for wearing helmets while motorcycling.

However, some jurisdictions have exemptions for wearing pushbike helmets. We found that the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania all have exemptions. So we did recommend that consideration be given to exemptions for pushbike riders, but not for motorcycle riders. Some international jurisdictions have religious exemptions, including the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and India, but there are others that are stridently against that. We heard that many of these nations are moving toward mandatory helmets because helmets significantly reduce the likelihood and severity of head injuries and the risk of death for motorcyclists and users of active transport. This has implications across the broader road network. It may not necessarily be the person who is choosing to go without a helmet who is affected by this. It may be others who are involved in accidents and then the ongoing challenges they entail.

The issue is not limited to that. Other laws are impacted by this broader issue. OH&S laws are particularly challenging when it comes to this. The cost of insurance premiums may rise. So the committee decided on balance that the current laws should remain and that there should be no exemptions for motorcyclists. However, Transport for NSW is considering other designs that may be more appropriate for turbans and also for pushbike riders.

Report noted.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

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

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (10:37): As Chair: On 3 June the Legislation Review Committee tabled *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/58*. In the digest, the committee examined seven bills. It also reviewed 12 regulations and statutory instruments, and reported with comment on one. The remaining 11 regulations, which were examined but found not to meet the reporting threshold under the Legislation Review Act, are found in part 3 of the digest. I draw members' attention to some of the key issues raised in the digest. The committee reported on the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In its report, the committee raised five issues and referred two to Parliament for consideration.

The bill aims to amend the Workers Compensation Act and related legislation, particularly around how psychological injury compensation works in New South Wales. It also seeks to clarify workers' entitlements. One of the issues the committee identified is the proposed process for assessing a claimant's degree of permanent impairment. Under the bill, the assessor would have the power to request medical records and require a person to undergo an examination. If someone refuses or obstructs the process, their right to recover compensation and

weekly payments would be suspended until the examination occurs. However, the bill does not provide any avenue for reviewing the suspension, or outline valid reasons why a person might refuse the examination. While the committee recognised that the aim is to encourage participation in the assessment, it referred the matter to Parliament due to the potential impact on individual rights.

Another issue that the committee identified relates to a regulation-making power the bill would insert into the Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act. It would allow regulations to modify how the Act applies to claims for primary psychological injuries. The committee considered that the provision may amount to a Henry VIII clause, as it would allow the Executive to change the operation of the parent Act without a referral to Parliament. The committee also noted a proposal to expand the scope of the workers compensation guidelines. The guidelines are important as they deal with how compensation claims are managed, how permanent impairment is assessed and how prior injuries are taken into account. While the committee acknowledged that greater flexibility could support the efficient running of the workers compensation scheme, it was concerned that the guidelines would not be tabled in Parliament. Given the potential impact on individual rights, the committee considered that such documents should be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and referred the issue accordingly.

The committee also reported on a private member's bill: the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2025. The bill proposes to amend the Road Transport Act to create an exemption to the offence of driving with a prescribed illicit drug in a person's system. The exemption would apply where THC is the only drug detected, where the drug was properly prescribed and administered, and where the person holds a valid driver licence. The committee noted that, under the proposed section, the burden would fall on the accused to prove that the THC was lawfully prescribed and used. That effectively reverses the usual onus of proof and may limit the right to the presumption of innocence, which is a cornerstone of our legal system. However, the committee acknowledged that the prosecution must still prove the key elements of the offence beyond reasonable doubt. It also recognised that reverse onus provisions are not uncommon in criminal law and, in this case, the defence gives individuals a fair opportunity to demonstrate that their conduct was lawful. In the circumstances, the committee made no further comment.

Finally, the committee reported on the *District Court Criminal Practice Note 29: Management of Criminal Proceedings listed in the Downing Centre*. The practice note updates and replaces previous practice notes 18, 20 and 21, and sets out new directions for how criminal matters are managed in court. One key change is in clause 8, which shortens the time frame for the prosecution to file and serve the indictment, Crown case statement and brief index. Previously, they needed to serve 10 days prior to the arraignment. Now they can do so just five days before the arraignment. That means the accused and their legal team now have less time to review the material and decide how to plead.

The timing of a plea matters, as an early guilty plea can lead to a discounted sentence. The committee noted that the accused has the right to understand the Crown's case against them so that they can respond properly and make an informed decision. Reducing the time to prepare may undermine that right and affect procedural fairness. For those reasons, the committee referred the matter to Parliament for consideration. That concludes my remarks on the *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/58*. I encourage all members to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage. I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions, including the member for Upper Hunter, who will make a contribution shortly. I particularly thank the hardworking committee secretariat. I commend the digest to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (10:43): I make a contribution to the take-note debate on *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/58*. I thank the chair for her leadership and efficient management of the committee and all its challenges. I thank the committee secretariat and staff, who did an enormous amount of work to allow the committee to function to the best of its ability. They are a very smart group of individuals whose analytical skills are to be commended. Committee members looked at seven bills during this period, six of which were identified with issues under section 8A or 9 of the Legislative Review Act. I will now go through each bill individually. The Conveyancing and Real Property Amendment Bill 2025 was found to have issues regarding the commencement of proclamation and the wide powers of delegation, as well as incorporating significant matters in external rules not subject to disallowance. Those issues were referred to the Parliament.

The second bill was the Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Amendment (Local Court Bail Division) Bill 2025, which was found to have issues, firstly, regarding the access to justice, which was referred to Parliament; and, secondly, commencement by proclamation, on which the committee had no further comment. The third bill that was reviewed was the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025, which was found to have a subordinate instrument not subject to parliamentary scrutiny. That was referred to Parliament. The fourth bill was the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment (Workplace Protections) Bill 2025, which was found to have issues regarding the privacy and protection of personal

information and a Henry VIII clause. That is something I always look at closely in legislation. Those issues were referred to Parliament for review.

The fifth bill in the digest is the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2025. It was found to have an issue regarding the reversal of the onus of proof, on which the committee made no further comment. Finally, the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 was found to have issues regarding procedural fairness in compensation claims; wide regulation-making powers; a Henry VIII clause, which should be looked at by all members of this place; commencement by proclamation; and incorporating significant matters in external guidelines not subject to disallowance. For all those reasons, that bill was referred to the Parliament for review. The Children's Guardian Amendment Bill 2025 was identified without issues. With that, I conclude my comments on *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/58*.

Report noted.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Reports

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

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (10:47): As Chair: I take note of the report entitled *The electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024*. I start by acknowledging that it is my absolute privilege to be chair of what is, without doubt, the best committee in the New South Wales Parliament at the moment. We also have the best committee secretariat working with us throughout the journey. I particularly call out Stephanie Mulvey, Anna Tran, Alex Read, Joan Douce, Natasha Moir, Lloyd Connolly and Janish Hettigama. We asked something unique of our committee secretariat.

We asked them to take a massive leap of faith and come with us so that we could go directly to the community and not have written submissions as a barrier to participation in this place. That is something this Parliament needs to think about and do better. We went to a number of remote communities and held open, public, town hall style meetings with those communities. We had them recorded for the transcript so that it could form part of the evidence. Community members were encouraged to wander in and participate in the process. There were no formalities. We did not swear them in. There were no limits on how many people turned up.

We used all manner of techniques to encourage the community to participate in that process. The reason was twofold. The people in Far West New South Wales, by and large, probably do not pay too much attention to Macquarie Street because it is quite distant physically and also from their daily lives. They are running their farms, stations or small business and dealing with a very geographically isolated existence within the State. That is why we went to those communities. We spent many hours on the bus. For example, the trip from Broken Hill to Menindee was only an hour and 15 minutes. The trip from Broken Hill to Tibooburra was about four hours and 400 kilometres. The trip from Tibooburra to White Cliffs was another 250 kilometres. From White Cliffs to Wilcannia was another 150 kilometres, and then we went from Wilcannia back to Broken Hill. Those communities, by any definition, are some of the most isolated in all of New South Wales.

That brings us to the very point of the inquiry. Just before midnight on 16 October 2024, the power went out for all those communities. By the time they woke up on the morning of 17 October, the battery backup for the telecommunications tower—the mobile towers—had also failed. They woke up with no means of communication, no electricity and no way to get information. They had no way to understand what was happening. Without power, they were in complete telecommunications isolation, in addition to their geographical isolation. Those communities really were—forgive the pun—entirely in the dark about what was going on. That cannot be addressed by someone jumping in the car and driving across to the next suburb or village. First, that distance is hundreds of kilometres. Second, buying petrol and paying for it with a credit card or EFTPOS requires telecommunications and power. Even the message from the shop to the pump to allow the pump to turn on requires telecommunications. Driving to the next town was not an option for those people, who did not know what was happening. That went on for days and days.

The nature of power supply in Broken Hill is unique in New South Wales. A single line runs from Mildura to Broken Hill and is then distributed to the remote communities. Just before midnight on 16 October, seven of the main towers on that line were blown over in a wind storm. The area became an island. In addition, there are some local energy production sources inside the Broken Hill and Silverton communities. That includes a large storage battery, a wind farm and a solar farm. However, because of commercial interests and physical electricity interoperability, it was not possible to use those local power generation sites to feed into the community. That did not make sense to anyone on the ground.

It was an incredibly confusing scenario. People did not understand why the power was off or for how long. They did not have telecommunications. They knew that they had local electricity production, but that was not feeding the grid either. They did not understand why that was the case. Meanwhile, how were the agencies responsible for that complete mess trying to communicate with the community? They were using SMS, Facebook posts and social media. It was an incredible journey and an incredible inquiry. I encourage every member to read the report. I commend the report to the House.

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (10:54): I contribute to debate on the report of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning—which is the best committee, as the chair said—entitled *The electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024*. The committee staff were amazing and the inquiry was really good. I talk about my experiences and learnings regarding not only the Transgrid outage last October but also the real-life ongoing experiences of people living in some of the most remote communities in New South Wales. While many members would find a power outage an inconvenience, or a couple of weeks of rolling outages very annoying, those communities stopped functioning. Normally if one suburb goes without power, people simply drive to a neighbouring area and life is bearable, but those folks lost power.

People lost their phone connections not only because they could not charge their phones but also because the Telstra towers were battery powered and the batteries did not last more than a couple of hours. Generators were put in place but were removed prematurely. Usually when there are small blackouts, a technician needs to travel for six hours from Dubbo to restart power. If there were generators, I must say they sold out very quickly, and their prices went up exorbitantly. The issue then became sourcing fuel for the generators, but fuel became a problem because some bowsers require the internet for payment and people did not have the internet. Those people are extremely resilient. They are used to power outages, but not like that. Yet still they dug deep and helped each other out.

Stores and clubs shared refrigeration and air conditioning, and provided power so that people could use their phones. The RFS supplied generators, delivered food hampers and provided other services, as did the Country Women's Association and golf clubs. Health was a concern. Some health practitioners slept at work so people could access support. It was fascinating that Health could not tell the emergency services who was vulnerable or without power due to privacy issues, but when people sign up for power they declare that it is vital to them. Information was unavailable, even though it was available elsewhere. Babies had to endure 45-degree heat, and people on home dialysis had to stop midway through the process. But the biggest issue was communication.

The commercial arms of electricity supply, including Origin Energy and Red Energy, dealt with the issue differently. Red Energy gave some customers a discount on their next electricity bill, and Origin did the same, but only after personal inquiries were made. It was all different; it was messy. Credit was given to the member for Barwon and his office, as well as ABC radio, as they were often the only source of information that the community received. The unregulated areas, greater Darling council and Broken Hill council, received delayed notice of the oncoming catastrophe. The information only came to them by social media. There were very few reports from people in the community that councils did anything to communicate with or assist them.

The local regional emergency management committees met or instigated action at various times, but reports from many residents in many of those towns were that they did not know where their official emergency building was. Transgrid was poor in its communication during the outage and failed to answer any emails requesting information after the outage or address any of the claims that were made. Transgrid representatives sat through our town hall meetings and, as people presented, took them aside and tried to deal with them. Effectively, Transgrid used our meetings to make contact with people when, until then, it had not made any effort to connect. One of the most frustrating things for the people of the Far West was that they were surrounded by solar and wind farms, but commercial agreements stopped those sources of power from being used.

Government services told us that they were prepared and that they had pre-deployed people from the north coast of Australia. While people in those communities are extremely resilient, they were let down on this occasion. I believe emergency services require improved communications and further training.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (10:57): I commend the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning report entitled *The electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024* to the House. While investigating the report, it struck me that we have created a society that is incredibly dependent on reliable and lengthy access to power and telecommunications. That incident stood out because, once those two elements were taken away, our society became incredibly vulnerable. There were so many layers to the matter that the committee kept unpacking. It was like an onion. As different witnesses came to speak to us, they raised new aspects. One pharmacist individually called every single pharmaceutical company in the world to try to understand the effect of 30-degree temperatures on pharmaceutical drugs. It is easy to forget that the weather was consistently over 40 degrees during those days. Not only were people getting together and trying to figure out how to get through this, but they were doing so in extreme heat. The pharmacist in Broken Hill had every single

piece of his refrigerated drug selection compromised. But he did not know how compromised, because he had no guidelines, which was again another situation.

The committee members heard an upsetting story about a lady who wears a CPAP machine in bed. She went to bed with the machine on, but during the night her power went out again and her machine stopped working. As she woke up, she could not breathe. In her distress, she could not get the mask off. She was thankful for her partner, who was sleeping next to her, as he was able to help her. Those situations arose because we have created a society that is designed around access to energy and telecommunications. The outages have shown up that dependence. As the member for Cessnock said, during those situations, organisations were only trying to communicate with people through social media. But great swathes of the State had no phone coverage, so people could not receive that social media information. They had no idea what was going on. And the old system of doorknocking did not seem to happen.

In the last bit of my commendation of the report—and I, like the chair of the committee, highly recommend members read the report—I want to highlight that the one thing that came through was community. People looked out for each other. They went out to find the vulnerable in their community and helped them. I give a special shout-out to the RFS at Menindee, who literally walked around the town hooking up people's generators to their properties. It was an incredible show of what can happen when we bring community together. But those communities had to do that because, at some stages, it felt like no-one else was there. As has been said, this is an incredible committee. We had an incredible trip to the Far West. I put on record the work that the member for Barwon and, importantly, his staff did for the people of the Far West. I commend the report to the House.

Mr JAMES WALLACE (Hornsby) (11:02): I commend the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning report titled *The electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024* to the House. I thank the chair of the committee, the other members and the committee staff. I acknowledge the devastation, economic loss and mental pain caused by the power outages in Far West New South Wales in October and November last year. In travelling through the area and meeting with locals, the committee members discovered that whilst the occurrences in October and November 2024 were extreme, they are not uncommon. Power outages are common in Tibooburra, Wilcannia, White Cliffs and the surrounding areas in the Far West. The impact of the power being out for so long, though, caused businesses to lose revenue and customers. Households were unable to function, and mobile and telecommunications failed. Everything we expect to have to live a modern life effectively faltered.

The report calls for communication—particularly communication that government agencies, local governments and State Government agencies provide to communities affected by an emergency—to be significantly improved. The report has a number of worthy recommendations that should be adopted by the Government. How we care for the vulnerable in an emergency was also a critical consideration. Based on the information committee members were given, there appear to have been two key issues. The first was the quality of the list of households where life support machines are being used, and the failure of government agencies and certain not-for-profit organisations to share information during an emergency so that we can better understand who needs to be supported. The second issue was the timeliness of the support that was provided for those that were known to be vulnerable and for those known to have a life support machine in their home. The report contained good recommendations to address those issues.

The New South Wales Government offered $200 compensation to affected adults and $400 to business owners. Money was slow to get out to people. Of the $4.5 million in total available funds, around $2.2 million remains unclaimed. I hope that money can be used to strengthen the resilience of government services in the area through the acquisition of generators and low Earth orbit satellite telecommunication technology. It is clear to me, and it was clear to the people we spoke to in our travels around the Far West, that in the future they want to have more control over their own power.

They look out and see renewable energy projects occurring in the area; they have solar on their roofs; they have their own diesel generators in their towns yet, because of the way the grid is designed, they are unable to use that when there is a significant outage of the main lines throughout the Far West. They want to be separated from the national grid and gain access to the power being generated in their backyard. When the mining boom occurred in the twentieth century, the towns in the Far West received a big dividend as a consequence of the growth and the royalties that were injected into their community. Given we are going through the same boom—this time, the renewable energy—it is only right that those towns benefit in the same way by getting reliable access to power.

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

Bills

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS) BILL 2025

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 26 June 2025

No. 1 **GRNS No. 3 [c2025-124D]**

Page 23, Schedule 3[4], proposed section 102D, line 9. Omit all the words on the line. Insert instead—

(b) notice of the dispute is given under section 102C(1), and

(c) the notice does not state an immediate or imminent exposure to a workplace hazard as a WHS matter the subject of the dispute.

No. 2 **GRNS No. 4 [c2025-124D]**

Page 25, Schedule 3. Insert after line 15—

[5A]Section 118(5)

Insert after section 118(4)—

(5) The WHS entry permit holder may exercise a function under subsection (1) in relation to another contravention of this Act relating to or affecting a relevant worker that the WHS entry permit holder comes to reasonably suspect while at the workplace under this division.

No. 3 **GRNS No. 6 [c2025-124D]**

Page 26, Schedule 3. Insert after line 23—

[15A] Section 260

Omit the section. Insert instead—

260 Proceedings may be brought by regulator, inspector or industrial organisation

Proceedings for a contravention of a WHS civil penalty provision may only be brought by—

(a) the regulator, or

(b) an inspector with the written authorisation of the regulator, either generally or in a particular case, or

(c) a registered organisation on behalf of the person affected by the contravention.

[15B] Section 262

Omit the section. Insert instead—

262 Recovery of monetary penalties

(1) The court may order that the monetary penalty under a civil penalty order is paid to—

(a) the State, or

(b) a registered organisation if the proceedings were brought by the registered organisation.

(2) The provisions of any Act relating to the recovery of penalties imposed for an offence apply in the same way for a recovery of a monetary penalty.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS: I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR AUDIT AMENDMENT (PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORTS) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 26 June 2025.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (11:07): On behalf of Ms Jenny Aitchison: In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Government Sector Audit Amendment (Performance Audit Reports) Bill 2025. The Manager of Opposition Business referred to changes made to bill in the other place. The member for Davidson spoke at length on the role of the Auditor-General's office and referred to many useful reports published by the Audit Office. He was very excited by the release of the Auditor-General's report in relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation program released just a few days ago, to which I will refer

briefly. The program began as a NSW Labor policy proposal prior to the March 2023 election and the Government allocated $400,000 to each of the 93 State electorates. The report states:

> Where the $400,000 was not all used on nominated community projects, the balance was allocated to local councils to deliver playground and park upgrade projects.

Members might be interested to know that 642 projects have been funded under the LSCA program. Of those, 272 have been acquitted so far. That is quite a good rollout of the program. The Auditor-General, in their conclusion, found that the LSCA program was effectively administered by the program office from July 2023 and it complies with the Act and most of the requirements of the guide. Members may also be aware that the other House is also holding an inquiry, which the member for Davidson also referred to, into the LSCA program. In a submission to that inquiry—submission No. 11—the Auditor-General referred to lots of other reports into grant funding programs that the Audit Office has tabled over the years. They referred to a report entitled *Integrity of grant program administration*, tabled February 2022, which assessed two grant programs: round two of the $252 million Stronger Communities Fund and the $100 million Regional Cultural Fund. The Auditor-General's submission to the LSCA inquiry states:

> The audit found the assessment and approval process for the Stronger Communities Fund lacked integrity because it lacked transparency, did not include a merit assessment process, and did not document the reasons for funding allocations.

It was a huge amount of money, of which 96 per cent went to Coalition-held or marginal electorates. The Auditor-General also referred to the performance audit entitled *Bushfire recovery grants*, tabled February 2023. The audit assessed the administration of rounds one and two of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery program, which was a total of over $400 million, from memory. The audit found the following:

> The Department of Regional NSW did not effectively administer the Fast-Tracked stream ... The administration process lacked integrity, given it did not have sufficiently detailed guidelines, and the assessment process for projects lacked transparency and consistency.

The audit found that the round two stream did improve on that but overall, as members will remember, 26 out of 27 projects funded under that very large program went to Coalition-held electorates. The LSCA inquiry submission is a good overview of the sort of reports the Auditor-General provides for the Parliament and the public. I also note the positive involvement in the development of the bill by the Public Accounts Committee, which was consulted by the Auditor-General early in the development of the bill. I note the good work of the chair of the Public Accounts Committee, the member for Strathfield.

The bill is non-controversial. As I detailed in the second reading speech, the bill authorises the Auditor-General for New South Wales to exercise discretion as to when a performance audit report will be available publicly. In limited circumstances, where there are public interest reasons to delay its publication, the Auditor-General must still provide the report to each House of Parliament, but strict confidentiality obligations apply until the report is presented for publication. The minor amendments proposed by the bill are the result of a request from the Auditor-General. It is in the public interest that the Audit Office is equipped with an appropriate legislative framework to enable the efficient and effective exercise of its audit functions. The Government is committed to ensuring that the Audit Office is an effective, strong and independent integrity agency and the bill furthers that commitment. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr DAVID MEHAN: On behalf of Ms Jenny Aitchison: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT (PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION) BILL 2025

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Anoulack Chanthivong, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

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): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2025. The bill is yet another important milestone in the Minns Labor Government's commitment to modernise the New South Wales tenancy market and make renting fairer. The Government has already brought in the biggest reforms to rental laws in more than a decade. No-grounds evictions have been abolished and landlords are now required to provide a valid reason when ending a lease. The Government has also made it easier for renters to have pets, limited rent increases to once per year, ensured renters are not asked to pay extra charges at the start of a tenancy and enabled rent to be paid by a free bank transfer. The Government also committed to improving protection of renters' data and privacy, and this bill fulfills that commitment.

Renters in New South Wales are being asked to provide vast quantities of personal information when they apply for properties. That can range from names to pay slips, bank records and highly sensitive identification documents. It can also include clearly unnecessary information such as photos, social media accounts, or even information about their children or relationship status. It is not clear how that information is being used, and if it ends up in the wrong hands the outcome could be disastrous. The Annual Cyber Threat Report indicates a data breach is reported around every six minutes. The consequences are significant and include identity theft, discrimination, emotional and financial harm, loss of consumer trust and reputational damage for businesses and government. The more information that is collected, the greater the risks.

The risks are even more pronounced in the current tight rental market, where renters are applying for multiple properties. Their information may be held by multiple agencies across multiple platforms. Renters provide the information in good faith and should not have to trade away their privacy to find a place to live. The current situation also subjects landlords and agents to significant risks. Many agents are worried about the amount of personal data they hold and their vulnerability to data breaches. Agents often comment that they feel obliged to collect and hold vast quantities of personal information to show landlords that they have done their due diligence in assessing potential renters, and because other agents also collect that amount of information. Once renters' information is collected, it is often used for purposes other than to assess their suitability for a property or to manage a tenancy.

For example, personal information can be used to market insurance and financial products. It is also usually kept for longer than necessary, with no clear time frames within which the information must be destroyed. While some real estate agencies and property technology companies are covered by the Commonwealth Privacy Act, smaller agencies and landlords are not covered. Further, the requirements in the Privacy Act are very general because they are intended to apply to a wide range of industries. All those elements show that there is a need for specific privacy obligations for the rental sector. The obligations set out in this bill address the needs of renters, landlords, agents and the growing property technology sector. They ensure that the personal information of renters is protected, while making certain that landlords can obtain the information they need to assess a rental application and manage a tenancy.

The bill, and the regulations that will be made under it, will establish a comprehensive scheme for dealing with the personal information of renters. It will limit personal information that can be collected from renters and set controls on its use and disclosure at different stages of a tenancy. The changes include requirements for safe storage of information and time frames for disposal. The reforms in the bill were developed following extensive public consultation, with over 16,000 survey responses and more than 400 written submissions from renters, owners, real estate agents, tenant advocates and industry representatives. The NSW Rental Commissioner consulted with renters, owners, agents, advocates, academics, the NSW Privacy Commissioner, experts in the field and a special reference group of experts. That group informed the development of the reforms to ensure the policy was reasonable, effective and proportionate to meet the needs of both industry and renters.

The Government has consulted widely and thoroughly to make sure the bill gets the balance right for owners, renters and others involved in the residential tenancy process, and for the people of New South Wales. In addition to making rules about dealing with renters' personal information, the bill makes other amendments relating to disclosure of embedded networks and altered images in rental advertisements, and a grace period for renters to apply to have pets. I now turn to the detail of the bill. The bill applies the Australian Privacy Principles [APPs] in the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 to all landlords, agents and property technology operators who assist landlords, agents and renters in the leasing and management of rental premises.

Many agents and property technology operators are already bound by these privacy principles, which are general in nature and establish a benchmark for the protection of personal information across a broad range of businesses. Applying the APPs will provide foundational protections for renters that will be augmented by specific requirements relevant to the rental sector. The APPs cover issues such as collecting only information that is consented to by the person concerned, using and disclosing information only for the purpose that the person has consented to, and taking reasonable measures to securely store the information and dispose of it when no longer

needed. The bill also contains specific privacy protections for the rental sector, and regulation-making powers that will allow further details to be set out in the regulations. This will enable flexibility in the detailed requirements.

The first protection in the bill is that a landlord or agent who collects personal information must offer the renter a way of providing the information directly to the landlord or agent. This aims to ensure that a renter is not forced to provide their data to a property technology platform to apply for a property if they would prefer not to do so. The bill also ensures that information must be collected directly from a renter unless they consent to it being collected in another way or the regulations permit this. This will ensure that landlords and agents will be limited to permitted sources of information and are not able to use information from sources such as social media to assess rental applications.

The bill provides for the development of a mandatory application form that will be required to be used for all rental applications. This will be included in the regulations. Although the information fields will be prescribed, there will be flexibility in the format and layout to support the use of different digital and paper forms. It is intended that the standard application form will specify that information can be collected from a rental applicant only for limited and legitimate purposes, to determine whether the applicant will be a suitable match for the property.

The regulations will set out the information that an applicant can provide, at each stage of the application process, to allow an assessment of the applicant's ability to pay the rent, the likelihood they will look after the property and be reliable, and to verify their identity. The number and type of documents that can be collected for these purposes will also be prescribed. This will end intrusive and excessive data collection from rental applicants, while ensuring that landlords are still able to access the information necessary to assess their application. To ensure that renters can provide evidence of their reliability and ability to meet rent payments in past tenancies, the bill requires a landlord to provide a renter with their rent record at the end of a tenancy. The bill makes an important change to the collection of identity information from rental applicants. Current industry practice is to collect identity information from all applicants at the start of the rental application process.

The bill instead provides that verification of identity is permitted only for the preferred applicant, as the final step prior to entry into the tenancy contract. This simple change will significantly reduce the unnecessary collection of sensitive personal documentation such as driver licences and passports. Given that each rental property advertised would usually receive a significant number of rental applicants and require at least two forms of identification to be provided, it has been estimated that this approach could save upwards of 3.2 million personal documents being collected and stored annually. To ensure that a renter is not disadvantaged if information is collected unlawfully, the bill provides that this information cannot be used when assessing a tenancy application and must be destroyed within two business days of the landlord, agent or property technology operator becoming aware of the contravention. The APPs require that information be generally used and disclosed for the purposes for which it is collected, and destroyed when it is no longer needed for those purposes.

The regulations will elaborate on the APPs with specific requirements that will generally limit the use and disclosure of the information to assessing the rental application and the ongoing management of the tenancy for the successful applicant, and impose specific time frames for destroying information for unsuccessful and successful applicants. The requirements in the bill are accompanied by penalties for breach, which will be enforced by NSW Fair Trading. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal is also empowered to make orders relating to breaches of the new requirements in the bill and the regulations. These orders can include restricting the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, requiring renters to be given access to their own information, or requiring personal information to be destroyed, amended or de-identified.

The bill also makes important amendments to existing provisions regulating the operation of tenant databases to ensure that these databases act fairly towards renters and comply with the law. Residential tenancy databases hold information about renters who were subject to a tribunal termination order for breaching a tenancy agreement or who left the previous landlord out of pocket, with a debt that was not covered by the rental bond. The information in the databases is used by landlords and agents to decide whether to lease to prospective renters. Tenancy databases are tightly regulated due to the serious consequences for renters who are listed on them. Most landlords and agents will not rent to someone listed on a database, with the result that these renters can face homelessness. With the development of new property technology platforms, greater clarity is needed about what should be considered a database and whether the operator needs to comply with the restrictions on what information can be held.

The bill amends the definition of a database to provide clarity about when someone is operating a database and creates a distinction between tenancy databases and the other technology platforms that collect and share information about tenants. The amendment will ensure that other technology platforms that are carrying out the functions typically carried out by landlords and agents, such as having tenants complete tenancy applications and collecting information from tenants with their consent, are not defined as residential tenancy database operators.

However, they will still be required to comply with the new rules in the bill and the regulations. Any person who seeks to collect and share information from landlords and agents about previous tenancy breaches will have to comply with the restrictions applying to tenancy databases. The bill also tightens up the database provisions to ensure that renters are provided with a fair and timely means to check what information is kept about them on such databases and, if information should not be on the database, that it is corrected or removed promptly. The bill also increases the penalties for failing to comply with these provisions.

I now turn to the remaining provisions in the bill, which will make renting fairer. To ensure that renters have key information before they enter into a rental agreement and are not misled by advertising, the bill imposes two important disclosure requirements. The first is where any service to the rental premises is supplied through an embedded network, referred to in the bill as an exclusive supply network to ensure alignment with strata and other occupancy laws. Embedded networks for services like electricity, gas or hot water mean that a renter cannot shop around and use an alternative supplier, and so cannot control the price at which the service is supplied. Currently, owners and agents are only required to disclose that a service is provided through an embedded network in the residential tenancy agreement. However, by the time the agreement is being signed, renters would already be committed to the property.

The bill will require embedded networks to be disclosed in advertising for a rental property and before the renter enters into a tenancy agreement. This was a recommendation of the parliamentary inquiry into embedded networks, and will assist renters to understand the features of the property before they rent it. If there is no disclosure at all before entering into a tenancy agreement, the renter will have a right to terminate the agreement. The second disclosure requirement will require disclosure of when images in a rental advertisement have been altered in a way that would be reasonably likely to mislead or deceive a prospective renter. For example, this would capture alterations such as those that remove undesirable infrastructure from the background, such as electricity towers or items that obscure views; digitally modifying photos to obscure property damage, such as water ingress stains or mould; or using artificially generated furniture that shows a double bed in a bedroom that is only large enough to fit a single bed.

Finding a suitable rental property can be time consuming and arduous. This requirement aims to reduce the risk of misleading and deceptive images leading an applicant to waste their time on unsuitable properties, or leading renters who do not have time to inspect into renting an unsuitable property. To assist the sector to comply with the advertisement disclosure requirements, the bill allows the secretary to issue guidance, providing clarity about the sorts of alterations that Fair Trading will consider to be misleading. The bill also increases the penalties attached to certain existing offences in the Act to ensure that they are proportionate and reflect the harms caused.

Currently, offences relating to the terms that must or must not be included in a residential tenancy agreement, restrictions on amounts payable before an agreement, the way rent is paid, and providing rent records have a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units, or $2,200. That amount is not an appropriate deterrent and can result in a breach of these provisions simply being absorbed as a cost of doing business. The penalties have also been amended to include separate penalties for individuals and others, in recognition that a higher penalty should be available for contraventions by sophisticated corporations that may be offending on a larger scale than an individual landlord.

The bill will increase penalties for offences relating to failing to use the standard residential tenancy agreement; requiring a renter to make prohibited additional payments before entering an agreement; failing to ensure that required rent payment methods are made available; and failing to keep or provide a rent record to a maximum of 50 penalty units for individuals, or $5,500, to align with other penalties for offences by individuals under the bill. It also introduces a separate penalty for non-individuals of up to 300 penalty units, or $33,000, for failing to use the standard residential tenancy agreement, and a maximum of 200 penalty units, or $22,000, for breach of the other requirements.

Finally, the bill will make an important amendment to enable the more effective operation of the Government's changes to make it easier for renters to have pets. The bill introduces a grace period for renters who have moved into a rental property but are waiting for the landlord's permission to keep pets. If the renter applies for the pet within seven days of moving into a new rental property, they can keep the pet at the property until the landlord gives a written response to their application. This grace period will provide an opportunity for renters to apply to keep a pet without automatically being in breach when they move into a new rental property.

This bill represents another step forward in implementing the Government's commitments to make renting fairer in New South Wales. The Government's changes to end no-grounds evictions, to make it easier for renters to have pets, to prevent rent bidding, to limit the frequency of rent increases, to prevent additional fees and to ensure free and convenient rent payment options are creating a more modern, fair, transparent and stable rental market. The Government is also implementing the nation's first portable rental bonds scheme. The scheme will be a game changer for renters, who will be able to save thousands of dollars by transferring their bond between

rental properties. We have invested $8.4 million in the Rental Taskforce, with inspectors and support teams to help renters and to act on serious breaches of rental laws. We launched the new, free Rent Check website to make it easier for renters to check whether the rent they are being asked for is fair.

The reforms in the bill are the next step in implementing the Government's election commitment to protect renters' personal information and privacy. These reforms will provide clarity and certainty about what rules apply, and will reduce risks for renters and those who hold their personal information. I thank all members of the community who participated in the consultation on the reforms and all stakeholders representing renters, owners, agents and others who provided input and advice to help the Government develop the reforms. I particularly thank members of the reference group, including representatives from the Tenants' Union of NSW, the Real Estate Institute of NSW, Legal Aid, the University of New South Wales City Futures Research Centre, Ray White, Harcourts, the REA Group, Proptech Association, Multicultural NSW, academics from the University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney, and the NSW Privacy Commissioner. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Community Recognition Statements

BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (11:34): I was honoured to attend the Australian citizenship ceremony at Bega Valley Shire Council on 23 May 2025. Those ceremonies are always a milestone in the lives of those who perform the pledge of citizenship. Seventeen new Australian citizens took the pledge, which states:

> From this time forward, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.

I welcome Connor Vincent Laughton, Arminder Singh Gill, Sunanta Piranrum, Michael Paul Ray, Anna Louise Leslie Smith, Anna Christina Steinhaus, Suwit Chainok, Natkamol Phongphanit, Suphatat Chainok, Vamsi Krishna Ramisetty, Colin Martin Searston, Pooja Kamboj, Manoj Kumar, Shyan Kamboj, Lalu Jayapalan Sahithi Devi, and Shruti as our new Australian citizens.

HUNTER VALLEY LEGENDS AWARDS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (11:35): The Upper Hunter has it all: world-class wining and dining; location, location, location; and absolutely marvellous, charismatic winemakers to boot. I am here to let everyone know about the Hunter Valley Legends Awards. Andrew and Lisa Margan of Broke were inducted as this year's Wine Living Legend and Tourism Living Legend. Andrew has had a longstanding commitment to Hunter Valley winemaking, and Lisa Margan has dedicated more than 30 years to teaching, nutrition and fine dining. She has brought her vision of agri-dining to life in Broke. Topping off the awards in the Upper Hunter, Liz Silkman was awarded the 2025 Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year. It has been a stellar 12 months for Liz, which included being the first Hunter Valley winemaker to be awarded the nationally acclaimed Halliday Winemaker of the Year title.

KATHY GARANCSI

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (11:36): I congratulate Kathy Garancsi on receiving the honour of Life Membership with the NSW State Emergency Service. Kathy joined the SES in 1980 and has devoted an incredible 44 years to serving communities across New South Wales. Her leadership has been exemplary as she rose through the ranks from Deputy and Unit Commander of the Auburn Unit to her current role as Local Commander of the Central Cluster. She has played a vital role in mentoring volunteers, leading training programs and shaping the next generation of emergency responders. Kathy has responded to some of the State's most significant emergencies, including the Thredbo landslide, the Blue Mountains bushfires, and the 1990 Auburn/Bankstown hailstorm that resulted in more than 5,000 calls for assistance. Kathy's service, loyalty and dedication to the SES, and the communities it serves, is exemplary.

ORNELLA TOMAINO

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (11:37): Ornella Tomaino is an extraordinary force for good in Mona Vale, who tirelessly dedicates her time and effort to support various charities. Ornella runs a competitive mahjong club with over 200 members from the local area. As part of that club, members pay a small fee that is donated to different charities, including the local bowling club and women's shelters. Ornella also engages people from the charity to speak with the members to help raise awareness of different issues and to enhance social cohesion. I have been told that her true skill is spotlighting lesser-known charities that struggle for attention, to ensure that no-one is left behind. Ornella's personal qualities also truly shine. She is a warm, charitable and charismatic individual whose kindness touches everyone she meets. Her impact on the community is

immeasurable and her selfless dedication deserves immense praise. I sincerely thank Ornella for her dedication to making our community a better place. I extend my thanks to all those who give as part of that mahjong club.

MERINO BREWERY

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (11:38): Never let it be said that one cannot get a good brew in Camden. We now have award-winning beer brewed right in Narellan. Merino Brewery took away various accolades at the Australian International Beer Awards last month, including winning gold for its Camden IPA and Extra Special Bitter. The brewery, which sells its beer onsite and on tap, often hosts food trucks and live music. When I was there last Saturday, I enjoyed the music of the Honey Sippers and great Mexican food. The Merino Brewery keeps its ties to both the local area and its owners' British roots, which is a long-held tradition in Camden. Behind the brewery are Lee Evans and Mark Palmer. Like Macarthur, the pair have backgrounds in the military. Lee, who hails from Britain, previously served in the Royal Navy before migrating to Australia close to two decades ago, while Mark's background is in the Australian Army. If anyone would like to sample that world-best fare, they can come to Narellan. Let me know; most likely I will already be there.

CHATSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (11:39): I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate Chatswood High School on being ranked twenty-sixth out of 820 secondary schools across New South Wales in 2025—a remarkable achievement. This result places Chatswood High as one of the top-performing schools in the State, and the highest ranked comprehensive public high school outside the fully selective top 20. This success is a testament to the exceptional leadership of former principal David Osland; the recent acting principal, Richard McKeough; and the dedication of the entire teaching and support staff and community. Their passion, professionalism and tireless commitment to student success continue to shape an inclusive, high-achieving school culture. Chatswood High proves that world-class education is accessible to all. We welcome the school's new principal, Robin Chand, and wish him all the very best as he builds upon these strong foundations. With its strong academic performance, diverse curriculum and innovative programs, the school equips students for bright futures and meaningful contributions to our society. Congratulations to the entire Chatswood High School community on this fine achievement.

GILLIAN BLACKMORE

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (11:40): I recognise Padstow Heights Public School principal Gillian Blackmore for her visionary leadership and the enduring contributions she has made to not only her students but also the wider community. Gillian is at the forefront of innovative approaches to teaching and student mentorship. Guided by her deep commitment to social justice, she empowers students to become champions of meaningful change, placing equity, empathy and fairness at the heart of their educational experience. At the same time, Gillian's energetic and proactive community involvement has strengthened a variety of local connections, including developing an intergenerational project with the Beauty Point Retirement Resort and fostering strong community ties through her involvement with the Fathering Project and local men's shed. Those initiatives have created deeply enriching experiences for students and valuable opportunities for connection and shared learning across generations. Gillian is a compassionate pioneer whose positive impact I have been fortunate to witness firsthand. We thank her for her unfaltering dedication and service to our community.

HERA LIU

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (11:41): I recognise Hera Liu, a beloved and enduring presence in the Paddington community for more than two decades. Along with her husband, Felix, Hera has been the heart and soul of Paddington Grind, a cafe first opened by her mother-in-law, Assia Berenstein, and her husband, Eddy, in 2002. Paddington Grind has become more than just a coffee shop; it is an important part of the broader eastern suburbs community. This MP has enjoyed a skinny cap or two on the way to Parliament House on many occasions, and they are always made with a smile. Hera's family have watched toddlers grow up, get married and have their own kids; they have watched puppies grow up; and they have watched as the community went through COVID, during which people looked out and supported each other. I wish Hera and Felix and their children, Leoni, Aidan and Zach, all the very best for the next chapter in their lives as they hand the keys over to new owners. Our community has been made richer for having them in it.

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (11:42): On 14 June 2025 I had the privilege of attending the twenty-seventh national conference of the Vietnamese Community in Australia [VCA] in Melbourne. Every two years, the VCA organises a national conference in a different State or Territory over a weekend to discuss important issues relevant to it and to elect a national executive board. This year's conference held special significance, as the community marked 50 years of Vietnamese community settlement in Australia. Members reflected on a historic milestone of

resilience and a remarkable journey of success. I had a great time meeting many Federal MPs, State MPs, councillors—especially those from Victoria—and dedicated members of the VCA from across Australia. I thank Mr Duy Quang Nguyen and the organising committee for their kind invitation and appreciate Mr Cong Le for all his wonderful work over many years. I extend my congratulations to Mr Thang Ha and the newly elected national executive team and wish them continued success.

ISMET TASTAN AND OTTO NOORBA

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (11:43): I acknowledge the generosity of Greens councillor Ismet Tastan and local Kurdish restaurant Otto Noorba, who recently partnered with Good in the Hood and Together2 to support people doing it tough in our community. Ismet sponsored 60 freshly prepared meals from Otto Noorba, which were delivered across my electorate of Balmain by the Good in the Hood team. Those meals offered not only food but also care, dignity and connection. I thank councillor Ismet Tastan; Mahmure and Sabri Polat from Otto Noorba; and Marco D'Angelis, Yulika Silva and Carly Freel from Good in the Hood for their compassion, energy and commitment to building a stronger, more connected community—one meal and one conversation at a time.

ELIE AKOURI, OAM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (11:44): It gives me great pleasure to recognise Mr Elie Akouri for his extraordinary contributions to the Lebanese community in Australia, which have earned him the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia. As the founder and president of the Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group in 1977, Elie has not only enriched our cultural landscape but also brought people together through the joy of music and dance. His creative talents as a choreographer, costume designer and director have transformed countless performances into vibrant celebrations of Lebanese heritage. Beyond the stage, Elie has made significant strides in the community through the group's theatre restaurant, encouraging a sense of belonging and pride among Lebanese Australians. His dedication has been recognised with numerous awards, including the Citizen of the Year award from the City of Canterbury Bankstown and the New South Wales Premier's Lebanese community award for culture and art. Elie's dedication and commitment to cultural preservation and community engagement serves as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate Elie. His hard work and passion have made a lasting impact and continue to brighten the lives of many. I thank him for his invaluable service.

HILL TOP MEN'S SHED

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (11:45): The spirit and connection at the Hill Top Men's Shed is genuinely inspiring. It is another example of the connection and encouragement that build communities through the participation in groups such as this, and I am grateful to them for inviting me to the shed to share my insights as a member of Parliament. I enjoyed engaging directly with the members to gain a better understanding of the challenges they faced and the policy priorities that matter most to them. While the shed may hold a unique meaning for each member, the shared passion for creating, making and repairing, as well as contributing to social projects, brings everyone together with a sense of friendship and community spirit. The Men's Shed Association is fantastic. It was begun in 2007 by a collection of Australian independent community-based men's sheds to represent, support and promote their movement. It was founded on the principle of sharing information between sheds and those communities wishing to establish and operate a men's shed. The Hill Top Men's Shed exemplifies the goals of support, learning and mateship.

SOUTH COAST PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (11:46): I recognise the outstanding efforts of the Premier Bus team and New South Wales railway staff for going above and beyond to ensure a smooth journey for commuters during an unexpected disruption from inclement weather on the South Coast rail line. Due to high winds, a fallen tree closed the rail line between Kiama and Bomaderry. Despite that, the 6.43 a.m. train service was promptly replaced with a bus that successfully transported passengers to connect with a train to Sydney. On the return journey, the train from Kiama to Bomaderry departed on time. However, it had to briefly pause to allow for the removal of debris from the track. Thanks to the excellent communication between train drivers and station staff, the bus at Bomaderry was held to meet the delayed train, ensuring that no-one was left behind. Those efforts, especially by Mick the bus driver and frontline railway staff, demonstrates the incredible value of the people working at the coalface, delivering public transport. On behalf of the South Coast community, I commend all involved for their dedication and professionalism.

PAUL SHEATHER

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (11:47): After more than 16 years at the helm of Balgowlah high school, Paul Sheather is stepping down as the principal, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in boys' education on the northern beaches. When Paul arrived at "Bally Boys" in 2008, he brought with him a clear and ambitious vision:

to build a curriculum and teaching approach that truly engaged young men in their learning. The results speak for themselves. Under his leadership, enrolments have tripled and the school is now recognised statewide for its exceptional HSC English results. Paul has been a true champion of boys' education. His approachable and principled leadership has earned him the deep respect of students, staff, parents and the broader community. I say a big thank you to Paul and wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.

WHALE CENSUS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (11:48): On behalf of the Central Coast community, I thank all the compassionate and caring crew involved in the disentanglement of a young whale near Lion Island last Monday. Crews from the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans [ORRCA] and the National Parks and Wildlife Service large whale disentanglement team worked together to free the whale that was spotted off Killcare following 17 reports of a young whale tangled in a net. That rescue is ahead of this weekend's whale census—organised thanks to ORRCA—on the east coast of Australia. The citizen science event encourages the public to observe and record whale activity along the New South Wales coastline, contributing to marine conservation efforts. The census has been running for a number of years, with over 5,000 whales spotted in 2023, which was a really calm year. I encourage Central Coast residents to contact ORRCA to register to become part of this great citizen science project, with five great lookouts on the Central Coast ready to spot whales—Gerrin Point lookout, Captain Cook Lookout at Tudibaring Head, the Skillion in Terrigal, Crackneck Point lookout and Norah Head. People should register now and get out there to marvel at our incredible wildlife.

CENTRAL COAST ADVENTIST SCHOOL LEARNING HUB

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (11:49): It was a pleasure to officially open the new learning hub at Central Coast Adventist School [CCAS]. This modern facility now houses the main reception, administration offices, an expanded library resource centre and flexible learning spaces for secondary students. Since 1969 CCAS has delivered quality Christian education on the Central Coast. For over 55 years the school has prioritised improving its facilities, and the need for a larger library has long been recognised. But, of course, that took second place next to classrooms. This new hub is a major milestone. I commend Principal Tony Kent for his vision and leadership in bringing this project to life. I also thank Seventh-day Adventist Schools (North NSW) and the State Government for their vital support in funding the project. After 25 years in temporary buildings, this purpose-built hub provides a centralised, modern space that enhances connection, collaboration and learning for students and staff. This is a proud achievement for the entire Central Coast Adventist School community and a strong investment in the future of education on the coast. I congratulate Principal Tony and the school community.

MR MO LAM

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (11:50): I am honoured to recognise Mr Mo Lam, a well-known member of Cabramatta, for his enduring contribution. He is currently the president of the veterans Military Police Corps of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. He endured a perilous 26-day sea journey aboard a small boat in search of freedom after the fall of Saigon. Carrying nothing but determination, resilience and the skills of a military police officer, Mr Lam took on a leadership role throughout his journey from the voyage to the refugee camps and eventual settlement in Australia. After arriving in Australia on 19 July 1981, Mr Lam became a committed figure in the early settlement of the Vietnamese community and in supporting new arrivals. Within two years, he opened the Pho 54 restaurant, which he proudly used as a means to serve Cabramatta and support his community. Mr Lam's dedicated commitment, contributions and lasting impact deserve our appreciation.

REVEREND DR MANAS GHOSH

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:51): The Reverend Dr Manas Ghosh has served as a Uniting Church Minister for 30 years. He was recently recognised at the Rotary Club of Wahroonga awards night with a Community Service Award. Manas currently serves as the Minister at St John's, Wahroonga, having previously ministered at Lindfield Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission. He has also served as a chaplain for Rockdale City Council. Manas initiated a gathering of religious and community cultural leaders for an International Day of Peace at Lindfield Uniting Church of Australia over 20 years ago. He went on to host this event annually at Parramatta Mission and currently at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga. Manas has been a member of Uniting Church interfaith dialogue for many years. This group includes members of the Jewish and Muslim communities. He has been proactive in hosting members of the Islamic Studies and Research Centre and Turkish community to his parish. Manas gives support to various local schools and tertiary institutions across the Uniting Church as well as community groups and he is a member of the NSW Ecumenical Council. I thank Manas for his great contribution to our community.

NEPEAN RIVER TRAIL

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (11:52): I am thrilled to announce that Camden's Nepean River Trail was the winner of the Landscape category at the prestigious 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards. The 4.2-kilometre trail extension connects the Nepean River to Camden's main street, weaving through Camden Town Farm, Ferguson Land and Bicentennial Equestrian Park. Funded through a $5.1 million grant from the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, the initiative by Camden Council ensures a vibrant and accessible space for generations to enjoy. This is recognition of commitment by both the council and the New South Wales Government to preserving heritage, enhancing public spaces and creating a lasting connection between nature, community and culture. Camden is honoured to stand alongside outstanding projects from all over New South Wales. I congratulate Camden Council Mayor Ashleigh Cagney, councillors and council staff on this incredible recognition.

JESSICA CRONJE

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (11:53): Olympian Jessica Cronje has always been a natural athlete. Having participated in swimming and athletics, it was in wheelchair basketball that she excelled, competing internationally as well as reaching the pinnacle of her sport by representing Australia in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Japan as a member of the Gliders—the Australian women's national wheelchair basketball team. Jess was born with cerebral palsy but has never let that hold her back. While she was growing up in Wollondilly, sport first appealed for health benefits, but it was her determination and dedication that resulted in her reaching high levels of competition in local sporting clubs and academies. She is currently training with a scholarship at the NSW Institute of Sport for wheelchair basketball. She not only gives back to the community through mentoring young athletes and assisting on games days, but also volunteers with Landcare to help with preservation of the Cumberland Plain area in Menangle. Jess was awarded the Disability Inclusion Award at the Wollondilly 2025 Australia Day Awards for her contributions to her sport and community, and is an inspiration to all.

NICOLE CROWE

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie) (11:54): I recognise Nicole Crowe, a vital member of the Camden Haven Surf Life Saving Club. Nicole has dedicated over 40 years to surf lifesaving, consistently going above and beyond in her volunteer roles. At the Camden Haven Surf Life Saving Club, a small club that punches above its weight in supporting the community, Nicole is instrumental in upholding that reputation. She coordinates junior activities, supports emergency call-outs, leads maintenance efforts and ensures smooth club operations. Her selfless leadership, reliability and unwavering commitment make her a truly outstanding nominee for the Rotary Emergency Services Community Award. The ceremony is being held in Sydney this August. The significance of surf lifesaving to the Mid North Coast cannot be understated. Our region has many beautiful beaches, attracting many visitors to the area, and the work that Nicole and members of the club do in supporting the safety of beachgoers is appreciated.

Private Members' Statements

TRIBUTE TO STUART CLARK, AM, AFSM

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (11:55): I acknowledge the passing of, and pay tribute to, Stuart Clark, AM, AFSM—a remarkable member of our community. As will become apparent, the five minutes allotted to the delivery of a private member's statement is entirely inadequate to properly go into the detail of the many respects in which Stuart Clark contributed to our community. Many would best know Stuart's contribution to the law. He was a practising solicitor for almost 45 years, spending the majority of that time as a partner at Clayton Utz, one of Australia's largest law firms. Widely regarded as one of Australia's finest litigators, Stuart played a key role in establishing the Legal Profession Uniform Law in New South Wales and Victoria, and he served as President of the Law Council of Australia in 2016. He was a director of the Law Council of Australia from 2012 and served as an executive member from 2014. He also led the Law Council's Legal Aid Matters campaign.

Stuart was particularly passionate about access to justice for everyone, improving diversity and equality within the legal profession, and addressing injustice, including the over-representation of First Nations people in our justice system. From 2012 to 2015, Stuart was chair of the Large Law Firm Group. Throughout his career, he also served on the boards of the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, the Australian Legal Sector Alliance, the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Legal Services Council's National Admissions Commission. In 1974 he was among the first group of law students at Macquarie Law School, and in 2010 he was appointed an adjunct professor of law at Macquarie University. He was also a founder of Macquarie University Law Society. His early student days saw him involved in the restructuring of university student unions throughout the nation as part of the Centre Unity group, which would be an early indicator of the amazing national contributions that lay ahead.

Stuart's contributions to Australia were formally recognised on three separate occasions. In 1994 he received the National Medal as a volunteer firefighter with the RFS. In 2015 he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours for "significant service to the law through senior roles with professional legal bodies, to strategic reform, and to the Rural Fire Service." Most recently, he was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the 2025 Australia Day Honours. Stuart served in the RFS for more than 50 years, having first joined the Elouera Rural Fire Brigade in 1973 at just 16 years of age. Over the years, he served in multiple brigades across the State. He was known as the architect of the RFS organisational restructure, working with successive commissioners to implement key legislative and corporate changes. His contributions included the development of the RFS Code of Conduct and Ethics, disciplinary processes, brigade constitutional reform and the brigade management handbook.

Locally he was passionately involved for many years in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai RFS brigade and was the driving force behind the recent establishment of the Killara RFS brigade. Stuart and I discussed on many occasions the use of the redundant scout hall site near Killara High School to meet the demands for our area to establish another brigade. I cherish very much the memories of our discussions over a whole range of issues. Incredibly, Stuart also served as deputy chair of the Families of Veterans Guild and chair of the Volunteer Rescue Association of New South Wales. In addition to that, Stuart was a great contributor to the New South Wales division of Liberal Party of Australia. He served many years as chair of the disputes panel and he was a local member of the Pymble branch.

His contribution to the Liberal Party was incredible. Stuart's funeral was held two weeks ago on 19 June at St James' Kings Street Anglican church. It was the largest funeral I have attended at that church, which has held the funerals of former Wallabies, mayors and a Chief Justice of the High Court. Stuart would have been so proud of the wonderful tributes given by his wife, Narelle, his sons, Andrew and Richard—both lawyers, who I know he was incredibly proud of—and his sister, Gillian, and friends, Steven Lewis and Larissa Cook. Vale, Stuart Clark, AM, AFSM. We will not see a person like you again any time soon.

MORISSET HOSPITAL PRECINCT

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (12:00): Last December I stood with the Minister for Sport and announced that land had been secured for Lake Macquarie's new sports centre. The search for the right site had been long and complex but we found a location, which was second to none, on the grounds of the Morisset Hospital. However, the project and the future of the greater Morisset Hospital precinct is under threat because the Ministry of Health does not have a master plan for the future of the precinct and has no foreseeable plans to prepare one.

The Government announced in 2023 that some Morisset Hospital services would be relocated to the new Maitland facility. It has plans to close Morisset Hospital in about 2027. Despite notifying the public of its intention to leave Morisset, the Government has no plan as to what will happen with the site afterwards. As far as I can see, it just plans to turn the lights off and leave. The State Government reserved over 1,200 hectares of land in 1900 to build Morisset Hospital, which officially opened in 1909. For over 100 years the hospital has remained under the care of the State health authority but now it appears that NSW Health will abandon it without taking responsibility for the site's infrastructure and many heritage buildings, or giving due consideration to how its exit will impact the local community.

If NSW Health decamps without planning for the resulting physical, social and economic impacts, the site will be subject to degradation, vandalism and theft rather than redevelopment. Instead of leveraging the sport and recreation amenity of the Morisset Sports Facility to attract investment, we will see vegetation overgrow the site and infrastructure fall into disrepair. I am also concerned that, without a master plan, responsibility for upgrading the enabling infrastructure needed for the Morisset Sports Facility will fall upon the Office of Sport. Make no mistake: If the funds committed to this project are eaten up by enabling works, the sports facility will not get built. The 2025-26 New South Wales budget has not allocated money to the master plan, let alone the enabling works. To that I say that the Government always knew enabling infrastructure would be needed for the sports facility, no matter the location.

It has now been six years since Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre suddenly closed. The Government must deliver on its promise to build a new sports centre for the people of Lake Macquarie. That means it must fund the enabling works, along with a master plan, for the whole Morisset Hospital site. The closure of Morisset Hospital is the end of an era in Lake Macquarie and is being met with a mixed sense of nostalgia and inevitability. However, it also represents an opportunity. The hospital precinct is a significant parcel of land, which could—and should—be put to a valuable use that respects the site's natural and cultural significance. We cannot let the opportunity pass by because of a failure to properly plan for it. To do so would shortchange the people of Lake Macquarie.

I therefore call on the New South Wales Government to immediately develop a Morisset Hospital master plan that puts the people of Lake Macquarie at its heart. As a part of the process, the Government must complete an up-to-date heritage management plan so that the 14 heritage items of State significance in the Local Environmental Plan can be protected and restored. In particular, the recreation hall, despite being one of the most significant heritage buildings in Lake Macquarie, has been neglected to the point that it has been classified as condemned. That happened on the Ministry of Health's watch and demonstrates an unbelievable, although unfortunately common, lack of care for heritage assets at the site.

I believe that the department has a moral obligation to, at the very least, plan for their restoration. NSW Health is well aware of the issues that will arise if it decamps from Morisset without preparing a master plan. It is mind-boggling that it could think of doing so when it knows that this would lead to degradation of the site and its valuable heritage buildings, undermine the viability of the Morisset Sports Facility and limit the future success of the local community. The Government and NSW Health in particular have an obligation and also an opportunity: an opportunity to partner with the Office of Sport in delivering proactive lifestyle activities for better health and to leave a positive legacy for a community which has both supported and benefitted from the operation of a mental health facility at Morisset for over 100 years.

UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (12:05): I focus on health in the Upper Hunter. We have just had the budget. Of course, budgets are really important in setting not only the dollars but also the priorities for the State going forward, and it is good to see those priorities in housing and other issues that are really affecting our communities. But one that I feel has been neglected is regional health. Regional health needs particular attention. We have known this for a number of years now. We have a number of committees and a number of recommendations, but we need to make sure that we take the opportunity to set aside money within every budget for incentives, programs and targeted intervention into our regional health system, to make sure that we are delivering fair health care for everyone across this State.

In particular, I have been working on a number of key areas that could be focused on in the future, including workforce development, better maternity services, patient transport—which is key for much of this—access to imaging equipment such as CT scanners and, of course, access to GPs overall, and working with our Federal colleagues. I was happy to meet with Tracey McCosker, the CEO of Hunter New England Local Health District, and Susan Hayman, the executive director, the other day. It was great to bring along our local mayors, Sue Moore, Jeff Drayton and Maurice Collison, of Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter shires, and really start talking about the issues that are, probably, the most important ones to our community.

I then managed to meet with a number of community members at the Muswellbrook and District Workers Club, where the Nurses and Midwives' Association brought along people in the community to air their concerns about regional health and really reinforced to me how important this issue is to our community in the Upper Hunter. I would put it as the number one concern about our situation at the moment. They were raising concerns and telling concerning stories about the current lack of maintenance at Muswellbrook Hospital, which is affecting daily service delivery. They raised the issue of security for the staff in the car park. Last year a number of cars were firebombed, which has made people particularly concerned. We need to continue to address that.

The biggest concern overall is the reduction in maternity services, which has been a trend for a long time. It is very difficult to deal with, but we keep trying. We have to keep using every budget of every year to make incremental changes so that we improve the situation. A few weeks ago I met with the Minister for Regional Health. I appreciate his time and being able to discuss these issues and my ideas for what could really improve health in the Upper Hunter. The committee being led by the member for Wagga Wagga is one of the most important in this place, so members need to get behind it and push its recommendations. A budget that puts money behind those recommendations is just as important. It is one of the greatest priorities and must be continued.

I enjoyed the Country Mayors Association presentation from our Deputy Secretary of Regional Health, Mr Luke Sloane, about what NSW Health is doing for regional health. Overall, the budget should have focused on some of the key issues. Workforce development is a big one. Although we are continuing the work done in the past, we can learn to make it better. Most importantly, in the short term, patient transport is key to making sure that people have access to good health care all the way up and down the Hunter Valley. I think there was a missed opportunity to address that issue in the budget.

NET ZERO EMISSIONS TARGETS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:10): An issue of deep concern to my electorate is that climate change is real, is happening now and will destroy our health and economic wellbeing unless we get it under control. New South Wales has legislated greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2030, 2035 and 2050 to

help address the looming crisis, but the targets will only be effective if they are met. Unfortunately, all current projections see us failing to reach any of them. My constituents and the wider community want the State to accelerate action on those targets and urgently green the economy. New South Wales established the Net Zero Commission in December 2023 to help keep us on track. The commission's first annual report identified a rapidly warming climate that has already surpassed the 1.6 degrees Celsius threshold, with the State's five warmest years in the last 125 years all occurring in the past 10 years. That includes the 2023-2024 year, which was the fourth hottest.

The report looked at all sectors, including energy, transport, waste, industry, built environment, land, agriculture and resources. The commission found the resources sector to be a significant threat to targets. Coalmining is responsible for about 12 per cent of the State's emissions, and the sector's emissions are rising. Greater fuel combustion from diesel machinery as mines dig deeper into coal seams is releasing higher quantities of fugitive methane emissions, which are the most destructive greenhouse gas. Fugitive abatement measures that would dramatically lower methane emissions at underground mines are not being implemented, and the coalmining sector is rapidly expanding. Recent State and Federal planning approvals have been given to expand the Moolarben Coal Complex underground mine, the Boggabri open-cut mine, the Glendell coalmine, the Narrabri underground mine stage three extension project, the Ashton Coal Operations' Ravensworth underground mine, the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project, the Ulan underground coal extension and, just recently, the Tahmoor Colliery underground mine.

Alarmingly, there are 17 applications for expanded coalmines in the pipeline awaiting planning department approval, and another six companies indicating intentions to lodge in the future. If those mining applications are approved, New South Wales will not achieve its targets, with the Net Zero Commission signalling a need to look closely at the industry because it is a "major challenge". The commission is not the only body expressing concerns that coalmining is preventing New South Wales from achieving its greenhouse gas emission targets. The New South Wales Productivity and Equality Commission's first report in the "Achieving net zero" series identified coalmining as a barrier to achieving emissions targets. The report recommends that governments make decisions as soon as possible on the future of coalmining in this country, stating that the longer we wait, the more it will cost to fix the shortfall.

The Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future echoed those concerns in the *2024 Annual Report of the Net Zero Commission* in March. It found that there is considerable uncertainty that emissions targets can be met, especially the 2030 and 2035 targets, due to the sizeable number of new coal expansions under consideration. The committee recommends that the Net Zero Commission urgently provide a further report on the resources sector, including methane abatement technology and fugitive emissions. The Government must ensure coalmining does not jeopardise our vital climate targets. Planning decision-makers should be required to ensure approvals do not compromise the targets based on advice from the Net Zero Commission, with the commission required to assess and advise on every coal application.

We must urgently revoke the outdated and discredited *Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW*. The policy is regularly cited in coalmine planning applications and approvals, overriding emission reduction targets and policies. Coalmines should be subject to merit appeals in the Land and Environment Court, and the Independent Planning Commission should assess and determine all expansions as new projects. There should be a prohibition on coalmine approvals for projects that will not begin until after 2030. New South Wales can have a green economy with strong employment opportunities that use our coalmining skill set in green energy and critical mineral resources without expanding coalmining.

Our future relies on a transition, and we need to start preparing. What could be more important than a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? Four coalmine expansions have been approved since the Net Zero Commission warned the State that expanding coal is a key reason that New South Wales is not on track to meet its legislated targets. I call on the Government to address the impact that coalmining is having on greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that they are cut by at least 50 per cent by 2030 and at least 70 per cent by 2035, and that we achieve net zero by 2050, in line with legislated targets.

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL RATES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (12:15): I speak on behalf of the residents of the Manly electorate and the broader northern beaches community to address the recent decision by Northern Beaches Council to formally adopt a 25.2 per cent rate increase. It follows the council's application to, and subsequent approval by, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. At its most recent meeting, a majority of councillors spoke in support of and voted in favour of proceeding with the rate rise, which will see the council's revenue increase by an estimated $66 million over the next three years. The decision comes at a time when families, small businesses and retirees across our community are already grappling with sustained cost-of-living pressures.

While the council has argued that the increase is necessary to maintain service levels and invest in infrastructure, it must be acknowledged that many residents expressed a clear preference for alternative cost-saving measures to be pursued before any additional financial burden was passed on to ratepayers. That view was reasonable and widely shared, given the current economic climate. The community was not calling for gold-plated upgrades or ambitious capital projects; it was simply asking that council prioritise better financial management, assess spending across all areas and avoid increasing rates during a time when household budgets are stretched thinner than ever. It is important to acknowledge that council had alternative pathways available.

Four options were presented to the community during consultation, with the most supported being a reduction in services to avoid a rate increase. I understand that there were clear opportunities to reassess discretionary spending, review remuneration structures, examine service delivery models and identify operational efficiencies. Council ultimately chose to proceed with a significant increase. That decision now carries a clear responsibility to deliver. Now that the council has secured the significant increase in revenue, there can be no excuses for delays in maintenance, the under-delivery of services or inaction on local infrastructure. The community expects and deserves to see meaningful improvements as a result of the decision. Whether it is upgrading local facilities, maintaining public spaces or improving the day-to-day services that residents rely on, council must now demonstrate that the additional revenue will deliver real outcomes.

I also acknowledge that there are many hardworking council staff who do their jobs diligently and care deeply about improving the community. It is not a reflection on their efforts but, rather, a reminder to elected councillors that the accountability for the decision rests with them. One councillor confusingly implied support for the increase and then ultimately voted against it—a truly bizarre set of circumstances. There is no doubt that councils across the State are facing increasing cost pressures, but when the burden is shifted to families and small businesses, especially during difficult economic times, the case for that decision must be matched by performance. Those councillors now have a duty to convince ratepayers that they stand to benefit from the increase, not through words but through genuine results. They must deliver on their promise effectively, transparently and in a way that restores public confidence.

COUNTY ROAD RESERVE

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (12:18): I reiterate my strong and long-held support for upgrading the County Road Reserve sports field in Belrose. The northern beaches is facing a significant and growing sports field shortage. It is being driven by increased participation, particularly in women's and over-35s competitions, and a lack of adequate infrastructure to meet current and future demand. County Road Reserve is currently in poor condition and lacks basic infrastructure, meaning it cannot be used to its full potential. It is the home ground of Wakehurst Football Club, which is 2,000 players strong, but remains without essential amenities like toilets and change rooms. As a result, players, including women and children, are forced to change clothes in public areas and, in some instances, use nearby bushes due to the lack of restroom facilities. That makes the reserve unsuitable for hosting women's sporting matches.

With the rise in women's football, particularly following the incredible success of the Matildas on the world stage, the demand for safe, fit-for-purpose facilities has never been higher. Yet many female teams are still training and playing on substandard or overused fields, often without change facilities or adequate lighting. The upgrade of County Road is an excellent opportunity to help rectify that and make the sport more accessible. It is low-hanging fruit for meaningfully addressing the sports field shortage on the northern beaches. That would be particularly significant for the growing number of football or soccer players on the northern beaches. The Manly Warringah Football Association has just under 20,000 players. Since I was elected as a member of this place, the lack of progress on the upgrade has been a source of real frustration for me.

Unfortunately, the planning department has been a tease on this important project for my community. In 2021 the New South Wales Government announced a $6 million upgrade to the 2.25-hectare County Road site through its Parks for People program. The plan aimed to revitalise the reserve into a contemporary, multipurpose community space, featuring a refurbished sports field, new amenities including change rooms and toilets, accessible play areas, a 40-space car park, walking paths and lights. A detailed development application was prepared and exhibited. The community was consulted. However, in February 2023 the planning department unexpectedly announced that the County Road project was on hold indefinitely. That was a massive disappointment for the thousands of players who were set to benefit, as well as the Northern Beaches Council, which has long recognised the strategic importance of the upgrade and had committed some funds. I championed the project as Northern Beaches Mayor and will continue to fight for it in my role as member for Wakehurst.

At the time of the cancellation, Northern Beaches Council made a request to the planning department to transfer the land, which is currently Crown land, a portion of the previously allocated funding and the intellectual property for the County Road upgrade. Council was willing to take carriage of the project with a much lower cost option that would still massively increase the utility of the site. The department responded by saying, "As the

project has been postponed, not cancelled, it would be premature to explore this proposal." It was a classic instance of "Computer says no". Since then, despite my consistent representations to progress the upgrade, we have heard crickets from the department.

There is, however, a glimmer of hope. In this week's 2025-26 budget, the Government announced the Better Open Spaces program, a funding stream intended to support the development and renewal of green open spaces across the State. I strongly urge the Government to recognise County Road Reserve as a prime candidate for that funding. I will encourage and work with the Northern Beaches Council and the local community to put forward the County Road Reserve. In closing, I thank the volunteers, parents and players who continue to advocate for the County Road Reserve upgrade and who understand just how transformative it would be. They are not asking for gold-plated facilities; they just want a level playing field, literally and figuratively. County Road Reserve is a shovel-ready opportunity. Let us not waste another season.

CARSS PARK SWIMMING POOL

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:23): On behalf of my community, I give voice to the thousands of residents across the St George region who are calling on this Government to do one simple thing: rebuild the Carss Park swimming pool, also known as the Kogarah War Memorial Pool. My community has been calling for that for years. The New South Wales Labor Government has had the opportunity to fix it for three years. All we have heard is radio silence. For several decades, that pool served the St George community well. It was a hub for health, safety, recreation and connection. Generations of young children from my electorate learned to swim there. Local schools held their swimming carnivals there. Families gathered there after school and on weekends. Perhaps most importantly, it stood as a tribute to the brave men and women who served our country, a war memorial in every sense of the word. It was devastating when the pool was closed in 2019 due to structural and environmental concerns. It was equally disappointing to see it demolished in 2024. What made the pain even more profound was the uncertainty about what would come next.

Since then, the community has not sat still. Residents have campaigned tirelessly to see the pool rebuilt. Petitions have been signed and letters have been written. The message has been consistent and clear: We want our pool back. Georges River Council has done its part and I commend it for its fine efforts. Despite being a local government with limited resources, it has committed $10 million towards the construction of a new aquatic facility at the site. That serious and meaningful investment is backed by community consultation and a commitment to deliver. Council has also worked with the Government through the design and business case stages, but the simple truth is that without State funding, the project cannot proceed.

This Government continues to delay, dodge and deflect, all the while leaving our community in the dark. While we appreciate the support for early planning, what the people of my community and across St George want and deserve is a clear, funded commitment to rebuild the pool. We do not want a pool for the sake of it but because it has been a community institution that has served our local area for well over 60 years. This is not just about infrastructure; it is about water safety. We live in a community—and a State, no less—that prizes its coastline, rivers and outdoor lifestyle. Learning how to swim is not optional but necessary. Every child should have access to affordable, local and high-quality swimming education. Every senior should have access to aquatic therapy, and every family, regardless of their background or income, should be able to enjoy public facilities in their own community. Yet for too long the people of St George have been left behind.

I find it extraordinary that in 2025, after three State budgets under the Minns Labor Government, not a single dollar has been allocated towards the construction phase of the rebuild of the Carss Park swimming pool. That is what I am calling for today, because our community has had enough. I am calling on the Government to stop making excuses and start making commitments. The site is ready, the community is ready and the council is ready. All that is missing is the Government's share of the funding. Just before the last State election, the former Liberal-Nationals Government promised over $40 million to rebuild the pool. Unfortunately, no dollar amount was ever promised by members opposite.

The Minns Labor Government cannot wait for another summer season to go by before taking action. It cannot leave another generation of children without a place to learn to swim. This Government cannot keep telling seniors and families that their needs are not a priority. We need action, not more paperwork. We need funding, not more press releases. Above all, we need a government that is willing to listen to its people. The Carss Park swimming pool was a pillar of our community for over half a century. It must be rebuilt. This Parliament should stand with the people of our local community and surrounding suburbs to make that happen. I call on those opposite to show respect for our community and fund the rebuild of the Carss Park swimming pool.

ROZELLE INTERCHANGE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (12:28): I speak on an issue that is of great importance to many in my community, and that is the ongoing impacts of the Rozelle interchange. I remind the House that Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Transport and the Arts conducted an inquiry into the impacts of the Rozelle interchange in early 2024. I have written to both the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads on a number of occasions to discuss the Government's response. That report was handed down almost 12 months ago, on 15 July 2024. It made a number of recommendations to alleviate congestion on local streets and address safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. It also included recommendations on monitoring the toxic Rozelle stacks, which I recently spoke about in detail in this place. The Government's response was tabled on 15 October 2024, and I have continued to follow up with Ministers about the matter.

I am particularly interested in their efforts and intentions to improve active transport and public transport options for residents who live in affected areas. Those options include a ferry service for Annandale and the urgent restoration and conversion of the Glebe Island Bridge into a pedestrian and cycling link to the city. I thank the Minister for Roads for meeting with me this week to progress some of those discussions. There are of course other impacts that have been brought to my attention by local residents who are feeling them acutely. One of those is the traffic noise along the City West Link. Previously, noisy cars, trucks and buses travelled along this road alongside Railway Parade, Annandale, without interruption; now they are impeded by traffic lights at the M8 tunnel outlets.

Previously the main source of noise was from tyres on the road surface; now it includes air brakes, revving engines, gear changes, honking and other sounds associated with vehicles stopping and starting at a busy intersection. I raised this matter with the Premier, in Parliament, back in February. I was assured that noise monitoring was being carried out in the area as part of a noise compliance report that would be completed within the next few months. The Premier said if the report found that noise levels are two decibels higher, then corrective action would be taken. His assurances gave me and, more importantly, the affected residents some hope that the Government was taking this issue seriously. The Premier himself said it was. But now we have the report, and the residents are telling me that it is an entirely different story.

Residents of Pritchard Street and Railway Parade in Annandale have expressed deep frustration with the findings of the Rozelle interchange operational noise compliance report, which was published by Transport for NSW a few weeks ago in May 2025. The report concludes that no additional noise mitigation is required, despite ongoing complaints from residents experiencing increased and persistent traffic noise since the opening of the interchange and the M8 tunnel connection. Community members have raised concerns with me about the methodology used to assess compliance. They say that it is flawed, lacks transparency and fails to reflect current traffic conditions. One key criticism is that the report relies on 2023 traffic forecasts instead of 2025 post-opening data. Another is the dismissal of measured exceedences of the NSW Environment Protection Authority's night-time noise criteria at two residential addresses, based on the claim that the elevated readings were due to "extraneous" noise like the chirping of birds or aircraft.

Residents have told me how frustrated and disappointed they are. They say those issues undermine the credibility of the findings and effectively exclude real impacts from consideration. No published criteria were used to determine what constituted extraneous noise, and no exclusion logs or independent verification were provided. It has also been suggested that the absence of any published statement from an "independent acoustic adviser", who was said to have reviewed the report, raises serious concerns about the transparency and governance of this process. Residents have told me the report also fails to offer a clear, publicly accessible framework for eligibility for mitigation, unlike for other major projects such as the Warringah Freeway noise insulation program. Residents affected by temporary construction noise on Johnson Street were previously offered architectural remediation, yet households facing ongoing noise at Pritchard Street and Railway Parade have been offered only earplugs and acoustic curtains.

This inconsistency in approach has deepened the frustration in the community, who argue that permanent traffic-related noise warrants stronger and more equitable treatment. Many residents have lived in the area for decades and are well-acquainted with baseline ambient noise from aircraft and public transport. The current levels are distinctly different and set to worsen with the imminent opening of the Western Harbour Tunnel. These are people who have suffered through years of disruption during the WestConnex construction and who had hoped there would be a light at the end of the tunnel. Residents are now calling for a full reassessment of noise impacts using up-to-date data, clear and consistent eligibility criteria for noise mitigation, and a more accountable and community-engaged process to ensure fair treatment across all affected areas. I make it clear to the Premier and to Transport for NSW that I support these residents and will continue to assist them in raising and pursuing their concerns.

STATE BUDGET AND EPPING ELECTORATE

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping) (12:33): Today I speak about what the 2025-26 New South Wales budget means for Epping. While there are a few small wins for Epping—including some additional buses and necessary funding to complete upgrades that are already underway at Carlingford West Public School and Cumberland High School—this budget falls short of what our growing community needs. Epping is changing rapidly, and we need the infrastructure to keep up. Yet this budget contains no meaningful investment in critical local priorities, like improved public transport, commuter car parking and new community spaces. Those are not wish list items; they are essential services for a growing population, and I will continue to fight for them.

Where this budget really fails families in the Epping electorate is through its lack of cost-of-living support. It has no new initiatives to support families, and existing cost-of-living support continues to be scrapped. This Government has already scrapped Active Kids, Creative Kids and First Lap vouchers. IVF rebates have also been scrapped and, in this budget, we learned the Government will be scrapping its key election commitment of a $60 toll cap. This has been done without any clear idea of what will replace it. This Government is not serious about reform. The budget demonstrates once again that the Government has kicked the can down the road on any tough decisions. In the meantime, the hardworking families of my electorate who rely on toll roads will be left without relief. This budget is a missed opportunity to deliver real cost-of-living support and, worse than that, the Government's attempts to deal with the State's debt are but mere window-dressing.

In the final year of the forward estimates, gross debt will reach $200 billion. All this Government has done is move this huge debt figure by one year. The debt is still there. This is the Dennis Denuto version of accounting—it is all about "the vibe". The vibe is that debt is lower; the reality is that the $200 billion debt bomb is still there. The families of Epping and their children will be paying for it for many years. They will pay more in taxes and charges just to be able to pay the interest bill on this debt, let alone the principal. There is also little in this year's budget to support first home buyers in our community. The Government's own budget papers reveal it is falling behind on its housing targets.

The New South Wales Labor Government is not doing enough to tackle the root causes of a housing crisis that includes taxes and charges that make it so expensive to build new homes. I think the young people in my electorate are under no illusion about whether this Government will be able to deliver the housing that gives them the hope of one day being able to buy a home. In relation to capital infrastructure, Labor is completely vacating the field. As the Leader of the Opposition noted in his reply to the Budget Speech:

> In this year alone, budgeted capital expenditure will be cut in real terms across key portfolios compared with the 2024-25 budget. In Transport, it is down 23 per cent; in Health, it is down 4.5 per cent; and in Education, it is down 7.7 per cent.

This decline in infrastructure investment will be reflected in Epping with no real investments in increasing metro services for already at-capacity metro services and no real investment in trains, despite the whole network coming to a standstill because of a faulty wire. Epping deserves better. I will keep working to make sure our community gets its fair share.

WOOLLOOMOOLOO TRIPARTITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:37): Fifty years ago today, on 27 June 1975, three levels of government formalised the tripartite agreement to ensure that Woolloomooloo remained a diverse residential area with dedicated public housing. This was no easy feat and was in response to incredible community activism, including squatting and the green bans movement imposed by the New South Wales Builders Labourers' Federation, led by Jack Mundey, which had a vision to preserve many iconic places that we now take for granted, such as The Rocks and the Royal Botanic Garden. In 1959, leading up to the tripartite agreement, the first local draft planning scheme for Woolloomooloo rezoned the area as either residential or industrial. In 1964, it was rezoned again as comprehensive redevelopment, with all development to be approved by the State Government.

In 1969, plans indicated that almost the entire 37 hectares in the Woolloomooloo basin would be zoned as mostly commercial, despite the area being predominantly residential. In 1971, the Woolloomooloo Redevelopment Project was prepared by private consultants for a consortium of private developers. They proposed a scheme to demolish large parts of Woolloomooloo and build a multi-towered, high-rise redevelopment of up to 34 storeys with tourist and commercial complexes, which would take 30 years to complete. The plan did not include any residential housing and the community protested vehemently against the plan. In 1972, the Woolloomooloo Resident Action Group petitioned to have the area kept as residential. With the support of the New South Wales Builders Labourers' Federation and the ear of Tom Uren—the then Federal Minister for Urban and Regional Development—the community's vision won. Then Prime Minister Whitlam and Premier Lewis stated that the three levels of government had recognised the need for cooperative action to ensure that the residential character of this historic area of Sydney was preserved.

The three levels of government agreed to pool the land they owned in Woolloomooloo to allow as much flexibility as possible in the detailed planning of the area. The agreement approved an expenditure of approximately $17 million—which would be equivalent to about $150 million today—from the Australian Government for the redevelopment of Woolloomooloo into a primarily residential area, with 65 per cent of the housing designated as public housing. In addition to providing financial assistance, the Australian Government agreed to transfer, at no cost to the State, 2.6 hectares of Australian Government property in the Woolloomooloo Basin valued at more than $11 million at the time. The then City of Sydney council prepared and effected the urban design controls for the precinct. The project was to be financed by the Australian Government and conducted jointly by the Australian and New South Wales governments, as well as the council. The funding from the Australian Government was devoted to the resumption and acquisition of land.

The agreement also made provision for the establishment of a technical liaison committee, comprising representatives from all three levels of government, which met until the end of 1988. The committee's purpose was to advise and report to the Commonwealth and New South Wales Ministers, as well as the lord mayor, on all aspects of the design, planning and control of the precinct, as well as the construction and management of the project. As a result of the tripartite agreement, several companies with property interests in the area sued the City of Sydney council, claiming damages. In 1982 Woolloomooloo property developer San Sebastian was awarded damages, but the council appealed and the Court of Appeal upheld that appeal. In 1986 the High Court then dismissed the property developer's subsequent appeals over the abandoned Woolloomooloo redevelopment project.

Tragically, a week after the tripartite agreement was signed, local activist and journalist Juanita Nielsen was last seen at the Carousel Cabaret on Roslyn Street, Kings Cross. Despite several police investigations, her body has never been found and no-one has been charged with her disappearance and suspected murder. The Juanita Nielsen Community Centre and a plaque at her home on Victoria Street, Potts Point, memorialise her and remind us of her bravery in taking on the big boys. We remember Juanita and our thoughts are also with her family.

Today the Woolloomooloo community continues to reflect the diversity of its history, dating back to time immemorial as Gadigal clan land—a place for hunting, ceremony and living, which the invaders carved up, bought and sold. A legacy of wharfies, naval personnel and essential workers also mark its history, as does the built heritage and its ongoing welcome of rough sleepers. Today the community's diversity is also speckled with movie stars, a luxury hotel and award-winning restaurants. The fact that residents still live in Woolloomooloo is a testament to the resilience and foresight of those who fought to "Save the Loo". Their legacy continues to inspire government housing decisions today and we celebrate them.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): Before I call the member for Hornsby, I acknowledge the visitors in the Speaker's gallery.

HORNSBY ELECTORATE TRAIN SERVICES

Mr JAMES WALLACE (Hornsby) (12:42): I acknowledge the guests in the gallery. I speak today on behalf of the people of Hornsby and broader communities who rely on the T1 North Shore and Western line and T9 Northern line. Those are not just train services; they are lifelines for thousands of families who depend on public transport to get to work, school and home again. Yet right now they are being let down by a system that is too often delayed and unreliable and increasingly unfit for the demands placed upon it. Public transport delays are not just an inconvenience but a serious barrier to the daily life of thousands of residents in the Hornsby community.

In the past few weeks I asked community members to share their experiences through the Hornsby train survey. The results speak clearly. Our train system is not working as it should. Public transport is essential. People rely on it to get to work, school and appointments, but right now that system is not holding up its end of the bargain. Delays and unreliable connections are not rare; they are a daily fact we have to deal with. We know from the Government's own data that one in every five trains on the T1 and T9 lines have been delayed in the past year. That translates to almost every single one of the responders to the Hornsby train survey saying that they have been impacted by such delays and cancellations. Around 75 per cent of respondents who commute four times or more per week said that every fortnight they are faced with a train delay significant enough for them to note, or a cancellation. The delays have real consequences, beyond just inconvenience. A respondent to the survey stated that there is:

> … unreliability of train service, poor connecting services and lack of parking after dropping kids at school. This is disappointing as if the service was better I would utilize this option over driving, thereby reducing emissions and traffic congestion, …

Again, further frustration comes from a lack of timely communication when the network is impacted by delays or other issues. Another constituent who responded to the survey, Jamie from Berowra Heights, documented his own train trips over a five-week period. He documented 50 train trips in total. Just one of the 50 train services arrived

on time. He calculated that he lost 36 minutes each week. That is time that could have been spent with his family, resting or contributing more productively at work.

These are not just isolated complaints; they are the stories of so many who live in Hornsby, Asquith, Mount Colah and Berowra. But it is not just delays. The decision last year to cancel express services along the T1 and T9 lines has had a major impact as well. Commuters now face a longer and slower all-stops journey into the city. Every extra minute that people spend waiting on a platform or crawling through an all-stops service is a minute they do not get to spend with their kids. It is a bedtime story missed, a meal with the family missed or the ability to pick up their kids from soccer or netball practice missed. Constraints on parking are also a major issue, particularly around Hornsby. Many residents who fear that a train service will be cancelled at Hornsby station are forced to drive from Berowra, Mount Colah and Asquith to Hornsby, but then struggle to find parking.

So what needs to change? We need to restore the express services that were cancelled last year. We need to install an Opal reader at the Hornsby station commuter car park to ensure that that car park is only used by commuters. We need to update and upgrade the footpaths around Berowra station so that residents from the Hornsby community, as well as residents from the Central Coast who use Berowra station, do not have to walk through knee-high grass in order to reach the station. We need to do the work and commit the funds so that Sydney Trains can meet the key performance indicators that it set for itself. We also need to stop cancelling services at Hornsby that are meant to travel to Berowra and beyond, which is a frequent problem and frustration for many.

A long-term solution lies in improving the reliability of the network by upgrading the technology infrastructure that the network relies on, such as digital signalling upgrades. Technology can allow trains to run faster and more often, safely and with greater reliability. We can have more trains on our network, more frequent services and reduced trip times through technology improvements. Other global cities are reaping the benefits from those types of technology upgrades on their older lines. Sydney must not be left behind. I thank all those who participated in the Hornsby train survey. I will continue to advocate on their issues and on their behalf.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE MAHER, OAM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:47): Today I speak about a beautiful human who lived in my electorate of Gosford on the Central Coast. Laurie Maher was a legend and man who was larger than life. He was real mentor and friend to me. It makes me really sad to speak of Laurie and his incredible contribution to our community in the Parliament because he is no longer beside us. In 1975, a few years into his career, Laurie became the superintendent of the Mount Penang Juvenile Justice Centre, originally called the Farm Home for Boys, at Kariong. He worked really hard to improve the morale of the staff and the boys, as well as the properties on the land. He upgraded the dormitories, bathroom and toilet facilities, and set up a new officers dining room, an office block, a hospital and nurses quarters, a new store and amenities.

In 1978 he opened a 50-metre pool that had been added to the recreation facility for the boys at Kariong. He oversaw the education program being returned to the Department of Education, where it still sits today. In fact, I will be visiting Girrakool, a school for boys in Justice, with the Minister for Youth Justice next Tuesday night. I am looking forward to that. Laurie also established Coast Shelter on the Central Coast. It is a beautiful facility that looks after homeless people in our community. It first started with Laurie and a number of people in the community feeding homeless people under Brian McGowan Bridge, and now it is a huge organisation—arguably the most important not-for-profit facility on the Central Coast. It looks after nine shelters and two community centres and does incredible work in supporting people who are living rough and on the edges of our communities across the coast. Laurie held the position of CEO there until he retired, in 2018. Simultaneously he served four terms as the mayor of Gosford, which is a huge effort for such an important role in our community. He was first elected as councillor in 2004 and as mayor in 2007.

In 2011 he agreed to the proposed merger of the Gosford and Wyong councils, stating that the councils would be more effective as one. But this is not something that everybody in our community agreed with. It went on and created a few hiccups, but Laurie did not oversee those hiccups. He also served on a number of boards, including of the NRMA and of NSW Rugby Union, of which he was a life member. At his funeral it was beautiful to hear stories of his young days gallivanting around New South Wales but also in the local community and the times on the rugby field. I know the relationships and friendships you have from sport, and one of his rugby mates was also part of the setting up of Coast Shelter beside him. The friendships, I think, for Laurie, were super important.

He was a friend of the Aboriginal community on the Central Coast. In 2009 he was presented with an award for services to the Aboriginal community by Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council. In the Australia Day honours of 2010, he was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Gosford through social welfare and local government organisations. He was named fifteenth on *Central Coast Express Advocate's* 100 most influential people on the Central Coast. Sadly, there were historic accusations against Laurie.

He was the ninth person to face a court order over alleged misconduct committed at Mount Penang Training School for Boys between 1977 and 1988, which was a really sad way for him to end his public life. He went into hibernation, understandably. Despite his efforts to be there at court, there were never any charges against him because nobody ever turned up to make the charges become real. It was sad to see for a man who should have finished his life in the public eye because he lived in such a big way and lived so closely with his family.

I need to say that Laurie sought the priesthood at an early age before meeting his amazing wife, Helen. His daughter recalls that the faith was the foundation of his life, and I think his funeral really cemented for me Laurie's faith and everything around it and how that was entangled among his family and friendships. Laurie Maher was the beloved husband of Helen and much-loved father of Paul, Cathy, Mary, David, John and Karen, and best mate of his grandson in a wheelchair, Josh. The Central Coast will always remember a true gentleman and a hardworking contributor to our community. Vale, Laurie Maher.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I recognise our guest in the gallery, former member and Minister Wendy Machin.

MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (12:52): I thank the member for Gosford for such a beautiful tribute to someone I did not know but now feel I know a little better. She told lovely stories told about Laurie. I thank her for that contribution in Parliament and am sorry that she has lost her friend.

Today I talk about Men's Health Month, which is happening in June. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge a crisis that is growing in urgency, visibility and consequence. As a mum of three boys, I am deeply aware of the need to support and empower men in our lives. Frankly, I am worried about the boys and men in our community, about their physical and mental health and a culture that so often discourages them from speaking up or seeking help. Every January we return to this place after the summer and rightly lament the road toll. We respond with safety campaigns, better infrastructure, stronger laws and public awareness. But there is something quite confronting. The number of men who die by suicide each year is nearly double the national road toll. That is incredibly shocking. Suicide remains the leading cause of death for men under the age of 50. Men are four times more likely than women to take their own lives. On average, men still die four years younger than women. There is no biological reason why that should be the case.

I note that there are some school students in the public gallery. If what I am talking about makes them feel sad, uncomfortable or worried about how to handle their emotions, that is okay. I hope they know that there are lots of crisis lines that they can call, and lots of friends around them. Young people now are often really good at talking about their feelings. I know that from my kids, and I hope that our student visitors are able to do that too. Talking about men's health does not shift the focus away from women; it is about recognising that half the population is hurting in ways that we are still not adequately addressing. When men and boys suffer, their families suffer too: partners, children and parents. It is everyone's concern.

Men's mental health struggles often go unrecognised, undiagnosed and unspoken. Due to stigma and misunderstanding, suicide deaths are sometimes misclassified as unintentional injuries, masking the true scale of the crisis. More than 20 years ago New South Wales showed global leadership with the Liberal Government's Moving Forward in Men's Health policy. In 2018 we followed up with the NSW Men's Health Framework. It was a policy guide aimed at reaching those most at risk: young men, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, men in rural and regional communities, men from lower socio-economic backgrounds and LGBTQI+ men. But, seven years on, little has changed. Tragically, so many more lives have been lost.

Last year I called on the Government to update that framework to deliver a comprehensive, evidence-based strategy that reflects the challenges men face today. There are signs of progress. I was really pleased that the Federal Government created a Special Envoy for Men's Health in May this year. That is an important step forward that we should all celebrate. It is now time for New South Wales to step up as well. We need State and Federal coordination to work together on a shared mission: to help men live longer, healthier and more connected lives. I support many of the recommendations in the men's health report by the Movember foundation, including an investment in prevention, education, male-specific mental health services, and training for GPs on how to better manage male patients. It is well documented that men are not as used to talking in a GP clinic as women, who often go with their kids. That can unfortunately leave men with a bad experience, making them less likely to go back. Therefore, GP training does help.

They also support initiatives like Men's Sheds, which are also celebrated by Movember. I note that the member for Barwon has just begun a parliamentary friends group for men's health and Men's Sheds, which I will enthusiastically sign up to. In conclusion, it is not a zero-sum conversation. Helping men does not mean less help for women. We can and must do both. I am an absolutely passionate supporter of women's health initiatives, and

there is so much more we need to do. In every community, there are men who are struggling quietly. In every family, there is a son, partner, father or friend who needs help. In every electorate, there is and should be a voice saying that we need to do more. Let us be that voice and take action.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Michael Kemp): I thank the member for Vaucluse for her contribution and add, for boys and men in the public gallery, that it ain't weak to speak. They should make sure that they get help when they need it.

KELLYVILLE ELECTORATE PROJECTS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Kellyville) (12:57): I speak about three projects within my electorate of Kellyville: the new cycleway loop at Arnold Avenue Sports Complex, new public seating near the dam and off-leash areas within the Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, and a basketball practice ring installed at William Harvey Reserve. The projects were all funded under the Local Small Commitments Allocation for the grand total of $280,000. As members are well aware, the LSCA was a partisan political funding scheme implemented by the NSW Labor Party prior to the last State election. However, due to the total lack of scrutiny and probity applied to projects across New South Wales under Labor's funding scheme, a large number of inappropriate organisations and projects have received funding.

One such project is the upgrade to athletic facilities at Gooden Drive Reserve, totalling $120,000. It was allocated to my electorate of Kellyville but is actually within my neighbouring electorate of Castle Hill. I would never begrudge an appropriate organisation or a worthy project receiving funding, regardless of which electorate it may be in. However, it is now apparent that my electorate has been deprived of $120,000 from the funding scheme due to the inappropriate allocation of funds. Yesterday the Auditor-General's report into the Local Small Commitments Allocation was handed down and made public. It was scathing of many projects and organisations and made particular reference to the many conflicts of interest that were not assessed for funding proposed by many Labor candidates and MPs across New South Wales. However, it did not undertake any investigations into the actual delivery of funding that was provided to specific electorates. If that investigation had been undertaken, it would have highlighted that $120,000 of funding for a project in my neighbouring electorate was actually funded from the $400,000 allocated to my electorate of Kellyville.

I have since written to the Premier requesting a meeting to discuss that misappropriation of funding, to which I am yet to receive a response. I give notice to the House that I will be requesting to receive the exact same treatment in reappropriating funds to my electorate that the member for Sydney received, which he admitted to in Parliament this week. I want only organisations within my own electorate to receive that funding, not organisations outside of my electorate. Naturally, we would have to question why the member for Sydney was entitled to that level of access and autonomy to the Premier of New South Wales—an opportunity not provided to other members. Specifically, it was only provided to members from whom confidence and supply was required for the formation of this Labor Government.

V-SET TRAINS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:01): Today marks the end of the line for the Sydney V-set trains that have worked the Sydney to Central Coast line every day since 1970, and then to Newcastle from 1984, covering an estimated 140 million kilometres during their time in service. They first hit the tracks 11 months after Neil Armstrong made the lunar landing and, in the 55 years since, they have travelled enough kilometres to reach the moon 17 times each. I was at Woy Woy station last week—because we are at Parliament today—to wave off one of the last V-set services, sadly bidding farewell to a piece of New South Wales transport history. The old V-set carriages have been a mainstay on the Central Coast and Newcastle line over the years, carrying generations of passengers to and from Sydney.

I take a moment to say thank you to the workers who originally built the V-set trains, as well as those who have lovingly maintained and updated them for so long. I know many of our fantastic train drivers, guards and transport teams have safely transported our community over the years in the V-set services. The V-sets have served our community well for many years but, in saying goodbye to the V-sets, we welcome the Mariyung fleet, with accessibility front of mind. No longer will wheelchair users have to sit in the cold compartment near the doors during winter without access to seats on the trains. I also thank the wonderful Central Coast community for their patience as we transition into a new transport era with the Mariyung fleet. Millions of passengers travel on the Central Coast and Newcastle line every year, and I am thrilled that the Mariyung trains will provide a more comfortable, accessible and safe service for all, with recharging facilities as well.

The retirement of the 21 stainless steel, double-decker trains allows for the full implementation of the 10-carriage Mariyung trains, providing a more spacious cabin, more comfortable seating, accessible bathrooms, charging ports and many more security and safety features. The final V-set service to Newcastle departs Central

Station at 9.20 p.m. tonight and will arrive shortly after midnight on Saturday. Maybe I am one of those train buffs, but I know lots of us will be out there cheering, waving and being part of the closing of a page in history. The 21 V-sets in the fleet doing a combined 140 million kilometres is the equivalent of each train travelling 17 times to the moon, 1,733 times between Sydney and Perth or 41,928 times from Sydney to Newcastle. That is a mighty effort by those mighty stainless steel warriors.

The V-sets were built in Granville by Commonwealth Engineering, known as Comeng, between 1970 and 1989. Imagine that—trains made in Australia in the good old days, which are coming back. They were described as "the most luxurious commuter stock in the world" when they hit the tracks. That claim no longer holds water. The trains have gradually been phased out as the new Mariyungs have entered service. From 30 June, 29 Mariyung trains will have entered service and will be fully deployed on the Central Coast and Newcastle Line, with all 38 local stations able to accommodate a longer 10-car configuration or make adjustments accordingly. The Mariyung has extra leg room, high seat backs, tray tables for laptops and charging ports for mobile devices.

The Minns Labor Government is committed to returning rail manufacturing to New South Wales. It recently launched industry engagement for the Future Fleet Program, which seeks to revive domestic manufacturing, create thousands of jobs and boost the economy. The Government has committed to start procuring the replacement of the ageing Tangara fleet of suburban passenger trains by 2027, with a 50 per cent local content target for designing, building and maintaining the new fleet. V-sets will continue to run on the Blue Mountains line before they are replaced by Mariyungs. The South Coast line will get Mariyungs following their introduction in the Blue Mountains.

As a youngster, I lived in Toronto. We had to catch the Red Rattler when I was a little kid, but then we would get on those lovely V-sets into Newcastle. I went to uni on public transport, and the V-sets were part of my everyday life, especially my social life. We would come home from our night-life in Newcastle, sometimes sleeping all the way through to Central, and then waking up and having to go home again. Those are amazing memories. I thank everyone involved in the manufacture and life of the V-sets. I thank the guards. I know the guards and the drivers will be saying goodbye at the end of an era. Thanks very much to the V-sets.

TG MILLNER FIELDS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (13:06): I raise the concerns of the Ryde community about a recent decision by the Sydney North Planning Panel to green-light a rezoning application for the iconic TG Millner sporting fields at Marsfield, the traditional home of the Eastwood Rugby Club. It is puzzling that the Government has recommended that the application proceed to gateway determination. That is despite the application previously being rejected twice because it lacked "strategic merit" and despite "Saving TG Millner" being one of the few explicit election commitments this Government made to the Ryde community before the 2023 State election.

In recent media commentary on 2GB, Ryde mayor Trenton Brown has rightly asked, "What has changed?" It appears that nobody in the Government can tell us. What has not changed is the concern that the community will suffer a massive loss of sporting fields and open, public space if the Government allows TG Millner to be developed. Already, the City of Ryde is suffering a lack of open space, with a current deficit of 15 sporting fields. That deficit is projected to get worse if we lose TG Millner, resulting in a predicted shortage of 21 sports fields by 2040. We have 22,000 apartments approved and in the pipeline as part of the Connect Macquarie Park Innovation District, and 15,000 more may be added to that as a result of the Government's transport oriented development rezoning. We need sporting infrastructure and green spaces to keep up with that growth.

As a community, we have embraced growth and housing in our local area, but the only way to build more homes is to build them in the right places and to take the community along. TG Millner is neither the right place, nor does it engender the confidence of the community members who were specifically promised that the site was off limits when those opposite were asking for their vote. It is even contrary to the Minns Government policy of development in well-connected urban areas. TG Millner is not near a metro or a train line, nor within walking distance of a major shopping centre. The community is rightly angry and worried. An overwhelming 96 per cent of respondents to a council survey agreed that TG Millner should be retained as open space. Card-carrying members of the Labor Party joined our campaign, signed petitions and attended rallies. It was a bipartisan effort—but not anymore. From a pure planning perspective, TG Millner also fails the suitability test.

I understand the site has existing flood risks, so I therefore ask the department to explain whether it has plans for medium- and high-density developments in other flood-risk areas that were previously thought of as being off limits. Will the department rule that out? There are also concerns about the proponent and its intentions, and the lack of transparency surrounding the entire ordeal. Is the Government aware of, or has it investigated, allegations regarding the club's deals, debts and caveats with two developers on the site? Why did the planning department amend the minutes of the planning panel's recent record of decision for the TG Millner rezoning review? For context, previously the Minister was quoted as saying in the minutes of the panel's determination that

"TG Millner is not required to meet Ryde's open space needs", but after the meeting the planning department amended the minutes, stating that that was "not entirely accurate".

Did the Minister say those things? If not, why is there a record from the Minister's department stating that he did? If it was not the Minister, who said those things and what was their motive? Perhaps the Minister was misinformed by his department. I was also made aware that a former official within the planning department now occupies a senior role with one of the joint proponents of the rezoning. The lack of disclosure about the matter has caused angst for many in the community who feel that the whole issue was dealt with dubiously. It is particularly galling considering elected councillors were removed from previous panels on the matter to avoid perceived conflicts of interest. There may not be anything to the matter, but the lack of transparency has fuelled a lot of angst amongst an already anxious community.

What is the real story about the approval? Our community has the right to know and the people of New South Wales have the right to know. Where else are decisions like that being made? For the sake of the City of Ryde community, the Minister must urgently intervene to prevent the rezoning and keep his Government's election promise. In the absence of answering my questions, the Minister should launch an inquiry into the change in decision and who is really calling the shots. The Government must stick to its pre-election promise of retaining TG Millner as active open space. There has been over a decade of bipartisan campaigning. It would be a travesty if that specious rezoning application was allowed to continue and that valuable active open space was lost forever.

The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 13:12 until
Tuesday 5 August 2025 at 12:00.

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

CARINGBAH SPORTS CRICKET CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—It was great to be there to see Caringbah Sports Cricket Club lifting The Bertshell Trophy as Club Champions at the Sutherland Shire Junior Cricket Association's (SSJCA) 2024/25 presentation. The club took the trophy for the efforts of its 12 teams, including its 12B, 12D and 10A sides that were crowned premiers and its stage 2 girls, 14A, 12A and 10B teams that won through to their grand finals. The club is also celebrating the success of its players who were rewarded with SSJCA major awards for the season. Ethan Ball from the 16A's was named the Association's Cricketer of the Year, with Samuel Everitt (14A), Elizabeth Reardon (stage 2 girls) and Wilkie McNeil (10A) awarded as best performers across their age competitions. Well done to these award winners and all players on a great season of cricket. Behind the club's on field success are the hardworking volunteers including the coaches, managers, parent helpers and the dedicated office holders Brad Hosemans, Andrew Everitt, Clint Gavin, Scott Philipson, Ursula Jewell, Jag Biradar, Brydie Fairfax, Dwayne Cocks, Doreen Fuller, Adam Fleming, Brett Murray and Darren Ettridge. Congratulations to everyone at Caringbah Sports on a successful season of cricket.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—It was my pleasure recently to join local cricketers at the Sutherland Shire Junior Cricket Association's (SSJCA) 2024/25 presentation day to recognise the achievements of individual players, club teams and local representative sides. Caringbah Sports Cricket Club was crowned club champions at the end of another successful season for the 11 clubs over almost six months. SSJCA boosted the girls-only competition for the season with extra teams joining through an expanded partnership with the St George Association. Alongside competition games, SSJCA has been working hard to help kids up to 10 years old get active and have a safe introduction to cricket in a fun way through the Cricket Blast program. It has been a great success with ever-increasing player numbers on Saturday mornings and many going on to play in under 10 club competitions. I acknowledge the hundreds of volunteers who are the backbone of our teams and clubs, including SSJCA's hardworking management committee of Matt O'Brien, Adam Fleming, James Young, Bryon Camin, Scott Philipson, Stuart Gordon, Nathan Haywood, Brad Abrook, Kirsten Benhiam, Phil Jaques and Glenn Rooney. Congratulations to all players for having a go and making it a great season of cricket.

BELLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL FUTSAL

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Soccer stars are well and truly shining in the Oxley electorate, and today I stand to celebrate the remarkable success of the futsal teams from Bellingen High School. Fast on their feet and full of determination, Bellingen High achieved outstanding results at the 2025 Coffs Coast School Futsal Titles, a professionally run school tournament that brings together young and aspiring athletes from across the region. The Australian Futsal Association competitions offer students a valuable opportunity to build their skills,

compete with passion, and strengthen ties with fellow players and schools. Bellingen High made their mark, claiming victory in three major divisions: Under 16 Girls, Under 19 Boys, and Under 19 Girls. These incredible achievements speak volumes about their talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship, both on and off the court. Their success has now earned them a place in Stage 2: Champion of Champions, to be held in August, representing Far North NSW at the 2025 National School Futsal Championships. I congratulate the students, coaches, and supporters of Bellingen High, you've done your school and community proud, and I wish you the best for the next stage.

KANGA CUP 2025

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—I am proud to recognise the dedication, passion, and incredible talent of the young players who will represent our region at the 2025 Kanga Cup in Canberra, from July 14 to 18. The Kanga Cup is the largest international youth football competition in the southern hemisphere. It brings together over 400 teams from around the globe, offering our players the rare and invaluable opportunity to test themselves against some of the best young talent from Australia and beyond. Football Mid North Coast will proudly send nine academy teams five boys' and four girls'. These teams are made up of dedicated young athletes from across the Macleay, Hastings, Manning Valley, and Barrington Coast regions. Each of them carries not just their boots and jerseys, but the hopes, pride, and spirit of our entire community. They'll go up against squads of all skill levels, from local clubs to elite academies, and they'll do so with the strength and determination that defines regional football. These kids have trained tirelessly, often three times a week, showing great commitment that deserves our recognition. Good luck to all our teams, continue to make us proud.

100 GAMES FOR WAUCHOPE BLUES

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—I proudly recognise and celebrate Emily Lester of the Wauchope Blues Seniors for reaching an extraordinary milestone, 100 games of Ladies League Tag. Ladies League Tag is a dynamic, non-contact form of rugby league that has provided an inclusive platform for women and girls to compete, grow, and connect through sport. Emily has embodied all that this game stands for, dedication, leadership, and community spirit. As co-captain of the Wauchope Blues, Emily has not only shown remarkable talent on the field but has also been a guiding force for her teammates. Whether pulling off countless tags, making powerful runs, or lifting team morale, Emily has led by example. Her commitment extends beyond the field, dedicating time, energy, and passion to a club and sport she clearly loves. Reaching 100 games is no small feat, it represents years of persistence, loyalty, and a deep connection to both her teammates and the Wauchope community. Emily's milestone is a testament to what it means to be truly dedicated, and 1 commend her for her outstanding contribution to League Tag. Congratulations, Emily. You have done the Blues and your community proud.

EVELYN MCDONALD

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Evelyn McDonald has been a lifelong resident of Wollondilly and I am delighted to congratulate Evelyn on her most recent accolade, the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to community groups, Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Centre and Meals on Wheels In the 1970s, she served as Treasurer of the Tahmoor Primary School P and C Association before working for many years in the office at Bargo Primary School. A lifelong equestrian, Evelyn joined the Wollondilly Pony Club in 1976, serving as Treasurer until 1985. She then took up the role of Treasurer for the RDA Centre in Tahmoor—a position she continues to hold to this day. Together with her late husband Alex, Evelyn volunteered with Meals on Wheels in Picton for twenty years. In 2018, she was honoured with Life Membership of the Wollondilly Centre, proudly wearing her badge at all RDA events. Earlier this year she received the Wollondilly Senior Award and was named Senior Citizen of the Year at the Wollondilly 2025 Australia Day Awards. Wollondilly is grateful for her dedicated service to the community and I extend my sincere thanks to Evelyn for all she does.

DR DEIDRE TRONSON, OAM

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Dr Deidre Tronson of Werombi has had lifelong passion for science and I am honoured to congratulate her on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to science education. Deidre's extensive career includes roles as Lecturer at Western Sydney University (WSU), Co Supervisor of postgraduate research in Natural Products and Honorary Adjunct Fellow at the Centre for Plant and Food Sciences. Other accolades include being a Royal Australian Chemical Institute Fellow, Member of the Western Sydney Section, Examiner for the Annual Honours Prize Western Sydney Section, and Co-Recipient of the WSU Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award. Her research and teaching have been widely published in science journals and HSC textbooks. Since 2009, Dr Tronson has been a key contributor to the Science in Schools Scheme at Camden Public School where she co-developed the "Superior Scientists" program for Year 5–6 students. In retirement, she is sharing her her research skills and passion for science with

students. Dr Tronson's enduring enthusiasm for science, her academic and community achievements, and her continued mentorship exemplify her tireless commitment to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and discovery in learners of all ages.

JALAH MORRIS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Congratulations to Jalah Morris on being named a finalist in the NSW Training Awards, in the category of Apprentice of the Year 2025. Jalah is a dedicated apprentice currently enrolled in the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery, through Quality Training Colleges. The Awards showcase the skills and talent existing within the vocational education and training VET sector and recognise outstanding achievement. Growing up in the Southern Highlands, Jalah found her passion for fast-paced environments and strong team dynamics at fine dining restaurant Eschalot, in Berrima. Jalah's awareness of local farming is reflected in her interest in food production and sustainability. Jalah's values are align with the ethos of the restaurant, where local suppliers are supported and the menu showcases seasonal ingredients from its own kitchen gardens. Jalah quickly became a valued member of the Eschalot team where her enthusiasm and ability to learn quickly has helped develop a diverse skill set. Her immersive, industry-based training allowed her to complete her apprenticeship in an accelerated time frame - another great achievement. Her commitment to connecting people with their food source reflects her passion for nurturing the environment while delivering exceptional culinary experiences. Well done on this fantastic recognition.

ANNIE SCHONIG-JENKINSON, 2025 NSW TRAINING AWARDS FINALIST

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Annie Schonig-Jenkinson, 2025 NSW Training Awards Finalist Congratulations to Annie Schonig-Jenkinson, a proud student of Maitland High School, who was recently named a finalist in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year category at the 2025 NSW Training Awards – Hunter and Central Coast Region. Annie has shown outstanding commitment to her future and to her community through her school-based traineeship in Business Services, which she completed while undertaking Years 11 and 12. Working with the Hunter New England Local Health District, Annie has developed a strong foundation in medical administration and built the practical skills that are so vital in any workplace — including communication, technology, and workplace health and safety. Annie's journey is about more than just career development. She is deeply committed to leadership and cultural advocacy, proudly serving on the Hunter New England Health District's Closing the Gap Committee. Her dedication to ensuring the voices and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are heard is inspiring. Annie's passion, strength, and determination make her a role model for young people across our region. I congratulate Annie on her well-earned recognition and look forward to seeing her future achievements.

ISAAC NISBET, 2025 NSW TRAINING AWARDS FINALIST

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to an outstanding young Maitland local, Isaac Nisbet, who was recently named a finalist in the VET in Schools Student of the Year category at the 2025 NSW Training Awards – Hunter and Central Coast Region. Isaac is a student at Hunter Trade College, where he completed a Certificate I in Engineering (Manufacturing). Inspired by his older brother and driven by a strong interest in the trade industry, Isaac has embraced every opportunity to expand his skills – both in the classroom and on the tools. From designing and crafting items like a tack hammer handle and fire pit in Industrial Technology, to representing his college in the 2024 WorldSkills competition, Isaac has shown enormous dedication and potential. His efforts have earned him 100 per cent attendance and top achievement awards – testament to his work ethic and focus. Isaac now has his sights set on an apprenticeship, building on the strong foundation he's already laid. I commend Isaac on his remarkable achievements so far and wish him every success as he takes the next steps in his trade career. Our region is proud to support young people like Isaac.

KENADEE WINDON, 2025 NSW TRAINING AWARDS FINALIST

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to Kenadee Windon, a remarkable student from Hunter Trade College, who was recently named a finalist in the School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year category at the 2025 NSW Training Awards – Hunter and Central Coast Region. Kenadee is completing Years 11 and 12 while studying for a Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start). Her impressive journey began with work experience at three local electrical companies, which led to a school-based apprenticeship with Star Electrical Co, supported by HunterNet Career Connections. This real-world experience has given her a strong head start in the electrical trade. Kenadee's interest in the industry was sparked by her brothers' careers, and her mathematical strengths made electrotechnology a natural fit. She has grown not only in her technical skills, but as a mentor, team player, and young leader – showing a clear drive to succeed in a male-dominated industry. Kenadee is setting a shining example for other young

women considering careers in trades. I congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition, and I'm excited to see where her talent, discipline, and leadership will take her next.

PAUL TUCKERMAN. OAM

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—On the King's Birthday weekend I joined Federal Member for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes MP, and the family and friends of Paul Tuckerman to celebrate his award of the Order of Australia. Paul has had considerable involvement in his Thirroul community and the wider Illawarra over many years. For more than 50 years he has acted as a Special Minister of Eucharist in the Catholic Church, visiting housebound and people in hospitals and nursing homes to administer the eucharist. He has served on the Illawarra Regional Transport Advisory Committee, the Board of Coledale Hospital, Secretary of the Bulli Pass Scenic Reserve Trust, Deputy Chairman of the first Illawarra Area Health Service Board, Chairman of the Thirroul Village Committee, Chair of the Thirroul Railway Institute Presentation Society which successfully restored the TRIPS building at Thirroul Station and is a Life Member of several organisations including the Australia Labor Party. He is particularly proud of his role as Chairman of Trustees of the Illawarra Cancer Appealathon which raised funds to secure two linear accelerators for Wollongong Hospital, improving the treatment of cancer patients throughout the Illawarra. This award is fitting recognition of a lifelong contribution to Thirroul and the Illawarra.

ANDREW BOKOR, SALVATORE PANE AND BRIDGET CANHAM SES NATIONAL MEDALS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Congratulations to Andrew Bokor PS and Salvatore Pane from Ashfield-Leichhardt SES Unit for being awarded National Medals at the recent NSW SES Metro Zone Awards for 2025. The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of the SES, who risk their lives or safety to protect the community in times of emergency. Salvatore Pane has 15 years of dedicated service, and Andrew Bokor has spent an impressive 35 years helping others in times of emergency. This medal is not only given for long service, but those who receive it must have been exposed to risk and hazards in their volunteering. They must also retain a level of training and physical fitness, be loyal, reliable and conscientious. I cannot think of a more fitting description of the volunteers in Ashfield-Leichhardt unit, led by SES Unit Commander Sharon Buckley. I would also like to congratulate Bridget Canham from Marrickville SES Unit for her 20 Years Long Service Award. Congratulations Andrew, Salvatore and Bridget - thank you for all your dedication and hard work.

WELFARE RIGHTS CENTRE COMMUNITY TRAINING EVENTS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Congratulations to the Welfare Rights Centre for delivering a series of free Community Training events for Community Workers who support First Nations clients. Financial independence is crucial for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence, however many often struggle with limited financial resources and can face significant challenges in accessing and maintaining essential support payments. Training sessions like these upskill Community Workers who support First Nations clients and covers topics such as navigating Centrelink, recognising challenges faced by clients and tips for improving access to income support. The Welfare Rights Centre is the leading service agency in NSW for social security law and policy and they have helped countless people with free legal advice and representation when they have been adversely affected by a Centrelink decision. These sessions were jointly presented by Welfare Rights Centre CEO Katherine Boyle, and Principal Solicitor, Natalie Ross. Thank you, Katherine and Natalie, for your continued dedication in providing this invaluable service to the community.

VALE MS GLADYS BARNES

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Ms Gladys Barnes. Gladys was an extraordinary member of our inner west community, President of the Pratten Park Bowlo and an icon of lawn bowls in NSW. Beloved by her Ashfield community Gladys was always there to greet you with a smile or serve you a drink from behind the bar and she will be missed by many. Not only a stalwart of the lawn bowls community, Gladys was also a founding member of Burwood's Sandakan Community Educational Committee. Gladys laid a wreath at the annual memorial each year in honour of her father who died as a prisoner of war during World War II. This tradition meant the world to her and reminded all of us of the sacrifices made by so many. Thank you, Gladys, for your lifelong dedication to your community, your passion and your kindness.

CAMDEN DISTRICT NETBALL MEN'S OPEN TEAM

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden)—A massive congratulations to the Camden District Netball Men's Open Team on an extraordinary achievement — going undefeated to claim the top spot in their division at the 2025 Senior State Titles! This victory is more than just a win — it's a powerful comeback story. From finishing at the bottom of the ladder for the past two years to becoming division champions in 2025, the team has shown what true grit, resilience, and hard work can achieve. It's a testament to the dedication of every player, coach, and supporter who never gave up and kept believing in what was possible. Your journey has inspired our whole

community and brought pride to Camden District Netball. You've shown that success doesn't happen overnight — it's earned through persistence, teamwork, and heart. We are all incredibly proud of you and this milestone moment. You've not only made history — you've made Camden proud. Here's to continued success and many more titles to come! Congratulations again, Camden Men's Open – 2025 State Champions!

ELDERSLIE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden)—On Saturday, 24 May, I had the privilege of attending Elderslie High School's incredible production of Bring It On: The Musical. Each year, the school presents a musical that brings together students from all year levels, and this year's performance was yet another shining example of the talent, teamwork, and dedication within the school community. From the music and choreography to the costuming, lighting, and stage design, every element of the production was outstanding. It was heartening to see so many students involved, both on stage and behind the scenes, contributing to what was truly a special and memorable evening. Congratulations to everyone involved – Elderslie High continues to inspire with its commitment to creativity, inclusion, and excellence.

DR DAVID PHILIP WALKOM, OAM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to acknowledge Dr David Philip Walkom OAM for his contribution to the Myall Lakes community through medicine and the arts. Dr Walkom served as an obstetrician and gynaecologist in the Manning Valley and Great Lakes for over 30 years. He played a key role in raising awareness of endometriosis and provided compassionate care to countless women and families. His medical service spanned more than four decades, both locally and internationally. Dr Walkom and his wife, Dusty Walkom OAM, have been passionate supporters of the arts. They were involved in establishing the Manning Entertainment Centre and founded the Walkom Art Prize, now the nationally recognised Naked & Nude Art Prize. Dr Walkom has also supported local arts through his patronage of the Manning Regional Art Gallery and the Taree Arts Council. A long-time member and supporter of Rotary, Dr Walkom has contributed to global health campaigns and youth exchange programs. In recognition of his service, Dr Walkom was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours. I thank him for his contributions to our community.

OLD BAR TAVERN

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Old Bar Tavern and the wider community for raising an incredible $24,000 through their recent Family Fun Day Flood Relief Fundraiser. Held on June 8, the fundraiser brought together local families, businesses, and volunteers for a day filled with music, activities, auctions and raffles. The funds raised are already making a difference, with direct support being delivered to flood-affected families and local farmers impacted by the devastating Mid North Coast floods. The Tavern also went above and beyond during the floods, offering a safe, dry space, free meals for SES workers and discounted meals for those that were flood affected. To the owners, staff, sponsors, and everyone who donated, participated or spread the word, thank you. Your kindness didn't just raise money, it lifted spirits and reminded people they're not alone.

WINGHAM FASHION PARADE FUNDRAISER

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise a fantastic local initiative that brought the community together in support of those affected by the recent floods in Wingham and surrounding areas. On Saturday 21 June, more than 200 people gathered at the Wingham Services Club for a Fashion Parade Fundraiser, an afternoon of fashion, footwear, fun and food that raised over $5,000 for local flood relief efforts. I congratulate the organisers, especially the women behind Ashleigh Road Boutique and the Top of the Town Shops, who pulled the event together. It's wonderful to see such strong community spirit in action, and I thank everyone involved for helping our flood-affected neighbours get back on their feet.

CASTLE HILL RSL CRICKET CLUB

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I would like to congratulate Castle Hill RSL Cricket Club on its 166th Annual Presentation Night, which I had the great pleasure of attending on 27 April 2025. Established in 1858, this club holds an extraordinary place in our local sporting history, and currently has around 500 players across all age groups. I thank President Carl Spears and the dedicated committee for their tireless efforts throughout the season. Institutions like this are only possible through the combined work of volunteers, coaches, managers, scorers, parents and, of course, the players. Your commitment makes community sport possible and keeps the tradition alive for future generations. I congratulate Jared Mason, Club Person of the Year, whose fresh energy as Secretary included building the new club website and representing the club at numerous functions. Ameera Sodhi was Female Cricketer of the Year, with an outstanding all-round performance of 250 runs, 14 wickets, 9 catches and a runout. Liam Escott was Junior Cricketer of the Year, whose brilliant season included 459 runs, 15 wickets, 15 catches and 2 runouts. Well done to all on a remarkable season.

THE HILLS TREFOIL GUILD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I would like to extend my thanks to the Hills Trefoil Guild for the kind invitation to attend their Annual General Meeting on 11 April 2025, and to President Patricia Shaw for her warm welcome. It was a pleasure to acknowledge the important role the Guild continues to play in our community. The Trefoil Guild is an adult branch of Girl Guides, providing a supportive network for current and former members to stay connected, live out the Guide Promise, and continue their service to others. Over the past year, the Hills Trefoil Guild has knitted, crocheted and quilted 42 rugs for local hospitals, nursing homes and the Baulkham Hills Church Blanket Appeal. They also produced 50 baby caps and 20 pairs of mittens for Westmead Hospital's neonatal ward, and donated cushions and rugs to Ronald McDonald House. The Guild has also collected food and essential items to support local homeless services, while continuing to contribute to many other community causes. My sincere thanks also to Vice President Evelyn Caulfield, Secretary Susan Hart, Treasurer Lynn Roese, and all other office-bearers and members for their leadership and service.

AIDAN TOBIN AND ALEX TOBIN, OAM

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I recognise and commend Aidan Tobin and Alex Tobin OAM for their quick thinking and collaborative efforts to rescue a 40-year-old resident from the Bidjigal State Forest. On 21 April 2025 sometime at about 10.00pm cries of help were heard coming from the State Forest. Aidan ran into the State Forest where he located a 40-year-old male who was half submerged in Saw Mill Creek, unable to move. Aidan remained with the male, standing for over one hour in the cold waters of creek. Alex guided police, fire, and rescue officers into the bush to assist the 40-year-old male who was in distress. The quick thinking and collaborative efforts of Aidan, Alex and the first responders was critical to the rescue of the person in distress. Aidan and Alex's selfless and invaluable assistance demonstrate the spirit of community and the positive difference which can be made working together with our first responders. On 19 June 2025, at the Hills and Ku-Ring-Gai Police Area Command Awards Ceremony, Aidan and Alex were presented with a Police Area Commander's Certificate of Appreciation. I recognise and commend Aidan and Alex for their selfless dedication to our community.

MACKENZIE LITTLE: 2025 WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I recognise and congratulate Mackenzie Little, who has been selected to represent Australia in the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo this September. Mackenzie has worked tirelessly to earn her place on the national team, dedicating countless hours to training and competition. Following Mackenzie's selection for both the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, her determination, discipline and resilience have led her to the world stage once again. This is an outstanding achievement, and I also would like to acknowledge the vital support of her coach, Angus McEntyre. As an Olympian, a Commonwealth Games silver medallist, World Championships bronze medallist and a practising doctor, Mackenzie is a powerful example of what young women can achieve when they pursue their passion with focus and commitment. I wish Mackenzie every success in Tokyo and as she progresses towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE: CBP GRANT 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Sunday 29 June 2025, I will be attending the North Shore Synagogue's official opening of their recreational space as a guest speaker. In 2024, the North Shore Synagogue received a $30,000 grant from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP) program. This year, the synagogue will be opening a well-needed recreational space featuring handball courts and a dedicated play zone, which will provide a safe, inclusive environment for youth to connect and stay active. I would like to recognise the following individuals for their dedication in bringing this project to life and for their commitment to the synagogue: Rabbi Paul Lewin, Chazan Zvi Teichtahl, President Mironne Golan, Vice Presidents Tanya Bortz and Jeremy Levy, Treasurer Peter Vickers, Board Members Robert Samuel and Stanley Dyne, Operations Manager Kim Morris, General Manager David Goldstein and Office Administrator Marion Blitz. It is a privilege to support initiatives like this through the NSW Parliament, helping strengthen community infrastructure across our local area. I look forward to celebrating this achievement with the North Shore Synagogue community.

2025 AUSTRALIA TAOISM CULTURE FESTIVAL

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Saturday 28 June, the Golden Mother of Mercy Charity Dinner is taking place as part of the 2025 Australia Taoism Culture Festival at the Mandarin Centre in Chatswood. Hosted by the Australian Taoist Association, the event brought together distinguished guests and community leaders from Australia and abroad to celebrate the values and history of Taoist tradition. The evening featured traditional performances and powerful reminders of the value Taoist philosophy brings to a modern multicultural society, including harmony, humility and respect for nature. I recognise President Master Yan Meixi JP, Managing Director Lillian Zhang and the organisers for their dedication to cultural understanding and community building.

Events such as this enrich the social fabric of our city and strengthen the bonds between communities of diverse backgrounds.

MRS THAN NGUYEN

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I acknowledge Mrs Than Nguyen, a dedicated member of the Vietnamese Women's Association (VWA), whose quiet contributions have enriched the lives of many within her community. Mrs Nguyen inspires her fellow members through the positive example she sets. She fosters an environment where individuals are encouraged to learn, grow, and become more independent. She emphasises the importance of learning English, a practical step she rightly recognises as crucial for improving access to employment opportunities and navigating daily life in Australia. What truly stands out is Mrs Nguyen's deep commitment to her members. She brings a thoughtful and caring spirit to her volunteering work with the VWA, ensuring members feel welcome, supported, and connected. Beyond her supporting work, Mrs Nguyen also actively participates in the VWA's traditional dance team, contributing to cultural events and proudly sharing her heritage with the broader community. I thank Mrs Nguyen for her invaluable contributions and the outstanding example she offers in the local community.

2025 FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OFFICIAL ORGANISATION DAY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 30 May 2025, I had the pleasure of attending the Traditional Day of the former Republic of Vietnam Official Organisation of NSW. Former police officers of the Republic of Vietnam, their families, descendants, and the broader Vietnamese communities gather to commemorate and pay tribute to the servicemen and women who dedicated their lives to maintaining social order, protecting national security, and defending democracy during the Vietnam War. The commemoration serves as a meaningful tradition to honour the organisation's history and contributions to South Vietnam. It is also an effort to preserve the community's heritage for future generations. The event featured a variety of commemorative ceremonies and traditions. This year's commemoration was particularly special, marking the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. I thank Mr Song Huynh and the former Republic of Vietnam Official Organisation for their kind invitation and commend their continued efforts to preserve the traditions and history of their community.

MS BACH PHUONG NGUYEN

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I acknowledge Ms Bach Phuong Nguyen, a valued member of the Vietnamese Women's Association (VWA). Though quiet and reserved by nature, Ms Nguyen positively influences and supports those around her. Ms Nguyen's strength lies in her dedication and genuine care for others. As a devoted and loving mother, she primarily focused on her family life before joining the VWA. Through her involvement with the association, she has come to appreciate the importance of social interaction in enhancing overall well-being. Ms Nguyen encourages her fellow members to embrace the benefits of social connection, engage more with the community, and enrich their lives beyond the home. Though modest in action, Ms Nguyen exemplifies the power of quiet dedication and personal growth. I thank Ms Nguyen for her contributions and for the meaningful impact she has made in our community.

BRIAN MCKENZIE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contribution of Brian McKenzie, who has been recognised with a well-deserved Service Award for over 25 years of devoted volunteer service to Warrigal. Throughout the decades, Brian has exemplified the true spirit of service offering his time, compassion, and unwavering dedication to supporting older members of our community. His efforts have gone far beyond routine volunteering; through his consistent presence, kind-hearted nature, and genuine care, Brian has made a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of Warrigal residents and clients. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to acknowledge Brian's years of service and dedication to Warrigal, a remarkable achievement.

JUDI SANDILANDS-CINCOTTA

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Judi Sandilands-Cincotta, who each week brings so much joy, comfort, and connection to students and staff at Lake Illawarra High by visiting with her beautiful dogs Ollie the therapy dog and Shiko a guide dog breeder who continues to learn and be exposed to different environments. Judi currently volunteers her time within an astounding 13 different organisations, each addressing a critical area of need in our community. She effortlessly networks with a wide range of people to schedule and volunteer her time with her support therapy dogs. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to acknowledge Judi for her kindness, compassion, and incredible contribution to the school and wider community.

KEIARNA RODWELL

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Keiarna Rodwell, Shellharbour Sharks RLFC, for reaching 100 Ladies League Tag games during the Women in League Round on 18 May 2025. Shellharbour Sharks are a fantastic community sporting club, and it is wonderful to see so many girls and women playing both League Tag and Tackle rugby league in the Illawarra. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Keiarna for this remarkable sporting achievement.

PENRITH GAELS ST PATRICK'S GOLF DAY

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I want to acknowledge the Penrith Gaels Club for their outstanding commitment to community spirit, generosity, and compassion. Through their annual St Patrick's Charity Golf Day, the club has once again made a profound impact, raising an incredible $12,203 for Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney. This initiative is more than a sporting event; it demonstrates what can be achieved when a community rallies behind a cause. Over the past 17 years, the Penrith Gaels have raised over $137,000 for local charities, showing steadfast dedication to supporting families with seriously ill children. Ronald McDonald House plays a crucial role in keeping families close during the most difficult times, and contributions like this go a long way in easing both emotional and financial burdens. The Penrith Gaels remind us of the power of local clubs to drive positive change, creating not just places of leisure and connection, but also of compassion and service. To every person who golfed, sponsored, donated, volunteered, or simply showed up in support, thank you. To the Penrith Gaels Board your efforts show what charity truly means and the positive impact will be felt far beyond the golf course.

PENRITH YOUTH FORUM

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—It is a pleasure to welcome the students from the following schools who are attending Parliament today as part of the Penrith Youth Forum: Cambridge Park High School; CathWest Innovation College; Cranebrook High School; Jamison High School; Kingswood High School; Nepean CAPA High School; Penola Catholic College; Penrith High School; St Dominic's College. The Penrith Youth Forum provides an invaluable opportunity for our young people to engage directly with the democratic process, to voice their views on the issues that matter to them, and to develop their leadership, communication and critical thinking skills. Through open dialogue with Ministers and holding meaningful discussions, the forum empowers students to consider the challenges and opportunities facing our community and their generation. The aims of this program are far-reaching. Students will gain a deeper understanding of civic participation and parliamentary process, they also build confidence, foster networks with peers from other schools, and develop a sense of responsibility and aspiration to contribute positively to their communities. I commend all the students participating today for their enthusiasm, insight, and thoughtful contributions. I also acknowledge the teachers, school leadership, and parents for supporting and encouraging their students' involvement in this important initiative.

SHARE A CUPPA PROGRAM

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I want to acknowledge and commend the outstanding work of the Share a Cuppa program, a wonderful initiative run by Nepean Food Services that ensures our elderly community members remain connected and valued. Through the tireless efforts of volunteers, this program brings comfort, companionship, and conversation to seniors who may otherwise feel isolated. Volunteers generously give their time to take elderly locals out for a cuppa and a chat, brightening their day and reminding them that they are not forgotten. I particularly wish to acknowledge 96-year-old Charles, who continues to inspire us all with his vitality, community spirit, and zest for life as a former Penrith Fire Chief and original member of the Penrith Golf Club. As one of the program's regular participants, Charles not only enjoys the outings but also reconnects with old friends, often sharing fond memories from years gone by. His continued engagement serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of programs like Share a Cuppa in promoting social connection, dignity, and well-being for our seniors. I extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the Share a Cuppa program and Nepean Food Services for their dedication and commitment to our community.

NEW WIRES CENTRE OPEN IN RANDWICK

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge the opening of the Wires Animal Recovery Centre which was opened on the 14th of June. The open day was an opportunity for members of the public to experience tours inside the centre and the incredible work that wildlife rescuers do. WIRES is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation and is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. The organisation co-ordinates rescues, provides emergency care and aides long-term rehabilitation. This new centre is a wonderful edition to our community and a place of hope for native animals and the people who love them.

CENTRE MEMORIALISING EILEEN O'CONNOR'S LEGACY OPENS IN COOGEE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Earlier this month the new Eileen O'Connor Centre opened to honour her life and legacy. Born in Melbourne before moving to Sydney as a young child, she soon became a leader in the Roman Catholic community. Despite suffering from spinal tuberculosis and transverse myelitis which prevented her from ever being able to walk and putting her in constant pain, she dedicated her life to helping others. In 1913 at the age of just 21, she founded the Our Lady's Nurses for the poor, also known as the Brown Nurses, so called for their trademark brown cloaks and bonnets, an organization of nurses dedicated to helping the sick, the poor, the destitute, and the homeless. She is currently in the process of beatification, the process of becoming a saint, and has already been named a Servant of God by the Holy See.

PAULINE MENCZER BONDI STATUE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—While Pauline Menczer's name will forever be remembered for being the winner of the 1993 Women's World Champion for Professional Surfing, the Pauline In Bronze Committee is currently raising funds to commission a statue of the surfing icon at Bondi Beach, her hometown. Despite Australia's famed surfing culture, she remains the only person, male or female, from Bondi to win a World Title. Overcoming sexism, homophobia, crippling arthritis and almost no sponsorship she still went on to win the 1993 World Championship, a competition that she was denied the winning prize money for and instead only received a broken trophy. The Pauline Menczer Bondi Statue Committee has already raised over $50,000 for the commission of a sculptor and to build the statue; however, they still need to raise nearly $100,000. This statue isn't only to honour the legacy of Menczer but also a way to address the massive gender gap in Sydney's statues. With just 6% of them being of women, even animals have better representation. The Go Fund Me is still actively taking donations if you want to be a part of this landmark project.

THE BACKTRACK WAY

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the severe toll the Taree floods took on the Mid North Coast community. With homes submerged and livelihoods disrupted, the scale of the damage was immense. Yet in the chaos, BackTrack crews stood steady. Their swift deployment to support those affected reflects not only their capabilities, but their deep commitment to community service. I congratulate the young people who make up BackTrack's disaster recovery teams. Their work in Taree has ranged from clearing debris and restoring access to rescuing stranded livestock. These young people didn't just respond to a crisis – they bought dignity, strength and human kindness into every moment. I commend the ongoing partnership between BackTrack and Gotcha Park. It's through these authentic connections that trust, and response are built. What began as shared cattle has become a shared mission – to show up, lend a hand and lift communities back on their feet. That's leadership in action!

OASIS COMMUNITY GARDEN GLEN INNES

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the members of the Glen Innes community for running a positive project to support locals, through the Oasis Community Garden. Whether this is by providing locals with fresh produce, an open space, or to learn and share growing produce. I congratulate all involved in this initiative, including the committee members who are giving of their time, effort and sharing their expertise with others, including: Co-ordinator Cheryl Rudd; Secretary Michelle Gaynor; Treasurer Cathy Sexton; Lindsay Hill; Bianca Stark; along with workshop organiser Diana Barnier. Special thanks also to the Oasis Church for financially supporting the creation of the garden and the Glen Innes community for their generous donations of time and equipment, necessary to keep the garden running. I commend all involved with the garden for the foresight and hard work in running the venture, whilst fostering community connections within Glen Innes.

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND GORDON STEWART

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Reverend Gordon Stewart on serving the Armidale Diocese of the Anglican church for the past 37 years, through his ministry providing spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and sacramental ministry to fellow parishioners. I congratulate Rev Gordon on this wonderful milestone, joining the diocese in 1988 with the support of his wife Olita. Such is Gordon's dedication, over the years he has served in many roles, starting out as a lay Preacher from 1988-1994, holding committee leadership positions with Calrossy and William Cowper Schools from 1991-2007, as well as providing non-stipendiary service. This included being an Assistant Minister at St Peter's at Tamworth from 1994-2003; Vicar of Nundle (2004-2012); Locum at Uralla (2013-15) and at the St John's Anglican Church at Bingara, from 2017 to the present. Since being in Bingara Rev Gordon and Olita have immersed themselves into the community, giving support to parishioners through hard times such as of Covid, reinvigorating and starting new parish programs, as well as practical expressions of help. I commend Rev Gordon on his commitment, support and strength he gives to his local community. Bingara locals say he is a friend to all, a well deserved bestowed honour.

10 YEARS OF REDLINK

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown Electorate, I would like to recognise and congratulate the Redlink on their 10th anniversary. Redlink is a multi-agency integrated service hub that provides practical assistance and referrals to marginalised members of the community. Working in close collaboration with government departments and non-government organisations, RedLink is committed to reducing community disadvantage, fostering social inclusion, and improving both individual and community wellbeing. With a particular focus on supporting vulnerable and socially isolated residents and families within the Redfern Public Housing Estate, RedLink plays a vital role in building stronger, more connected communities. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the following community members without whom Redlink would not be possible: Aunty Linda Jackson, Aunty Laura Sabatino, and Aunty Min Reed. I would also like to give a special thanks to the dedicated Redlink team: Margaret Macrae, Peter Akkermans, Paul Mullen, Sarah Trovato of Homes NSW, and Suzanne Ratcliff of Sydney Local Health Distract. I look forward to many more years of Redlink's crucial work in our community, and congratulate them on a very successful 10 years!

MRS JUNE ROOTS, OAM

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Luddenham local Mrs June Roots OAM on obtaining a Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to the Penrith community through many volunteer organisations over more than 70 years. June's outstanding service includes being an active member of the Luddenham Progress Association and a Life Member and Patron of the Luddenham Show Society. She started her involvement with the Luddenham Show in the 1950s as a steward and is still a volunteer of the Show to this day, assisting in the pavilion and making lunches in the leadup to the Show. In the 1960s, June co-founded the Ladies Auxiliary and started the kitchen to raise funds for the Showground. Mrs Roots OAM has served the Luddenham Public School Parents and Citizens as a former president, transport assistant and tutor and has fundraised for the Luddenham Uniting Church where she was also an Elder. Mrs Roots OAM has also fundraised through the Wallacia Carry On Club, Luddenham's Biggest Morning Teas, Holy Family Knitting Group and Luddenham Church Markets. On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I thank and commend Mrs Roots OAM for her service.

RACHEL WILKINSON

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend 18-year-old Glenmore Park local Rachel Wilkinson for her promotion to the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer in the Australian Navy Cadets on 13 April 2025. This promotion followed Rachel's promotions to the ranks of Seaman, Able Seaman, Leading Seaman, Petty Officer and Chief Petty Officer. To put Rachel's extraordinary achievement into perspective, she is the 1st Cadet Warrant Officer out of TS Nepean and one of only 5 Cadet Warrant Officers in NSW. Rachel's journey to the rank of Warrant Officer has required her to excel in physical and mental challenges, including navigating a rigorous curriculum and maintaining fitness standards under the constant watchful eyes of the Australian Navy Cadets' Leaders. Some of the notable events Rachel was in charge of or took part in include the Tri-Service Leadership Summit in Canberra, Mt Buller Adventure Camp in Victoria, ACT 2024 HMAS Albatross as a Guard Commander and ACT 2024 Holsworthy Barracks as a Parade Commander. Rachel has also led ANZAC Day Parades. On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I wish Rachel the very best with all her future endeavours.

GLENMORE PARK HIGH SCHOOL DANCE ENSEMBLES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Glenmore Park High School's Junior, Intermediate and Senior Dance Ensembles for an incredible performance at the NSW Public Schools Synergy Dance Festival. 60 Glenmore Park High School students performed across the ensembles and made their school community very proud with their energy, confidence, teamwork, creativity and school spirit on stage. This was their first performance of 2025 and they were exceptional. I recognise, congratulate and commend the staff at Glenmore Park High School for their important role in the success of the ensembles. On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I wish the students the very best in their dance and academic endeavours.

JO GREENSILL BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise Jo Greensill, for opening her home to Clarence Valley residents when she hosted a Biggest Morning Tea in May in support of the Cancer Council. Remarkably, this year was Ms Greensill's 26th time hosting the event. Ms Greensill hosts the event in honour of her mum, who tragically passed away following her third battle with the disease. Over the past 20 plus years, Ms Greensill estimates that she has raised over $70,000, with this year's event raising a total of $3,134.95. Every biscuit and piece of cake that has been served during one of Ms Greensill's Biggest Morning Teas's over the time has been lovingly made by the host herself. Every dollar raised goes towards helping others who have had their

lives turned upside down by cancer. Well done Ms Greensill on dedicating your time and efforts to creating such a successful morning tea every year. Not only are you raising vital funds, but you are creating an opportunity for people within the community to meet and share their stories with others. Thank you for opening your home and congratulations on the money you have raised for the Cancer Council.

CASINO LINE DANCE FUNDRAISER

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations must go to all of the incredible dancers, supporters and volunteers who attended the annual Stroke Foundation Line Dance Fundraiser at St Mark's Anglican Hall in Casino held in May. Enthusiastic performers travelled from all over New South Wales and Queensland to participate in the dancing event, which was an absolutely resounding success, raising $3,143.10 for the Stroke Foundation. The remarkable turnout at the event highlighted the unity and generosity of the line dance community. More than just the fun of dancing was enjoyed on the night, with many raffles taking place and prizes awarded for best dressed lady, best dressed man and best dressed table, among many other categories. The friendly competition teamed with the fabulously fun outfits made the night enjoyable for all participants and onlookers. A special thank you must go to all of the volunteers, organisers and raffle donors for ensuring the event went off without a hitch. Well done on raising such vital funds for the Stroke Foundation to support their work in education, prevention and recovery services. I'm sure planning for another successful event next year has already started. Congratulations again and thank you to all involved.

CAM KLEINSCHMIDT

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Today in the New South Wales Parliament I would like to recognise a remarkable achievement, Cam Kleinschmidt's 18 years with Radio 2GF and FM1047. Cam has been bringing energy and warmth as our breakfast radio announcer, waking up listeners with his infectious enthusiasm and genuine connection. Over nearly two decades, he has worn many hats, the voice of the morning, mentor to fresh talent, the first line of tech support for everything at the station and a trusted voice in our community. He has a passion for radio broadcasting that continues to grow. Cam has now risen to the role of General Manager, a testament to his dedication, leadership, and vision. I have full confidence that under his guidance, the station will reach new heights, deepen its community ties, and continue to deliver the programs that are loved by the listeners. Thank you, Cam for your unwavering commitment and your creative spirit. With you at the helm, the possibilities are limitless. Please join me in congratulating Cam Kleinschmidt on 18 outstanding years at Radio 2GF and FM1047 and many more years to come!

MARINERS GRAND FINAL

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I am delighted to recognise our Central Coast Mariners Women's team for winning the A-league Women's Championships Grand Final on May 18th. In their second season these remarkable women pulled off a thrilling 5-4 win in the first penalty shootout in A-league Women's grand final history. The Mariners team showed great resilience and talent throughout the game. Rising stars of the match Isabel Gomez, Claudia Bunge, and Sarah Langman exhibited their unique flare and skills to the game of football. Despite a scare from Jess Nash late in the game when she was forced off the field due to injury, the Mariners persisted with only 10 players. In a society where women's sport is under-appreciated, the Mariners win represents hope and unity. The Mariners grand final win brought together the Central Coast community to celebrate and acknowledge the talents and greatness within women's sports. As we farewell Head Coach Emily Husband to the Matildas, I would like to send our thanks for your work as a pivotal guide for the women's team. Emily's expertise, strategy and determination shouldn't go unrecognised. This sweet moment of victory and recognition is well deserved for this group of talented women.

ARNOLD REGINALD THURLING, OAM - KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS - SERVICE TO DANCE

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I want to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Mr Arnold Reginald Thurling of West Wollongong, who received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his outstanding service to dance promotion and instruction. For over 60 years, Arnold has been the heart and soul of the Wollongong White Heather Scottish Country Dance Club. He joined in the early 1960s and, within just two years, his passion and talent led him to become a teacher and president of the club, and he continues to serve diligently as its treasurer. His influence extends beyond our local community. In 2005, Arnold was one of the very first Australians to be honoured with the prestigious Sydney Branch Award from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Scotland, a testament to his expertise and dedication. Together with his wife, Joan, Arnold has fostered a vibrant, welcoming, and enduring dance community, creating lasting friendships and enriching the cultural fabric of Wollongong. Congratulations Arnold!

ASHLEY DEAN SULLIVAN, ESM - SERVICE TO THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—We commend the distinguished and decorated service of Mr Ashley Dean Sullivan of Corrimal, who was awarded the Emergency Services Medal in the King's Birthday Honours. Ashley's service to the NSW State Emergency Service is a story of lifelong commitment, beginning as a 14-year-old volunteer and spanning nearly three decades. Today, he holds the crucial role of Senior Manager of Fleet Services while also continuing to volunteer with the Kiama Unit. His leadership has been pivotal during our state's most challenging times. Following the 2022 Flood Inquiry, he led the SES's Flood Rescue Enhancement Program, helping to develop new tools like the beacon triage system to better manage large-scale rescue events. He has played a leading role in numerous major operations and has represented Australia internationally. Ashley's remarkable and selfless dedication is instrumental in keeping our communities safe. Congratulations Ashley!

BRIAN CHARLES JACKSON, OAM - SERVICE TO YOUTH THROUGH SCOUTS

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—It is with great pleasure that I recognise Mr Brian Charles Jackson of Farmborough Heights in my electorate, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours. This prestigious award acknowledges his profound and lifelong service to the youth of our community through the Scouting movement. For an incredible 60 years, Brian has been a dedicated member of the Baden-Powell Guild, a fellowship for former Scouts and Guides that supports current youth members through activities like fundraising for Jamborees. His commitment is exemplified by his significant leadership roles, having served as the State Guild Master for NSW and as the Australian Guild Master for six years. He was also instrumental in the Mt Keira branch, one of the first established in Australia. In 2020, Scouts Australia further recognised his outstanding contributions with the National President's Award. Brian's unwavering dedication has left a lasting legacy and on the countless young lives he has positively influenced. Congratulations Brian!

NARROMINE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Narromine Hospital Auxiliary, who have successfully raised funds for a new remote operator x-ray service (RXO) to be installed at Narromine Hospital. After a year of tireless fundraising and hard work, the Auxiliary has successfully raised a substantial amount of money to help fund this addition to local healthcare. The RXO is now available at Narromine Hospital and has three registered nurses trained to take a limited range of x-rays for acute presentations or hospital inpatients. The service has the potential to significantly reduce the need for people to undertake the almost eighty-kilometre round trip to Dubbo, often while in considerable pain, for diagnostic imaging. The Auxiliary's consistent efforts to ensure their local hospital can treat patients locally knows no bounds. Whether they are raising funds through raffles, trivia nights, cake stalls, or patchwork displays, they do it all! Over the years they have raised funds for a wide range of equipment to help treat patients and ensure comfort during their stay. I congratulate the committee on their dedication and tireless work. It is a true testament to what can be achieved through community spirit and determination.

MUDGEE PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Mudgee Performing Arts Society (MPAS) who recently celebrated their 40th birthday! The MPAS boasts a rich history and a remarkably diverse pool of talent. From writers to directors, to artists and performers, they bring stories to life through stage plays, musicals, and children's theatre. To celebrate this significant milestone, MPAS hosted a wonderful showcase of songs, scenes, and stars from across the decades – Forty Fabulous Years of Mudgee Performing Arts Society. The nostalgic program was thoughtfully curated by MPAS Vice President Heather Rushton, who was recently honoured as the 2025 Mid-Western Senior Citizen of the Year. The birthday celebration was staged over two nights and featured original short plays alongside a colourful mix of excerpts and snippets unearthed from the archives especially for the occasion. A highlight of the event was the return to the stage of the society's original president, Ken Charter, to reprise a beloved song he first performed over thirty years ago. I congratulate the Mudgee Performing Arts Society on celebrating four decades of enriching the Mudgee community and region with outstanding local theatre and entertainment and wish them continued success in the years to come.

HEATHER ROUEN, OAM

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—Bradbury resident Heather Rouen has been recognised in the 2025 King's Birthday honours with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her exceptional service to sport. As a dedicated member of the Sydney South West School Sports Association since 1981, her leadership has been instrumental in shaping opportunities for young athletes in the Campbelltown electorate and beyond. Mrs Rouen's

contributions span decades, from managing swimming, water polo, and diving teams to serving as a marshal in primary and secondary students championships and cross country competitions since 2005. Her recognition as a life member in 2023 and recipient of the Secondary Sports Award in 2023, reflect her unwavering commitment. Beyond sport, she enriched the community as the iconic Fisher's Ghost mascot for 15 years, embodying Campbelltown's vibrant spirit. Mrs Rouen's tireless efforts have left a lasting impact on sport and civic life, and this honour is a fitting tribute to her dedication.

MR CAMERON BROWNJOHN, OAM - KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to recognise Mr Cameron Brownjohn for being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours List. Mr Warden received this honour for service to people with disability, and to business. Mr Brownjohn has held senior roles at Special Olympics Australia since 2014, including as Chair from 2016-2024 and Board Member from 2014-2024. In industry, Mr Brownjohn has held senior executive positions at Federal Asset Management, Macquarie Capital, UBS Investment Bank and Merrill Lynch. He has also been a Non-Executive Director of Synergis Fund, Homesafe Solutions, Windlab, Plenti, GenesisCare and Foundation Mortgages. On behalf our community, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Mr Brownjohn on this worthy recognition.

DR GREGORY LEVENSTON, OAM - KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to recognise Dr Gregory Levenston for being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours List. Dr Levenston received this honour for service to the community of Woollahra. Dr Levenston is a Former Deputy Mayor of Woollahra Council and was a Councillor from 2012-2017. As a Medical Practitioner, he was a Board Member of the South-East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), since 2018. He is also currently the Deputy Chairman of the SESLHD. He was also a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor at the Kobi Clinic from 1997-2020. Dr Levenston is the Former Chairman of Variety Australia and served as a Board Member from 2012-2014. On behalf our community, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Dr Levenston on this worthy recognition.

MS ANNE GORMAN, OAM - KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to recognise Ms Anne Gorman for being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours List. Ms Gorman received this honour for service to business through executive roles, and to the community. As a founding Member of Chief Executive Women (since 1985), Ms Gorman has been a Member of the Mission and Vision Sub-Committee throughout this time. She is a former Board Member of Philanthropic Relief, Altruistic Service And Development (PRASAD) Australia and a founding member of the Australian Childrens Television Foundation. Ms Gorman is the Co-Founder of The Institute of Executive Coaching and Leadership (1999), the founder of Corporate Impact Publications (1982), and Managing Director of Social Impacts Pty Limited. On behalf our community, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Ms Gorman on this worthy recognition.

BROOKE CASSEL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Brooke Cassel 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. Brooke, a member of The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club, received 3rd in the 30-34 years Board Rescue alongside Stephanie Carey. 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 Brooke 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.

CAVES BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the volunteer lifesavers from Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club. On Sunday 9 March, the Club's volunteers responded to an urgent emergency, demonstrating outstanding professionalism and teamwork. They successfully rescued an individual in distress and immediately applied critical first aid techniques, undoubtedly playing a key role in saving a life. I extend my deepest gratitude to Craig, Terry, Jack, Jane-Maree, Evelyn and Greg for their bravery and dedication. Their actions on that day are a powerful reminder of the selflessness and skill of our volunteer surf lifesavers, who put themselves on the

frontline to protect others. To all the members of the Caves Beach SLSC and the wider Swansea surf lifesaving community – thank you for your unwavering service and commitment to keeping our beaches safe.

DAVE SOLMAN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Dave Solman 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. Dave, a member of The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club, was awarded State Champion in the 110 years Taplin and received 3rd in the Double Ski alongside Joshua Higgins and Malcolm Allen. 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 Dave 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.

SHANNON MAHONEY

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—The Guinness Book of World Records received 48,295 record applications from 189 countries in 2024. On 6 June 2025 at the Anytime Fitness Gym in Wallsend, 40-year-old Hunter Correctional Centre officer Shannon Mahoney smashed a Guinness World Record for weightlifting in one hour by kettlebell clean and press – and raised $600 for charity RUOK in the process. Shannon likes to test his capabilities. He broke the previous World Record,16,320kg in 816 repetitions set by UK man Andy Allen, by lifting 17,366 kg in 864 repetitions – and he didn't let go of the 20kg kettlebell for the entire hour. Shannon had once been in the fitness industry for around 20 years as a personal trainer. He hoped this success would inspire people, showing that everyone is capable of more than they think. Guinness World record attempts need to be verified with film from 2 angles (front and side), with 2 certified judges in attendance, and documentation is sent to London to be verified. Shannon had been preparing for this challenge with a 4-month strength and aerobics training cycle, lifting kettlebells 3 days a week. Congratulations, Shannon!

SENIOR CONSTABLE ANGELA HERN

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—In recognition of motivation, thorough investigation and proactive actions, Senior Constable Angela Hern, in her role as the Newcastle City Police District Summons and Warrants Officer, received a District Commander's Commendation at the Newcastle City Police District Annual Awards on Wednesday 11 June 2025, presented by Acting Commander Detective Inspector Steven Benson. The awards night was an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the consistently good work of Police in our community. Senior Constable Hern has tenaciously built rapport with community members and established professional relationships with both Government and Non-Government agencies to successfully target warrant and domestic violence offenders, resulting in a significant number of arrests. Senior Constable Hern was commended for her consistent outstanding performance, dedication to duty and commitment to the protection of domestic violence victims. Police are often faced and affronted with unsavoury and potentially dangerous jobs, and they deserve public recognition of their work. They protect and serve the community, and their roles in investigation, prosecution of criminals, detailed enquiries about victims and perpetrators, often go unheralded by the community. Congratulations on your award, Senior Constable Hern, and thank you for your service.

ADAM MORGAN

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—

The 2025 Worldskills Australia National Championships, involving over 600 competitors, were held in Brisbane June 12-15. The event attracted over 20,000 visitors, industry leaders, experts and education providers. Winning a Gold Medal for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning was local resident and Clements Air Conditioning employee Adam Morgan. 115 competitors from NSW showcased their talents across 42 disciplines, including 3D digital game art, bricklaying, carpentry, and cookery. Adam earned his place through a regional competition, showing dedication, precision, and passion for his work. His event entailed four projects over eighteen hours of competition - Refrigeration System Installation, Air Conditioning System Commissioning, Refrigeration Fault Finding and Electrical Fault Finding. Every two years, more than 700 Regional Competitions are held across Australia, testing the skills and knowledge of 4000+ apprentices, trainees and students, with the chance to win gold, silver and bronze medals and progress to national level competition. One regional placegetter has the opportunity to be selected to progress to the National level. A team from across the country will be chosen to

represent Australia at the 48th WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai, China, 2026. Congratulations, Adam!

BALGOWLAH GOLF CLUB CENTENNARY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, in August of this year, Balgowlah Golf Club will celebrate its centenary, marking 100 years of community built around a shared love of the great game of golf. In 1925, the land where the course now sits was largely dense scrub, interrupted by a handful of cricket pitches and tennis courts. Thanks to the vision and determination of locals, led by Captain William Whytock and supported by Manly Council, the land was cleared and transformed. By August of that year, the Balgowlah Golf Club was formed. A humble shed served as its first clubhouse, reflecting the grassroots spirit that has defined the club ever since. Today, the club stands proudly at the gateway to the Northern Beaches. It is both a challenging and loveable course, known for its welcoming atmosphere, strong volunteer base, and enduring connection to the Manly area. For 100 years, Balgowlah Golf Club has embodied the very best of our local spirit - volunteerism, pride of place, and a deep love of golf and community-connection. It is a true institution, and I thank all those who have shaped its story. I wish the club every success for the next 100 years.

MARIKA ULLOA - DOMESTIC BLISS BESPOKE HOME CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Marika Ulloa on being named the 2025 Business Person of the Year at the Northern Beaches Local Business Awards. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to Marika's leadership, vision and commitment to her work. Through her business, Domestic Bliss, Marika has built a strong reputation for delivering tailored housekeeping and cleaning services that go beyond the basics - supporting busy households with care, professionalism, and attention to detail. Since establishing Domestic Bliss in 2010, she has grown the business into a trusted name across Sydney, known for its personalised service and consistent quality. Her recognition as Business Person of the Year reflects the trust she has earned from clients, and the respect she has within the local business community. I congratulate Marika on this well-deserved honour and acknowledge the important role small business owners like her play in strengthening and supporting the Northern Beaches community. I wish her and her fantastic business continued success.

MOTION MAINTENANCE PROPERTY SERVICES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and congratulate Motion Maintenance Property Services on being named Best Service Business at the 2025 Northern Beaches Local Business Awards. This recognition is a significant achievement and reflects the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of a local business that continues to earn the trust of its community. Based in Manly Vale, Motion Maintenance offers a range of property services including landscaping, gardening and maintenance, with a strong focus on sustainability and long-term value. Founded by twin directors Dylan and Jethro, the business has grown through a clear commitment to quality, customer service, and environmentally conscious practices. Their use of recycled materials and thoughtful design has helped to transform homes and outdoor spaces across the area. I commend Motion Maintenance on this well-earned honour and thank them for contributing to the strength, sustainability, and character of our local business community.

QUEST APARTMENTS

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—I want to congratulate Quest Apartments Newcastle & Newcastle West, who have earned the Outstanding Accommodation Provider award at the Newcastle Tourism and Hospitality Awards Night! Their consistent delivery of exceptional stays and commitment to guest comfort sets a benchmark in our region. I want to extend my congratulations to Quest Apartments' James Camarsh, who received the award for Customer Service Champion! James's unwavering professionalism, attentiveness, and genuine care for guests exemplify the highest standards of hospitality. Together, Quest Apartments and James showcase the power of a team committed to providing not just accommodation, but a memorable and outstanding guest experiences. Well done to both on these incredibly well-deserved accolades!

RYDGES NEWCASTLE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—A resounding congratulations goes to Rydges Newcastle, the deserving winner of the Employer of the Year award at the Newcastle Tourism and Hospitality Awards. Rydges Newcastle consistently demonstrates an outstanding commitment to fostering a supportive, engaging, and growth-oriented environment for its team. They understand that exceptional guest experiences begin with a valued and empowered workforce. Their dedication to staff development, well-being, and creating a positive workplace culture sets a benchmark for the entire industry. This award proves that investing in their people directly translates into superior service and a thriving business. Well done, Rydges Newcastle!

PAUL O'ROUKE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Paul O'Rourke from the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC) on receiving the Industry Leader of the Year award at the Newcastle Tourism and Hospitality Awards Night. Paul's leadership and dedication have had a profound impact on Newcastle's hospitality and tourism landscape. As CEO of NCYC, he has not only elevated the club's profile but has also played a pivotal role in strengthening Newcastle's visitor economy. NCYC double up as a sailing club and a local culinary experience at Nautica Dining. They also offer a range of function rooms for weddings, conference, and parties that overlook the beautiful marina in Wickham. Congratulations, Paul, on this well-deserved recognition of your outstanding contributions.

WILLOUGHBY THEATRE COMPANY - A CHORUS LINE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I had the pleasure of attending Willoughby Theatre Company's production of A Chorus Line at The Concourse Theatre on 31 May—an outstanding local performance celebrating 50 years since the musical's Broadway debut. My wife and I both loved it! This much-loved show was brought to life with passion, polish and exceptional talent. It told the moving and honest stories of dancers pursuing their dreams, featuring iconic numbers like One, What I Did for Love and The Music and the Mirror. Congratulations to the entire cast, crew and creative team for delivering such a professional and powerful production. Willoughby Theatre Company continues to set the standard for community theatre, and this performance was a true credit to everyone involved. Thank you for enriching our local cultural scene and reminding us of the magic of live performance.

WILLOUGHBY BAND

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I was pleased to attend the Voices of Brass concert held by Willoughby Band at the Zenith Theatre on Saturday 14 June 2025. The concert brought together all three of the Willoughby Bands, showcasing the extraordinary talent, dedication and musicality of our local performers. It was a brilliant celebration of brass music and community spirit, with a wide repertoire that delighted the audience from start to finish. My thanks and congratulations go to President Lianna Lavers, Conductor Dominic Longhurst, the committee, and all the musicians and supporters who continue to make Willoughby Band such an important part of our cultural life. Their contribution to community music is deeply valued and widely admired. Willoughby Band continues to be a shining example of what can be achieved through passion, practice and local pride.

SES WOW DAY 2025

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I acknowledge the outstanding service of our State Emergency Service volunteers on the occasion of Wear Orange Wednesday — or WOW Day — held this year on 21 May. WOW Day is a national day of recognition for SES volunteers, who give their time, energy and expertise to support our communities through some of the most difficult and dangerous situations. From storms and floods to rescues and recoveries, SES volunteers are often the first on the scene and the last to leave. In particular, I wish to thank the members of the Willoughby Lane Cove SES Branch for their dedication and professionalism. These local men and women stand ready to serve at any hour, in any conditions. Their willingness to help neighbours and strangers alike — often in the dead of night and at significant personal sacrifice — is a powerful reflection of the spirit of service that binds our community together. On behalf of our community, I express my deep gratitude to all SES volunteers and encourage everyone to say thank you — not just on WOW Day, but every day — for the remarkable work they do.

BRODIE TAYLOR MAKES HISTORY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Brodie Taylor, an inspiring 18-year-old from Albury, who has made history as the first known wheelchair netball umpire in New South Wales to receive a C Badge accreditation. From a young age, Brodie has faced significant challenges living with acute transverse myelitis. Yet through these challenges his passion for netball has only grown stronger. Many of his most cherished memories have been formed on the court alongside his mum. What began as a casual umpiring role soon became the foundation for groundbreaking achievement. Brodie's talent was first recognised at a School Cup event. With the encouragement of officials and supported by Netball NSW and Netball Australia, Brodie completed his assessment at Hume Netball Association, breaking new ground in the sport. In 2023, Brodie also embraced coaching, driven by his belief that, "Our girls have incredible potential, and are just as capable as anyone else". His story is truly one of determination, leadership and breaking barriers. Brodie's journey demonstrates what is possible when we remove barriers and support every individual's potential. Today, I celebrate this milestone with Brodie and thank him for making netball inclusive and inspiring for everyone.

MASSEY PARK WOMEN'S GOLF

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to recognise the Massey Park Women's Golf Club. On Tuesday 3 June 2025, I had the pleasure of welcoming women of Massey Park Golf Club to the NSW Parliament for Question Time in the Bear Pit. It was a lovely day spent with a warm, supportive group of women who love their golf and the joy of getting out and about together. Massey Park Women's Golf, based in the heart of Concord, is a wonderful group that fosters friendship, connection, and wellbeing. These women share more than a game. They share a bond built on encouragement, laughter, and a genuine care for one another. I would like to especially acknowledge Women's Captain, Anne Burt for her leadership and tireless commitment to the female members of the club and the community. I also want to thank Menna Davies, who plays a vital role in organising the club's social outings, helping to ensure that all members feel included and connected, both on and off the course. I wish the wonderful women of Massey Park all the very best, for many more great rounds of golf and good times together.

TWO STARS SHINE LIGHT ON ALBURY HOTSPURS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Albury Hotspurs for their outstanding achievement in being awarded the "two-star" status in the Football Australia Club Changer Program. This recognition highlights the club's commitment to welcoming and creating an inclusive environment for all members, players, volunteers and officials alike. Albury Hotspurs is now the second club in the Albury-Wodonga Football Association to reach this milestone. A special shout-out goes to President Brad Howard and the committee, who have played an important role in driving the club's success; especially through the growth of its abilities program and the expansion of female football. These initiatives have created a positive and empowering atmosphere for players, coaches, and volunteers. Well done to the players, volunteers, committee members, and coaches for your ongoing commitment. I look forward to seeing the Albury Hotspurs continue their inspiring journey as they strive for the ultimate goal of achieving three-star status.

CELEBRATING SIENNA TOOHEY'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I congratulate our local superstar Sienna Toohey, a 16-year-old student from Albury High School, for her outstanding achievement in swimming. Sienna has been selected to represent Australia at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore this July. Sienna has officially earned her place on the Australian Dolphins Team, our national swimming team. This is a remarkable accomplishment for such a dedicated and hard-working young athlete. Her selection follows outstanding performances at the recent national trials in Adelaide, where she dominated in both the 50m and 100m Breaststroke events. Sienna's determination, skill, and relentless pursuit of excellence have already earned her widespread recognition within the swimming community, and she continues to rise to even greater heights. I also congratulate her coach, Wayne Gould, and her Albury Swim Club teammates Mia Hogan (Xavier High School) and Isabelle Rae (Albury High School) on an incredible week of competition. I thank Siena's parents Damien and Simone for their ongoing support as both parents and mentors. Well done, Sienna, Mia and Isabelle. With every stroke, you carve your names into the tides of greatness, keep up the great work!

ETC EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING'S MYSMALLBIZ EXPO, LISMORE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I COMMEND ETC Employment and Training group for running its MySmallBIZ Expo at the Lismore Workers Club on 18 June. Mitchell Craig in The Lismore News Times reported that the free business expo was aimed at supporting grassroots projects with industry experts sharing firsthand experiences with Northern Rivers residents. This very much was a celebration of start-up businesses with a focus on nurturing local entrepreneurship, something I'm very interested in as NSW Minister for Small Business. ETC Program Manager Selena Baillie told The News Times the Entrepreneurship Expos were part of ETC's commitment to supporting the growth and development of small businesses in the communities where they operated. "We invite anyone who is interested in entrepreneurship and self-employment to join us at our event and experience the benefits of being part of a supportive and vibrant small business community," Selena said. A similar event was held at Ballina RSL Club last year and was a success. The Lismore expo featured several businesses which had shifted to online models after adapting during the COVID-19 pandemic, and included recycled art and stories from people, some from corporate backgrounds, who've turned hobbies into full-time home businesses.

LESLIE ANGUS PETERKIN, OAM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I WISH to congratulate Mr Leslie Angus Peterkin, now of Stockton but formerly of Tyalgum, on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours List. Mr Peterkin received his OAM for service to the creative arts and much of his work back in his Tyalgum days was recognised.

A ceramic artist, teacher and lecturer, Les was the founder and former owner of the Bakehouse Pottery and Galleria Artisans, now Flutterbies Cottage Café, in the village of Tyalgum. He formed deep connections with the Tyalgum community and Tweed Shire arts scene from 1980 until 2001. His work has been exhibited in the Tweed Regional Gallery and galleries in Sydney, Brisbane, Grafton and Gulgong. In 2984, he won the Murwillumbah Art Prize, Ceramics Section. Les is a patron and committee member of the Ceramic Collectors Society. He is a former volunteer at Tyalgum Community Hall and a former volunteer musician at Tyalgum's ANZAC Day Dawn Services. From 1953 until 1967, Les Peterkin was a member of the Citizen Military Force, recognised with an Australian Defence Medal and an Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal. I'm sure Tyalgum fondly remember his community service.

TAFE TEACHERS GLAD TO BE BACK IN LISMORE'S CBD

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I'D like to share two TAFE teachers' perspectives on returning to the Lismore Campus following the devastating 2022 floods. Renee Emery, Head Teacher, Floristry, Logistics and Retail says resuming delivery of the Retail and Community Pharmacy programs has been a profoundly meaningful experience for staff and students. "As one of the first sections to recommence on-site operations, the warm and heartfelt support from the local community has been humbling and inspiring," Renee says. "The strong enrolment in these programs is a testament to the resilience of the Northern Rivers region and reflects a shared commitment to rebuilding, strengthening healthcare education and revitalising retail services across Northern NSW." Kim Blake, Head Teacher, Equity, Foundation Sills and Aboriginal Culture and Languages Branch says the staff are ecstatic, and it has been a real relief for students. "We have been through so much and are committed to the delivery of courses to the community in the wake of so much trauma," Kim says. "The restored buildings are lovely, and teaching spaces in E Block are fully operational with Wi-Fi access and banks of portable laptops. We have Computers on Wheels (COWS) in each classroom."

MARK HOLTON - KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate a distinguished member of my Terrigal electorate, Mark Holton, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List. Mark is one of eleven Central Coast residents recognised this year – a testament to the incredible contributions our community continues to make across the state and nation. Mark Holton's OAM was awarded for his service to the community through a range of organisations. His impressive career in accounting is matched by his deep commitment to sport and community development. As a founding Chair of the Central Coast Academy – now part of the Regional Academies of Sport – Mark has championed local talent and eased the burden on families who once had to travel far for athletic opportunities. From rugby league refereeing to board roles with Gosford Race Club, Central Coast Basketball, and more, Mark's leadership has been felt across many sectors. His work with Ronald McDonald House, a cause close to his heart, further exemplifies his compassion and dedication. Mark is a true community champion, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

LANCE HARRIGAN, OAM

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate a distinguished member of my Terrigal electorate, Lance Harrigan of Terrigal, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List. Lance is one of eleven outstanding Central Coast residents recognised this year, reflecting the depth of service and dedication within our region. Lance has devoted his life to education and community service. A respected principal and deputy principal, including at Erina High School in the late 1990s, Lance's passion for guiding young people extended far beyond the classroom. His long-standing involvement with the Rotary Club of Gosford North – serving in key leadership roles – and earlier with the Terrigal/Wamberal Lions Club, speaks to his enduring commitment to community. Notably, Lance was a founding committee member of the Save Our Kids from Suicide (SOKS) Project, which has raised over $1 million for youth suicide prevention and leadership programs. From mentoring young referees in rugby league and cricket to his Life Membership at Breakers Country Golf Club, Lance's legacy is one of service, leadership, and heart. Congratulations, Lance, on this well-deserved honour.

CENTRAL COAST ADVENTIST SCHOOL LEARNING HUB

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)— Mister Speaker, It was a pleasure to officially open the new Learning Hub at Central Coast Adventist School. This modern facility now houses the main reception, administration offices, an expanded Library Resource Centre, and flexible learning spaces for secondary students. Since 1969, CCAS has delivered quality Christian education on the Central Coast. For over 55 years, the school has prioritised improving its facilities, and the need for a larger library has long been recognised. This new Hub is a major milestone. I commend Principal Tony Kent for his vision and leadership in bringing this project to life.

I also thank Seventh-day Adventist Schools North NSW and the State Government for their vital support and funding. After 25 years in temporary buildings, this purpose-built Hub provides a centralised, modern space that enhances connection, collaboration, and learning for students and staff. This is a proud achievement for the entire CCAS community and a strong investment in the future of education on the Central Coast. My congratulations to Principal Tony and to the CCAS community.

STONE RESTAURANT

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to extend my warmest congratulations to the Gujral family on the opening of Stone Restaurant at Barnwell Park Golf Club. This is an exciting new chapter for one of our community's most inspiring family businesses, the Manjits Hospitality Group, led by Manjit Singh Gujral and his two sons, Deep and Varun. The Gujral family's story is a shining example of hard work, passion, and dedication. Since opening one of the first Indian restaurants in Australia in 1984, they have built a remarkable legacy and have introduced thousands of customers to Indian cuisine and culture. From the success of Manjit's Wharf, to Concord Function Centre and Angelo's Cabarita, the Gujral's have enjoyed continued success while staying true to their values of quality, family, and innovation. Their catering and large-scale event operations have served some of the biggest names in the world, and still their heart remains local. The launch of Stone Restaurant in our community marks another exciting milestone in their journey, blending tradition with modern hospitality in a beautiful venue. I congratulate Manjit, Deep, Varun and the entire Gujral family and their staff on this achievement. I wish them all the very best always.

SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay on the success of their 2025 Speaking 4 the Planet event. Each year, Speaking 4 the Planet brings together students from our local schools to express their ideas on environmental sustainability through visual arts, writing, drama and other creative pieces. It is always so inspiring to hear from our younger generation on matters important to them. Their passion and hard work was reflected in every artwork and performance, each of which stands as a powerful reminder of the role of young people in shaping our future. I sincerely thank the teachers and staff at Rosebank College led by Principal, Mrs Iris Nastasi who hosted this year's event. Their support and organisation allow our students to showcase their creative talents amongst a local network and to have their voices heard. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers at Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay, including Ken Enderby and Robin Smith who made this year's Speaking 4 the Planet event possible. I look forward to seeing the great work they continue to do, for and in our community.

WSI UNVEILING

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On 11 June, I had the privilege of attending the terminal unveiling at Western Sydney International (WSI) — and let me say, the future is truly taking flight. What's being built isn't just a world-class smart airport — it's a launchpad for opportunity. It's long been the norm for Western Sydney locals to wake before the crack of dawn just to make it across the city in time for an early departure. Now, seamless, local access to domestic and international travel means you don't have to! This nation shaping project isn't just about convenience — it's about connection, jobs, and long-term prosperity. WSI is expected to unlock thousands of employment opportunities across construction, logistics, retail, and aviation. It's also backed by Australia's largest 24/7 fire station, ensuring rapid emergency response and strong support for aviation firefighters. It's all coming together — and fast. I'm excited to see this landmark project soar and deliver for our growing South-West region.

ZEST AWARDS

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On June 12, I had the great honour of attending the ZEST Awards, an inspiring evening hosted by the Western Sydney Community Forum to celebrate the heart and soul of our region — its people. These awards are more than just a night of recognition. They shine a well-deserved spotlight on the quiet achievers — the volunteers, grassroots leaders, and community organisations who give their time, energy, and compassion to make Western Sydney a stronger, fairer and more connected place. Often working without headlines or accolades, these individuals are essential threads of our communities. It's an event I look forward to attending each every year to see not just the familiar faces, but the emerging leaders - this is truly a reflection of the best of Western Sydney. To all the nominees, finalists, and winners — congratulations. Your passion, resilience, and service remind us of the extraordinary power of community. Your efforts reflect the strength and diversity that enrich our region.

PAL BUDDHIST SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GALA

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On June 14, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Pal Buddhist School Fundraising Gala — a truly heartwarming event that showcased the spirit and values of the

school community. What made the event especially memorable was the involvement of the students, who prepared and served the meals with incredible care and enthusiasm. Their hospitality, teamwork, and pride in representing their school were nothing short of commendable. Events like this remind us that education isn't just about textbooks and exams — it's about building character, responsibility, and community spirit. With a core belief that a meaningful education nurtures inner wisdom, ethical and compassionate leadership the students, staff, and families at Pal Buddhist School are setting a wonderful example of what a supportive and engaged school environment can look like. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this special evening to life.

RYDE SECONDARY COLLEGE PARENTS & CITIZENS EXECUTIVE

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker – I wish to recognise and honour the amazing and dedicated work of Ryde Secondary College Parents & Citizens Executive who tirelessly work to create a better school environment for students and teachers alike. I would like to acknowledge the President Fibian Hungerford, Vice President Paul Dennet, Secretary Peter Zaracostas, Treasurer Fiona South, CAPA Liaison Officer Greg Low and Communication Officer Margie Lim. I commend their efforts to this House and express the gratitude of our Gladesville community for those efforts.

FRIENDS OF CALLAN PARK

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—I'd like to acknowledge the Friends of Callan Park for their ongoing advocacy to protect one of the Inner West's most significant public green spaces. For over 25 years, this group has worked tirelessly to defend Callan Park from neglect, inappropriate development, and attempts to chip away at its public ownership. Their commitment and persistence have led to a major win for our community, with this week's NSW Budget allocating $4.8 million for the restoration and maintenance of Callan Park's grounds. This investment is a direct result of the strong, community-driven campaign to preserve and revitalise this iconic space. I want to thank Friends of Callan Park and the local community for continuing to lead the charge to keep this space public and for the people. I stand proudly with them in opposing any moves toward privatisation or commercialisation. Together, we will keep Callan Park protected, public, and thriving for generations to come.

PALESTINE ACTION GROUP SYDNEY

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I'd like to acknowledge the ongoing advocacy of the Palestine Action Group Sydney, who continue to organise powerful demonstrations and community events calling for an end to the genocide in Palestine. I recently spoke at one of their rallies, where many people gathered in solidarity to demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to occupation, violence and the starvation of the Gazan population. These rallies are a vital expression of our democracy — reminding us that protest is not only a right but a powerful force for change. The courage and commitment of the organisers, volunteers, and participants, who have mobilised week after week, is a testament to the strength of community organising and the unrelenting pursuit of justice. Their work builds solidarity across diverse communities and keeps the call for human rights and accountability front and centre. In the face of ongoing violence and suffering, their voices are a necessary reminder that we cannot look away. I thank them for their persistence, their strength, and their unwavering demand for a future free from violence.

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Men's Mental Health Month draws public awareness to the challenges men face in addressing mental health challenges. While suicide is a preventable issue that impacts us all, the NSW Suicide Monitor System reveals that men account for than ¾ of deaths by suicide each year. This awareness campaign is critical to destigmatise the societal pressure men face to suppress or deny addressing their difficult emotions and to encourage men to seek help to reduce the burden of isolation and the prevalence of mental health crises. Small changes can open the door to significant change. A candid, non-judgemental conversation can help relieve the pressures of having to deal with difficult thoughts, feelings, and behaviours alone. Social norms that promote male stoicism can be at odds with men identifying their own inner struggles. Often feelings of shame and embarrassment around difficult emotions limit men seeking help and support, both professional and socially. When we share our stories, our testimony, we empower others to identify their own perhaps similar tribulations. From loneliness, stress, depression, and anxiety, Men's Mental Health Month is a reminder that early support typically leads to better long-term outcomes.

BROOKVALE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst)—Thank you Speaker, I wish to formally acknowledge and congratulate the extraordinary efforts of three amazing Wakehurst locals from the Brookvale Public School P&C. P&C President Hina Osmany, Vice President Sarah Lakeman and Treasurer Rachita Bhatia have worked hard to achieve incredible outcomes for this wonderful school. Between them, they have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the school community, an outstanding effort considering the smaller size of this school. Their

collective achievements are a testament to their generosity and passion for their community. As MP, I couldn't be prouder of these amazing local legends. I strongly share the pride felt by Principal Luke Richmond and the entire Brookvale Public School community. Hina, Rachita and Sarah deserve our genuine appreciation. So much time and effort goes into supporting a school and keeping a community so strong, and having incredible humans at the helm of a dedicated P&C makes such a difference. On behalf of the Brookvale Public School community, thank you for your immense efforts and incredible achievements. The school is so lucky to have you. Thank you.

MELINDA STEWARD - MANLY WARRINGAH GYMNASTICS CLUB

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst)—I would like to recognise Melinda Stewart for her outstanding service and commitment to the Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club. For over a decade, Melinda has devoted her time to helping the club, as well as playing a crucial role in overcoming challenges that they face. Serving as part of the board committee for over 10 years, as well serving as Chairperson for 8 years, Melinda is a key and vital part of the organisation. She has constantly demonstrated strong leadership and resilience, especially as she helped the club work through significant challenges like COVID. Throughout her time at Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club, she has supported the club to reach significant milestones, including reaching 2,500 members and helping secure a grant of $10 million for developing a new Centre of Excellence. This proves how her leadership and dedication has truly made a difference to the club. Without people like her we would not have the successful clubs that so many people in our community enjoy. On behalf of the Wakehurst community, I thank Melinda for the tireless hours and care that she dedicates to the MWGC.

SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN BUSINESS AWARDS - PINK SARI INC

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pink Sari Project for winning an award on 7 June 2025 at the South Asian Women Business Awards under the Not-for-Profit Category. The ceremony was organised by the South Asian Foundation of Australia and the Brown Boss Babes providing a platform which allowed for recognition of worth projects initiated by our South Asian community. Since Meenakshi Chopra and Shantha Viswanathan founded the Pink Sari Project in 2016, their initiative has improved the health and wellbeing of South Asian women, and men, by building awareness and knowledge around the risks of breast cancer and the importance of preventative screenings in collaboration with the NSW Multicultural Health Communications Service. This award further amplifies their work and the effort in improving the health of our CALD communities, particularly amongst members who may not speak English. This is an invaluable service to the community which has actively improved and saved the lives of individuals in Parramatta and across Greater Sydney. Congratulations to everyone involved in the Pink Sari Project, including your supporters, and thank you to you all for your work.

PARRAMATTA SENIOR OF THE YEAR 2025

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—While the Parramatta Electorate may have one of the youngest populations in NSW, we are privileged to have the wisdom and knowledge of many seniors for whom age is no barrier when continuing to give back to the community. Today I make special mention of five people recognised with a Local Achievement Award as part of the NSW Seniors Festival 2025. Dharanendran Parthy for volunteering as a yoga teacher to assist more than 3000 people with disabilities and physical ailments. Shirley Johnson for contributing as an active member of the Courtlands Retirement Village running bible study and the kiosk. Sandra Ackers for her contributions in organising major events at the Courtlands Retirement Village. Phillip Russo for all his involvement over many years at the St Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Doyle Ground Park Committee, City of Parramatta First Nations Committee and advocacy for local heritage. The recipient of the Parramatta Senior of the Year for 2025 is Graham Cook. A Rotary Club member since 2006, he has coordinated fundraisers for causes locally, nationally and internationally, and been involved with Christmas Appeals with St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for all you do. Congratulations

PARRAMATTA MARIST SCHOOL - STEM RACING NATIONAL FINALS IN MELBOURNE

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Engineering is a discipline that students traditionally begin studying at university, but five bright young minds from Parramatta Marist High School are well ahead of the game entering their miniature Formula One car in the STEM Racing Australian National Finals in Melbourne. These Year 8 students collaborated to design and build their car, market and present their project, manage sponsorships, financial strategy and race-day deployment. Congratulations to Jayden Hooi, Aviel Fernando, Joshua Ryan, Ben Attard and John-Paul Lattouf for taking on and succeeding in such a complex project. Their work involved using sophisticated industry standard tools and methods. Their team name – Fortior – is inspired by the motto of Parramatta Marist. "Fortior Ito" is a Latin phrase, meaning "Go forth with strength". The boys deployed their strength, resilience, intelligence and collaborative skills to take them and their Formula One car all the way to Melbourne. Our future in STEM is bright with young minds such as these. Congratulations to Jayden, Aviel, Joshua, Ben and John-Paul on your impressive achievement.

LANCE CHIA

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—It is with great appreciation, and some sadness, that I recognise and thank Lance Chia for his outstanding contribution as he finishes up as the Liverpool Innovation Precinct's Director of Investment and Innovation. A Liverpool Boys High School graduate, he spent over two decades in diagnostic pathology before leading marketing at ResMed across APAC, MENA and Europe. As an example of the talent Liverpool can produce, Lance took the lessons of a career that spanned clinical biochemistry, global marketing, and innovation leadership, to come back and make an impact on his hometown. Through the Precinct, Lance has been a fierce champion for Liverpool, connecting health, research, education and industry to drive real outcomes for the people and businesses of South West Sydney. He's a mentor, a board chair, a non-executive director and a triple master's graduate. But above all, Lance is someone who gives back. His impact has been deep, lasting and generous. From highlighting the potential of our people, advocating for resources or being a true connector, Liverpool thanks Lance for his service to our community. As he finishes this chapter, I wish him every success in the next stage of an already remarkable journey.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE FESTIVAL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—July 3rd marks the feast day of St Thomas the Apostle, and Chaldeans from across South West Sydney will come together for a festival at Fairfield Showground. St Thomas is one of the twelve original apostles of Jesus, best remembered for taking the message of early Christianity beyond the Middle East. According to tradition, he travelled to India and Mesopotamia, which is why St Thomas is the patron of the Chaldean Church as Chaldeans are the indigenous inhabitants of Mesopotamia—today known as northern Iraq. Locally, the St Thomas Chaldean Catholic parish in Bossley Park, represents the Assyrian Chaldean community where many people have fled war and persecution to commence new lives in Australia. Liverpool is home to a growing Chaldean community. St Thomas' provides for the community including running Youth Groups, Urhi School to develop language, as well as local charitable works to help those in need. I would like to acknowledge and thank His Grace Archbishop Mar Amel Nona and the clergy for their leadership of the community, as well as the volunteers for the work they do every day to bring people together in faith, culture, and service.

BANGALOW RESILIENCE NETWORK

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the inspiring and proactive work of the Bangalow Resilience Network (BRN) and its dedicated members including Ruth Winton-Brown, Gillian Cornu and Bronwyn Thomas, who demonstrated exceptional community leadership in response to the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. When destructive winds brought down trees and powerlines across the 2479 postcode, leaving residents without electricity and connectivity, the BRN team moved swiftly to provide support. As soon as power returned to the town centre, they coordinated the opening of Heritage House to offer tea, coffee and connection. The next day they hosted a community barbecue at the Bangalow Men's Shed, offering hot meals, charging stations and solidarity to those still without power. They also facilitated the use of showers at Heritage House and prepared nearly 80 additional meals for distribution via the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. All of this was made possible by community generosity and volunteer support. The BRN's thoughtful debrief and implementation of lessons from this event highlight their commitment to ongoing resilience building. I commend the BRN for their foresight, care and tireless efforts to keep community connected and supported through crisis.

BANKSTOWN JETS - STATE OF ORIGIN

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I'm thrilled to congratulate NSW Touch Football on retaining the State of Origin Shield this year. Last weekend, the State of Origin series was held at the C.ex Coffs International Stadium in beautiful Coffs Harbour, showcasing incredible talent and fierce competition. It was a joy to watch so many familiar faces compete in the senior divisions, especially the Women's 50s team, who won all three of their games. A special mention also goes to the Men's and Mixed Open teams which included some of our local Bankstown players who both won their divisions, and helped NSW retain the Shield again. I was proud to see several players from my local Bankstown Jets Touch Football club representing NSW with such passion and skill. Congratulations to Zach Bouzounis (Men's Open), and to George Azzi, Keeron Hughes, Daniel Stone, (Mixed Open) and Rohit Prasad (Mixed Open Assistant Coach) for their outstanding contributions. The 2025 series showcased the best of touch football, with every player proudly donning the sky-blue jersey to represent our state. Thank you, and let's continue supporting our incredible athletes as they push the boundaries of this fantastic sport.

TRILOGY FOUNDATION - TOWER STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I would like to recognise the outstanding efforts of the Trilogy Foundation Canterbury Bankstown for their continued advocacy and support for children with intellectual

disabilities in our local area. Since their founding in 2015, this dedicated not-for-profit group has brought together parents and community members to raise over $70,000, funding improvements in the education of students accessing special education units across the region. Most recently, I had the pleasure of attending the trivia night for the Trilogy Foundation, held at the Panania Diggers Club. The event raised over $3,000 for Tower Street Public School in Panania. These donations have directly contributed towards the purchase of trikes, helmets, road safety signs, and walkie-talkies for the school's Special Education Unit. This vital equipment will help students learn important road safety skills and support teachers with enhanced supervision tools. I want to thank the Trilogy Foundation and all their generous supporters for making such a tangible difference to the lives of children in our community.

NORTHERN RIVERS FOR REFUGEES

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I commend Northern Rivers for Refugees for ten years of outstanding service supporting refugee resettlement across our region. Formerly known as Ballina Region for Refugees, the organisation has helped resettle more than 40 individuals from countries like Syria and Venezuela into safe, connected lives within the Byron, Ballina and neighbouring shires. Volunteers assist with everything from housing, health and education to employment, transport and social connection. They walk alongside each family through their first year in Australia. As an active partner in the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP), Northern Rivers for Refugees empowers locals to take part in welcoming newcomers with compassion and practical help. Northern Rivers for Refugees have supported families to enrol in school, access medical care, navigate Centrelink, and gain driver's licences. Support that recently helped refugees like Ousama, a Syrian refugee, secure his licence and showcase his skills and initiative to land his first job in Australia. This incredible grassroots network runs on kindness, initiative and tireless commitment. On their tenth anniversary, I thank President Marilyn Leeks and every volunteer past and present for their vision, hard work and enduring belief in a fairer, more inclusive Australia.

PUNCHBOWL BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL - NSW FLOOD SUPPORT

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Punchbowl Boys' High School for their incredible contribution during the recent flood disasters across NSW. With more than 30,000 people displaced and widespread damage to homes, businesses, farms, and infrastructure, the impact has been devastating. In partnership with Addi Road Community Organisation, Lighthouse Community Services, and SecondBite, students from Punchbowl Boys' High played a vital role in supporting affected communities. Under the guidance of team members of Lighthouse Community Services, the students packed over 700 emergency hampers for those impacted in the north and mid-north coast regions. Set up in Addi Road's Gumbramorra Hall, the boys worked in a well-organised production line—filling boxes with groceries and essential supplies, then stacking them onto pallets ready for distribution. The students' hard work is such a critical time is a testament to the values instilled in them—both at school and through community partnerships. Their efforts reflect a strong sense of compassion and responsibility. It's inspiring to see young people not only supporting their local Bankstown community but also extending that support to others across the state in times of need.

PUNCHBOWL PUBLIC SCHOOL - SACC PROGRAM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)— I would like to extend my congratulations and recognition to Punchbowl Public School for the successful implementation of the Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) program. Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) projects are hosted by NSW public schools and manages a range of community engagement initiatives and programs supporting families with young children. This initiative represents a commitment to enriching the educational experience and building a stronger connection between the school and its surrounding community. By opening their doors to the community, they are not only enhancing the learning environment for their students but also providing valuable resources and support to families and community members. It's inspiring to see how the school has embraced this vision, ensuring that education extends beyond the classroom and positively impacts the lives of all those involved. I recognise the dedication they have in creating a welcoming and empowering environment for the entire community. Their efforts are making a difference, and we are excited to see the lasting positive effects of this program for years to come. Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement, and I thank them for their unwavering commitment to both education and community-building.

MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL DONATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to congratulate Malek Fahd Islamic School for raising $16500 for cancer research. As an act of Khidma (service), senior students at Malek Fahd worked to

donate the money raised towards supporting life-saving cancer research and patient care. This contribution reflects one of many extraordinary commitments young people in the community have shown towards social justice. The money raised through a school Breast Cancer Fundraiser Dinner was presented to Chris O' Brien Lifehouse, where students were able to meet medical professionals and explore how their donation would help improve health outcomes for day-to-day cancer patients. The students' contribution highlights not only a deep sense of responsibility but also the values of empathy and generosity that are nurtured within their school community; setting a strong example that age is no barrier to making a difference. I commend the students, staff, and families of Malek Fahd for fostering such a strong culture of giving, and I look forward to seeing the continued contributions of these inspiring young leaders in the years to come. Their example is one that inspires hope and strengthens the bonds of solidarity across our community.

LIVERPOOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK LAUNCH

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Congratulations to the City of Liverpool & Districts Historical Society, on the launch of Recollections of Old Liverpool Vol. 2! A book 7 years in the making, it contains an amazing 200 pages of stories, letters and memories of Liverpool that evoke times now gone. From the earliest of convict days in the 1820s to the forming of punk rock bands in the late 1970s, this book was edited by President of the Historical Society, Glen Op Den Brouw, and recalls events for future generations to ponder over. The Federal Member for Werriwa, Anne Stanley MP, was on hand to officially launch the book. She also wrote the foreward to the book. Also present was Carol Liston, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, which provided a generous contribution to it's development. To round out a wonderful celebration, the day was also the 66th birthday of the Liverpool & District Historical Society! 66 years ago, the Historical Society was born at the Liverpool Town Hall with a meeting presided over by his worship the Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Ron Dunbier. Congratulations to all and happy birthday!

HAPPY DAYS KINDERGARTEN WENTWORTHVILLE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday 10th June, I was delighted to visit educators and early learners at Happy Days Kindergarten, Wentworthville. Established in 1952, Happy Days Kindergarten has been operating in our community for over 70 years. With a unique structure, the Parent Management Committee leads the Kindergarten, comprised of dedicated families who are enrolled. As a not-for-profit preschool, Happy Days offers affordable and accessible childcare to Prospect Electorate families, and the Committee ensures the service provides optimal care that considers the needs of our community. Happy Days offers a play-based learning program within the National Quality Standards and Early Years Learning Framework to offer high calibre education and care. A dedicated team of female staff go above and beyond to create engaging first learning experiences. An inclusive and dynamic environment, Happy Days Kindergarten is giving our children a head start to reach their full potential. This wonderful organisation is a bright example of how our Western Sydney community cares for one another, giving our children a head-start to reach their full potential. Thank you to Jodie Griffiths, Director and the entire team at Happy Days Kindergarten for your efforts, nurturing our young learners and supporting their lifelong journeys.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY - BISHOP LONG

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv who celebrated the 14th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination on 23 June 2025. Born in Dong Nai, Vietnam, Bishop Long's journey is a testament to resilience and faith. Following the Fall of Saigon in 1975, his family were forced to flee. On a small boat, they carried 100 people seeking safety. Bishop Long spent 16 months in a Refugee Camp, before resettling in Australia. Guided by his motto 'go further into the deep' (Luke 5:4), Bishop Long was shaped by the challenges he overcame. He leads the faithful in Western Sydney with the utmost compassion, and champions social justice and human dignity. In 1984, Bishop Long became a Conventual Franciscan Friar. Studying in Rome, he received a licentiate in Christology and Spirituality from the St Bonaventure Pontifical Faculty. He served as Assistant General in Rome, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and Episcopal Vicar for Justice, Peace and Social Services. As fourth Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Long is the first Vietnamese-born bishop in Australia, and the first to lead a diocese outside Vietnam. Congratulations once again, Bishop Long. Thank you for the dedication and pastoral care you give our community.

MAGGIE CRANNEY

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise Maggie Cranney for her extraordinary 40 years of service to her church and the wider community. For over four decades, Maggie has been a devoted member of St Joseph's Church in Como/Oyster Bay, offering quiet, steadfast support to her parish — from assisting with services to visiting those unable to attend. On 6 July 2025, she will be awarded the Dempsey Medal by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, a well-deserved honour recognising her outstanding contribution to the Archdiocese of Sydney. Maggie's generosity reaches far beyond the church walls. She manages the Seechange charity shop in Jannali,

collects food for families in need, and helps deliver furniture through the Graham Evo Memorial Team. A loving mother of eight and grandmother of twelve, Maggie is known for her humility, compassion, and servant heart. Her faith is not only deeply held — it is lived daily through quiet acts of kindness. Maggie's lifelong commitment to community and Christian service has brought comfort and dignity to many. I sincerely thank and commend Maggie for her tireless dedication and the lasting impact she has made in the lives of others.

MATTHEW TRAINOR

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I recognise Matthew Trainor of the Cronulla Sutherland Major League Baseball Club for his outstanding achievements in baseball. Matthew began his journey with the Giants Baseball Club in Taren Point, where his talent and passion quickly set him apart. A true local standout, he captained the NSW Under 18s to their first national title in over a decade and was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Matthew's remarkable form continued, earning him a spot in the 1st Grade mid-season All Stars team — the only Under 18s player selected. At the 2024/25 Baseball NSW Awards, he swept the stage with three major honours: Under 18s MVP, 1st Grade Hitter of the Year, and Rookie of the Year. Now aiming for selection in the Australian Under 18 Baseball Team, Matthew's dedication, skill, and leadership mark him as one of the sport's most promising young athletes. I congratulate Matthew on his exceptional accomplishments and wish him continued success in both his baseball and academic pursuits.

HOPEFIELD SERVICES INCORPORATED

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I warmly recognise the incredible team at Hopefield Services Incorporated ("Hopefield") for their unwavering commitment to supporting vulnerable individuals in our community. Since 1995, this not-for-profit organisation has been a vital pillar in the Sutherland Shire, offering professional counselling and support services to families and individuals impacted by domestic violence. In 2022, Hopefield embraced The Eve Project — a transformative initiative that provides women who have experienced trauma and abuse with therapeutic support, mentoring, and skills training. Through this program, women are empowered to heal, rebuild, and thrive. The strength of Hopefield lies in its people — a compassionate team creating safe, respectful spaces for those in need. I extend my heartfelt thanks to CEO Vicki Sherry, along with board members Melisa Giles, Rob Seaton, Jason Ezzy, Marc Rader, Ross Langford, Kerrin Ryan, Neil Evans, and The Eve Project Program Lead, Helen Dwyer, for their outstanding leadership and dedication. Hopefield's work is not only vital — it's life-changing. On behalf of our community, I thank the team at Hopefield for continuing to lead with care, purpose, and hope.

TOMRA CLEANAWAY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 18th June, I was pleased to inspect some of the key innovations in our statewide Return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme at a site tour of the TOMRA warehouse in Western Sydney. TOMRA Cleanaway is a joint venture partnership between Norwegian company TOMRA, a global leader in sorting technology, and Cleanaway, Australia's largest waste and resource recovery company. Together in partnership, TOMRA Cleanaway is an Australian industry leader in the delivery of container deposit scheme networks. Billions of containers are returned through Return and Earn in NSW every year, helping our environment, and raising funds for many worthwhile community initiatives, including in Prospect Electorate. During the site tour, I was joined by my Parliamentary colleagues Warren Kirby MP and Greg Warren MP, where I also inspected Cleanaway's newest heavy vehicle powered by hydrotreated vegetable oil, HVO100. This innovative fuel replaces diesel fuel with used oils and fats, reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 91% compared to fossil fuel, and also reduces the smell and black smoke emitted from vehicle tailpipes. Thanks to James Dorney, CEO, Michelle Mandl, GM Communications, Customer & Engagement and all the TOMRA Cleanaway team on an insightful showcase of innovation in Western Sydney.

LOCAL TALENT SHINES AS PARLIAMENT CELEBRATES 2025 NRLW SEASON

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recognise the 2025 NRLW Season Celebration at NSW Parliament. This special event honoured the continued growth and success of women's rugby league – one of the fastest growing sports in Australia. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring some of our local talent and hardworking club officials to be part of the celebrations, meet key NRL stakeholders and connect with fellow champions of the women's game. The junior squad from the North Sydney Bears, including, Milla, Elodie, Elaina, Georgina and Maddie, represent the future of the sport. These young women demonstrate remarkable skill, determination, and pride in their game. The North Sydney Bears CEO Gareth Holmes, continues to play a vital role in nurturing female participation and creating pathways for women to thrive in league, both on and off the field. On show was the evolution of just how far the women's game has come and how bright the future looks. Congratulations to all involved in making the 2025 NRLW season one to celebrate!

CONGRATULATIONS 1ST BALMORAL GROUP ON NORTH SHORE'S FIRST KING'S SCOUTS IN 73 YEARS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I congratulate Oliver Gibbons and William Raymond from the 1st Balmoral Scout Group on receiving the prestigious King's Scout Award, the highest honour a Venturer Scout in Australia can achieve. I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony at Balmoral Scout Hall, where these two exceptional young men were the first King's Scouts to be awarded by the group in 73 years. The King's Scout Award, recently renamed in honour of His Majesty King Charles III, represents years of commitment, resilience, leadership, and service. Taking three to four years to complete, it includes demanding outdoor adventure, leadership training and personal development. Oliver and William exemplify Scouting values – perseverance, courage, and community service. This award reflects their dedication not only to personal growth but to making a meaningful contribution to those around them. Their achievement is a moment of pride not only for their families and the 1st Balmoral Scout Group but for our entire North Shore community. Congratulations again, Oli and Will – your efforts and example are truly inspiring. I commend you on this remarkable milestone and wish you every success ahead!

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I'd like to acknowledge a powerful event I had the privilege of attending recently—the launch of Shoalhaven City Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, held during National Reconciliation Week. This event was more than just a launch—it was a gathering of our community in a spirit of reflection, respect, and hope. It reminded us of the importance of truth-telling, healing, and walking together toward a future that includes everyone. A standout moment was the exhibition of artwork by three local Aboriginal artists. Among them was Jaz Corr, whose piece Woven features prominently in the RAP document. Jaz's work was shaped by conversations and drawings from residents, capturing their thoughts on what reconciliation means. Through her art, Jaz tells a powerful story of connection and shared responsibility—of the threads that bind us on this journey. The launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan marks a major step forward in our shared commitment to reconciliation. It's a plan built on respect, partnership, and deeper cultural understanding. I thank and commend everyone who made this initiative possible. I'm proud to stand with our community as we work together for a more just, inclusive, and united future.

FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: During National Volunteer Week 2025, with the theme "Connecting Communities", Little Free Food Pantry volunteers were recognised for incredible work in supporting the Ulladulla community. This community-driven project brings people together through acts of generosity – from restocking the street pantry and rescuing food, to wrapping gifts, preparing hampers, and serving school breakfasts. Every role plays a part in supporting our most vulnerable. Special thanks go to Neil Johnson for his strength, repairs, and ever-reliable humour; Julia Taylor for her dedication to cleaning and protecting the pantry; and Nathel Fishlock and Romny Vandoros for leading the Ulladulla Public School Breakfast Club and inviting the Pantry to support it. To every volunteer behind the scenes – thank you. Your kindness, hard work, and commitment make a powerful difference. We celebrate you – the heart of our connected community.

NOWRA WATERDRAGONS BOAT CLUB

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: Crews from the Nowra Waterdragons Dragon Boat Club are proudly celebrating an outstanding performance at the 2025 Australian Dragon Boat Championships, bringing home eight medals from 12 fiercely contested races. Held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith, the event saw the Nowra-based club shine as a dominant force in the small boat racing categories for Senior B and Senior C divisions. A highlight of the championships was the successful defence of the gold medal in the Senior B Mixed 10s 500m race for a second consecutive year. This victory was especially rewarding, given the team's mix of novice and experienced paddlers. Their win came by the slimmest of margins, demonstrating incredible teamwork and resilience. The club's consistent results across multiple events also secured them an invitation to the 15th IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Taiwan in 2026. Competing in races over 200 metres, 500 metres and 2km distances, the Nowra Waterdragons showcased exceptional spirit, strength and unity—bringing pride to the South Coast and to the sport of dragon boating.

KEVIN MCGUIRE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Orange's Wangarang Industries has been a standout when it comes to providing meaningful employment for people with a disability and I wish to congratulate Kevin McGuire for nurturing its growth and sustainability during his tenure as chief executive officer. Mr McGuire has been at the helm of Wangarang since 2012 and during that time has guided its expansion to the point where it now provides jobs and training for more than 125 people. Mr McGuire says he has enjoyed watching the growth and

development of his staff and has delighted in giving them opportunities which they eagerly accepted. While mailing and packaging, cleaning, assembling, winery services and textile production and repairs are some of the areas the Wangarang team can help, the facility's Return and Earn service is its most recent, and most ambitious undertaking. The facility has been embraced by the Orange community and its businesses. It also puts Wangarang at the forefront of the war on waste. Mr McGuire also fostered Wangarang's lifeskills program for its staff, further enriching their lives. I thank Mr McGuire for his dedication to Wangarang during the past 13 years and wish him well in his retirement.

MITCHELL COOMBS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I rise to acknowledge Mitchell Coombs – a proud Bogan Gate boy and a passionate advocate for Forbes and regional Australia. Through his work as a content creator, writer, and podcast host, Mitchell has consistently put Forbes and the broader Central West on the map, showcasing the unique spirit, humour, and resilience of country life to a national audience. As an ambassador for Forbes' flagship event Frost & Fire, Mitchell has proudly represented his hometown, helping to promote regional tourism and celebrate the culture and creativity of the Central West. His genuine love for the community shines through in everything he does. Mitchell is also a proud member and supporter of the LGBTQI+ community, using his platform to foster inclusivity, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for greater visibility and acceptance - especially for young people growing up in regional areas. With wit, warmth and authenticity, Mitchell sheds light on the realities of rural life and helps break down barriers through storytelling and humour. He is a role model for many and an example of how one voice from the bush can make a national impact. We thank him for his contributions and celebrate his continued success.

MAKE MUSIC WEEK

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I would like to congratulate Orange Regional Conservatorium executive David Shaw and his team on hosting Make Music Week for Orange school students in June this year. This wonderful event was wide-reaching with 700 students, some home-schooled, involved in a variety of workshops which were innovative, educational and best of all, good fun. Included in the schedule was a primary school band workshop led by Bletchington Band director Chris Mickle which featured 150 kids on stage. Also on the schedule was a strings workshop with the Con's head of strings and innovation officer Stephani Li with 60 participants taking the stage, while the following day three infants school choir sessions, led by ORC head of voice and early childhood Samantha Bartholomeusz, enabled 450 children to enjoy a moment on stage. The final event was a drum corp led by the Con's Cassandra Key and secondary band led by Phil Rees, involving 60 students. The Orange Regional Conservatorium is an incredible asset to Orange and district. It is inclusive and accessible with almost everyone catered for within its walls. Make Music Week is just another example of the wonderful work it does.

THE DOORS SWING OPEN AT BARWANG CELLAR

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—It was wonderful to be part of the official opening of the Barwang Cellar Door, marking a new chapter for one of the Hilltops region's most iconic wine labels. Under the ownership of Wendy and James Bowman, sixth-generation farmers with deep roots in the district, Barwang has been lovingly restored and revitalised. The Bowmans' commitment to sustainability and heritage is clear in the transformation of the original shearer's cottage into a warm and welcoming Cellar Door. Their investment comes at a challenging time for the wine industry, and it's heartening to see such vision and confidence in our region's future. Since acquiring the vineyard in 2021, the Bowmans have re-established Barwang's reputation with a new portfolio of estate-grown wines, including a recently released Pinot Noir. Their efforts not only honour the vineyard's legacy, which dates back to the 1960s, but also showcase Hilltops as a producer of world-class wines. I congratulate Wendy and James on this exciting milestone and thank them for their ongoing contribution to our community.

COWRA TAFE CELEBRATES STAFF MILESTONES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—TAFE NSW offers various benefits, including flexible study options, affordable courses, and pathways to university. It also provides support services, career counselling, and financial assistance, making it an attractive option for students seeking vocational training and career advancement. Their focus is generally on its students. However, recently TAFE NSW Cowra Campus celebrated significant milestones for their staff members, the backbone of support services and teachers that enable and encourage students to thrive. Chloe Read, the Managing Director of TAFE NSW, presented Service Awards to Staff, acknowledging their dedication to TAFE and organisational roles. Kate Goodacre, a Customer Service Representative, was recognised for her 5th anniversary, whilst Kathryn Cahill, a Disability Teacher Consultant/Business Teacher, has achieved her 15th anniversary. Jody Graham has been a Customer Service Representative for the past 20 years, and Sylvia White, a TAFE Service Co-ordinator, has been awarded her 30-

year service recognition. It is an outstanding achievement for Cowra Campus to have staff dedicated to empowering our local community and changing lives through education.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMORA ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUB

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Congratulations to the Temora Antique Motor Club on 40 years of preserving history on wheels and strengthening community ties, a remarkable milestone in preserving not only vehicles, but the living history and community spirit of the Temora district. Since 1985, the Club has brought together individuals with a shared passion for classic and vintage vehicles, fostering friendships that have endured across generations. I acknowledge the founding members, including Gordon McGeorge, Alan Penfold, Rob Maslin, Mick O'Connor, and the late Myrtle Madden, whose commitment and grassroots fundraising efforts laid the foundation for the Club's ongoing success. From its early days with just a handful of enthusiasts and manually registered number plates, the Club has grown to over 100 members and more than 160 beautifully maintained vehicles, some of which date back to the early 1900s. These cars tell stories of Australian craftsmanship, local ownership, and lifelong dedication. I particularly note the extraordinary efforts of long-standing members like Alan Penfold and Gordon McGeorge, whose contributions have helped the Club become a valued part of the region's heritage.

EASTER PET COMP - JACINTA BURKE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the delightful contribution of Jacinta Burke to the Ryde Electorate Easter Pet Photo Competition. This initiative celebrates the creativity and community spirit of local families, all through the shared joy our pets bring, especially with an Easter twist. Jacinta submitted a charming photograph of her two guinea pigs, Cinnamon and Star, nestled in a festively decorated Easter basket. The image radiated warmth and joy, reflecting the spirit of the season. Her entry captured the love these little companions have for the festivities, and her aim to share that happiness with the broader Ryde community was clear. This kind of engagement reminds us why community events like these matter. They bring smiles, foster connections, and highlight the incredible diversity of our electorate. I sincerely thank Jacinta for her participation and for helping make this year's competition so memorable. Let's continue to champion the creativity and community pride that make Ryde such a special place to live.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - SAMANTHA CUYA

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Samantha Cuya a joyous 7th birthday! Sam's sister, Alyssa, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday Sam. The world is a cage of your impotent rage - don't let it get to you and enjoy your day." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Sam's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Sam!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - DION EDWARD PALOMA

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Dion Edward Paloma a joyous 32nd birthday! Dion's mother asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday, Dear Dondon! Wishing you special blessings of joy, peace, prosperity and good health. May the Lord continue to look after you, guide you, and bless you. And may all your birthday wishes come true. We love you and are so proud of you. Enjoy your special day! Love, Mom and Dad." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Dion's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Dion!